

Cathy's Caribbean Quarterly

December 14, 2015

Can God be in the midst of what might be considered a failure on the mission field? This past summer, while I was enjoying my birthday with my PT students in the clinic in the capital, a fire flashed through a



row of 9 homes in Santa Fe. By the time I went by 3 days later, there were ash-filled slabs, scorched palm trees and that was about it. (see photo) A clothing drive at church for the families launched me into a project to help them rebuild. While I would love to be writing that these families are happily settled into their new homes, God has me peacefully writing about how that is not the case. With our church transitioning to a new priest, Fr. Felix left this situation with me describing how the bishop needs a united group of families and an estimated budget. From the beginning, my aim was to help achieve this. Unfortunately, it seems the families saw my

involvement as a source of money that they needn't work for. Another church member took the lead role, but they kept turning to me asking about the bishop's reply, once we'd finally been able to get a budget formulated. When work on a fund raiser required them to step up, they disappeared. Talking with Fr. Nephtaly, our new priest with a huge heart for outreach, he agrees that we should not be more concerned about their homes than they are and God has given me a sense of peace about stepping away from this project.

Thanks to my car, throughout the year I've been able to share rides to both church and PT events in other cities with friends and colleagues as well as giving the occasional lift to folks here in San Pedro. These have been good relationship building times. Additionally, God is using traffic here as a way to teach me more about trusting God. Thank you for your help in making this possible!



PT work this year has included a total of 43 credits in the 3 university terms, of which 3 were new-to-me courses, an advising role with the formation of a PT association, and supporting/advising as requested with the launching of the new curriculum. This is one of my students at our end of term celebration as he smiles with relief that he has passed another class with me. I discovered that while among the students I have a reputation for being tough, they also feel like they learn not only what they need to know about PT but also useful values to add to their lives.

Thank you for blessing this ministry with your support! I pray you have a blessed Christmas and many moments where you recognize God's grace in your lives throughout 2016!

In Christ,
Cathy

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