

E-mailed to Elena 9/14/11

September 9, 2011

To Our Beloved Families in Laurel Galan,

We hope this letter finds you well and experiencing the blessings of the Spirit. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. Unfortunately, we did not receive your June 26th letter from our hermanamiento in Laurel Galan signed by Ligia, Alba, and Micaela until September 2nd. Thus we have not responded to it sooner. We, too, want to have much better and regular communication as we, too, know that our letters are essential for our relationship to be nourished. We agree with you that it is through our letters that we are able to be close – to touch, hug, laugh and speak to one another across the miles. In fact, we feel your love and our deep connection as we read your letters and we hope you feel ours as you read this letter. We would very much like to communicate monthly! Please give your letters to the AKF staff who will translate and e-mail them to us. In addition, you can also mail your Spanish letters to us with the stamped, self-addressed envelopes that should have been delivered to you by Gloria from Mujer y Comunidad.

We are so glad to hear that you are regularly meeting to discuss what to do in the community. We know how important this is for the community to thrive! We are anxious to hear how the revolving loan fund is going and we pray that the weather will cooperate to provide success for your planting and harvesting. We think it is a great idea that you have a community “savings box” and that Elena puts into it an amount equal to what the community can save!

We have had many exciting things happening with Peace Lutheran Church. Two weeks ago, our entire congregation went on a walk along our labyrinth that is painted on the grounds behind our church. At the center of the labyrinth we had the Eucharist – our communion with our Lord. It was a deep and moving experience. (A labyrinth is a spiritual walk along a wandering path to help us become more connected to the Spirit.) Below is a picture of a kind of labyrinth.



In August, our seminarian, Emily, and her fiancé, Daniel, celebrated their wedding at Peace. (A seminarian is someone who is learning to become a pastor.) Earlier that month, we had two evenings of family camp: Children, parents and grandparents came to enjoy a church picnic and games, and enjoy what has become too often difficult for us in the United States to do. Because people are so busy, they find it hard to find times for us all to come together.

Since August, the courtyard outside of our church building looks a little like a farmer's market after the service. We are hosting the Earth/Faith/Food Market, a program to support local organic farmers and to learn about sustainable, healthy food production. We remember your plans to have a community garden. Were you able to develop one? Are any of you able to grow your own vegetables and fruit?

You said that Luis and two young women have been visiting you. Is that Luis Aguirre? If so, please give him a hug from us.

We are closing this letter with a prayer by Mother Teresa:

Make us worthy, Lord to serve others throughout the world who live and die in poverty or hunger. Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread; and by our understanding give them love, peace and joy.

We send our love and big hugs to each of you. The Lord's Peace be with you all!

The Peace Partnership Group

The Winter Family, the Pfeiffer Family, Arlene Reed, Libby Flynn, Ceil McCloy, Emily Weller, Gil Jardine, Sue Field, and Pastor Steve