

THE TENORIO TIMES

SIFAT-BOLIVIA FEBRUARY 2012



PRAYER REQUESTS

- *For Mateo & Rachel's continued good physical and spiritual health*
- *For the health of the new baby and wisdom to deal with new changes in our lives*
- *For wisdom and guidance in all our decision making*
- *For our workers that are in Ixiamas without our presence and leadership*
- *For the people of Ixiamas*
- *For the people and churches that support our project*
- *For the interns and groups that will be coming to Ixiamas*
- *For our families that are always supporting us*
- *For all the staff of SIFAT that we may make wise decisions and remember the reason for our work*
- *That we may all be living in and doing God's will*

Mateo and Rachel are excited to announce that we are expecting a baby in mid April! The health care options for birthing a baby in Ixiamas are not great, and Mateo was granted a visa to come to the USA, so we believe that it is in God's will to have the baby in Indiana, where Rachel's parents live.

We feel very blessed to have this opportunity to be in the USA for a time. Mateo will be traveling back in June to receive interns in Ixiamas, and Rachel and the baby plan to return in July when the baby is old enough to fly.

Please keep us in your prayers as we experience a huge change in our lives. We plan to continue with our ministry in Ixiamas, but we are still open to God's plans in our lives. We are ready and excited for this new addition to the family.



AWANA (OANSA)



Children with their crowns for memorizing Bible verses

In 2012, we began a children's program called OANSA (AWANA in English) that met every Sunday afternoon. The children were awarded stickers as they memorized verses and for attendance. It was

rewarding for us to see the children grow throughout the year and to see them having fun! Besides memorizing verses, the children made various crafts, colored and played lots of fun games. We were blessed to have children from the four local churches attend and also from families that do not normally attend church. We hope to reach families of unbelievers through their children.



ANIMAL HUSBANDRY



We have learned a great deal about animal husbandry in the past year. Raising animals is a challenge and takes a lot of dedication, but it is also a blessing! This past year, we expanded our chicken houses to accommodate 600 chickens at a time and have been able to breed our pigs.



In 2013, we plan to expand the pig corrals to have more breeding pigs. We also have started raising ducks for meat and 16 little ducklings just hatched. We currently have five laying hens, but will have more this fall. Once we have more experience and the proper infrastructure, we will begin to offer classes to those interested in improving and expanding their own animal husbandry businesses. These projects are helping us as we strive towards our goal of self-sustainability.

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

The development of our technical institute is not moving as quickly as we had hoped. The government is no longer accrediting private institutes, so we have been working with already existing institutes and the local government for accreditation. We still believe the institute is important for



Ixiamas because the best way for someone to improve their living conditions is through education and training opportunities.

This year, we held beekeeping classes in partnership with local authorities and a

foundation called FAUTAPO. These classes were held on Saturdays for eight hours from May through December, and students were awarded a technical degree for their work. Participants learned the basics about caring for Africanized bees in tropical conditions and also how to do wild bee captures. We finished the year with 14 dedicated students, three of which were former internado students. The participants were given the necessary equipment to start their own colonies.



Also in coordination with FAUTAPO, we helped with culinary and hygiene classes. Participants met every afternoon from May to December and were rewarded a technical degree. Rachel helped teach the baking portion of the classes.

SIFAT-BOLIVIA held English classes during which our volunteer last summer, Matthew Vaughn, taught the first portion from May to July. It was a great opportunity for him to interact on a close level with several young people. Rachel taught the second portion of classes from November to mid December. Participants were awarded a certificate from SIFAT-BOLIVIA upon finishing the course.

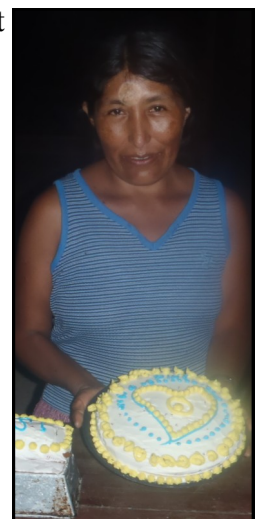
Being close to the pristine Madidi National Park, there are many ecotourism projects in the works for Ixiamas. Young people who can communicate in English are key to the success of these projects. We hope to have them ready for when the tourists arrive!



Because of high demand, Rachel held a short term baking course for the ladies in town. They learned to make “Paneton” (a typical sweet bread eaten at Christmas time), several different

cakes and the basics of decorating. Many of these women were already selling in the market, but wanted to improve their recipes to sell more. Participants were rewarded a certificate at the end of the course.

Besides giving the ladies an opportunity to improve their situation, these classes were an excellent opportunity to form relationships.



SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS



**Graduation Day
with Elva**

People who have been to Ixiamas always remember one of our former internado students, Elva. She graduated high school in 2010, then spent 2011 studying veterinary sciences near Lake Titicaca. She was very far from home and not used to the cold conditions, so last year she came back to Ixiamas to help her parents on their farm. She participated in the beekeeping classes and was very grateful to still be able to advance her education in Ixiamas. Elva is very motivated and quickly learned the necessary skills, she even captured two beehives by herself to raise on her own.



Elva Coaquira



Primo Mora

Primo is one of our beekeeping students from the community of Tacaso. His motivation for studying is to be able to supplement the income from his farm and to have more skills to teach his children. He was also able to capture a hive from the wild and now has three bee colonies.

Primo and his family came from Potosi to Ixiamas in 1995 to establish themselves in the jungle. His oldest son was one of our students in the internado, but now his wife and children live in town during the school year. His wife Angelica makes the woven baskets we help to sell, and his daughter plays the tambourine in church and is one of our OANSA participants.



**Primo helping with
the bee capture**

Endira was one of the participants in the food preparation and hygiene classes. She especially enjoyed the baking portion of the class. She is originally from Cochabamba, but recently moved to Ixiamas, where her parents now live. Although she has studied basic accounting, she was not able to find a job in Ixiamas. She has begun to sell the cakes and cookies she learned to make in class and has begun a small business decorating cakes out of her house. Once she has enough capital saved up, she hopes to open up her own small café in town.

Students like Elva, Primo and Endira encourage us because they are so motivated to work and improve their living conditions. Even if all the students we teach do not continue with what they learned, it's the few motivated students that encourage us in our work. Although we cannot reach everyone, we can always reach some! Please remember us and our students in your prayers.



Learning to make pizza

Help Mateo and Rachel continue their work in Ixiamas. One time donations or monthly contributions can be sent to SIFAT in the included envelope. Consider signing up for the Convenient Contributor Plan as explained on the attached sheet.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

PLEASE CONTACT US!
 Mateo and Rachel Parsons Tenorio with SIFAT-BOLIVIA
 2944 County Road 113, Lineville, AL 36266
www.sifat.org Rachelcparsons@gmail.com
 Look for us on facebook!

