

Llevando el Evangelio a través del Pan y la Tortilla

Bringing the Gospel by Bread & Tortilla
Chiapas Project Bulletin # 72, April 2024

As announced in the last newsletter, a group of seven from Church of the Atonement visited San Benito and San Mateo April 3 – 7. For all but two of us, this was their first time in Chiapas, and another first, the group included a 13-year-old (bi-lingual) daughter of one of the travelers who worked magic in connecting with kids in both churches. In preparing for the group focused on the trip as a retreat rather than a mission, with our brothers and sisters there serving as resources for our understanding of the wider Anglican communion. The welcome extended by parishioners there, like the generous welcome received by the St. Chrysostom



group last year, more than made up for our absence during the pandemic; we felt our companionship was moving onto a whole new level. Highlights of the trip included a welcome from the families receiving food pantry groceries, one of the magnificent dance performances by youth from San Benito, and even the surprise appearance of a mariachi band Saturday night. Fr. Charles preached at both churches on Sunday, and Chicago visitors served as translators, lectors and in the choir. One of the best signs of the success of the trip: all travelers are looking forward to returning next year.





Chicago visitors welcomed by families who came for groceries at San Benito April 5th



Preparing family-sized bundles of beans, rice, sugar, and oil on Thursday afternoon



Companions on arrival; brothers and sisters on departure



On Saturday the travelers joined Fr. Florencio, Carlos and Fany in Yochib where 40 kids awaited their Bible lesson and art project and managed to fit in time for a pick-up soccer game at the site of the former church hall (blown down by the windstorm reported on in the February newsletter).



What remains of the church hall provided sturdy goal posts (timbers, roof and siding that could be salvaged is now stored in the church – see above, top/center).



April 13 San Mateo Carlos writes, "Once again the weather affected the attendance of the children - a lot of wind in Yochib. The few children who came to the class sang our entrance song and then we had the reading about the ascension of Jesus. After talking about what the reading meant, they represented it with watercolor drawings of how they understood it. In conclusion they enjoyed cookies and played since the market was empty; finally, we cleaned the church for services tomorrow."





Mass at San Benito April 14th

April 19 Food Pantry. The Chiapas Project Food Pantry is a biweekly gift of staples (beans, rice, oil, and sugar) to families facing food insecurity in the barrio of the church. The program celebrated its third anniversary this past November. The Food Pantry is a joint venture between



the Church of St. Benito de Nursia in San Cristobal and four Chicago Episcopal churches: St. Chrysostom, Church of Our Saviour, Church of the Atonement and Church of the Holy Comforter. The Food Pantry makes it possible for San Benito de Nursia to supplement groceries for forty-five families in their neighborhood. About ten families have removed themselves as pantry recipients as their circumstances have improved during the past three years, and new families have taken their place.

Thirteen of the families who picked up groceries on April 19th.



Mass on Sunday April 14th at San Mateo Apostól.





Mass at San Benito April 14th



Carlos and San Mateo kids April 20th



Catechism students
April 27th at San
Mateo



Mass at San Mateo April 28th