



Book Delivery Update

January 10, 2000

Dear Book Project Supporter,

I wish each of you a happy and prosperous New Year. I hope you had a wonderful (and restful) holiday season with your family and friends.

Jeff and I are busily preparing for book delivery season, which will begin January 20 and end March 5. Due in part to your generous support, we'll have the honor of handing out 18,607 vital text and library books to 4,273 schoolchildren at 20 schools. We will also be kicking off the second, third, and fourth years at our existing 30 schools, which continue to serve over 11,000 students. By this spring, our project will have positively impacted the lives of over 15,000 schoolchildren. Since books improve the quality of a child's education by over 80%, this represents a dramatic, positive change in Guatemala, which will pay huge dividends, both now and in the future. Thank you for all that you have done to help make this project a success!

"I can't believe we will actually be receiving books this year. No one has ever helped us before. On behalf of the families of this community, thank you and God bless you."

This is a common comment made by principals and teachers when they hear that enough money has been raised in the U.S. to buy them books for the upcoming school year. Jeff and I continue to be touched by the efforts put forth by some of these individuals. Principals will often walk for miles or ride in a crowded "chicken bus" to the nearest town center, wait in long lines, then call on a crackling public phone to place their book requests. Often times the circuits are busy, so they have to go back to the end of the line and try all over again. It may take the better part of a day to make their requests, but they make this --and other--huge sacrifices, because they see the book project as a rare opportunity to help their children have a better future.

I look forward to giving you a full account of the book deliveries, when I return from Guatemala this spring. I will be in Guatemala handing out books between January 20 and April 15. I will be reachable only by e-mail. If you need to speak to someone by phone, please leave a message at the COED office (513) 731-2595 and one of our volunteers will return your call within two business days.

Thank you again for all that you do to make this project a success.

With warm regards,

Joe Berninger

According to our project teachers, textbooks improve the quality of a student's education by more than 70%. Your help can make a significant difference in the lives of Guatemalan children.