

The Companion



Newsletter of Companion Community Development Alternatives

Vol. 5 No.

SALVADORANS SEEK ECONOMIC REFUGE

Special Edition of Salvadoran Voices

But What Price Do They Have to Pay to Find Opportunity?

Mario and Carlos (names have been changed) are young men from a rural Salvadoran community. Carlos was a popular teacher in a community school and Mario was a student and artist there. Both were talented, active leaders in their community with many qualities that would open opportunities for them, if they saw the chance at home--but neither of them did. With no hope of getting a visa, Carlos and Mario decided to join the thousands of Central Americans who assume enormous risks to immigrate illegally to the United States. Their testimonies inform us about the injustices, exploitation and desperation that are by-products of the global economy and U.S. immigration policies.

Mario: Since January of 1999 I began thinking more seriously about my future and my family that barely had the funds to subsist, and I got this idea in my head that I needed to go to a country where I can earn money, and decided to go to the United States.

You know, one thinks in his future and wants to have a family, a house, children. I saw people that would come back from the United States and would have a little money, and would bring nice things for their homes.

Carlos: With the help of my brother in the United States, I was able to come. He paid for my trip here, \$4000. One Sunday he sent for me to go to a nearby town to receive his call and told me, "Next weekend I want you to go."

I told my fellow teachers that the economic situation was so difficult and I couldn't find a way to maintain myself

out late and spend great times. But what can I do?" We said good-bye and the tears just fell.

That was difficult, but nothing like saying good-bye to my family the next day. My mother was crying, my little niece was crying. Then I was crying too. But I said to myself, "I have already made this decision. I have to go." I felt so bad. I couldn't even hug my mother, it hurt so much. I don't think I was capable of hugging her good-bye. From what I could tell, she felt the same, because she just walked over by the kitchen with her back to me and stood by the fire.

I didn't know I'd be back in one month.

Carlos: We left for the capital in a private van with the *coyote*, (person who runs the business of transporting undocumented immigrants) with about 15-20 people from nearby communities. We got to a house in San Salvador where there were about 40 people. The leaders explained what the trip would involve, what we would have to do. They said there are two possibilities: "You are able to cross to the other side, or you get sent back to El Salvador. You get three tries. If you don't make it in three tries, you pay again."

We left from San Salvador to the Guatemalan border in a van. In

(continued on page 5)



Photo by Kelly Liback

Will this little girl end up attempting to illegally immigrate to the United States? Or will there be opportunities for her in her home community in El Salvador?

economically. Working in education doesn't give time to do any other type of work, since we teach, attend meetings, have to prepare class and study. They all understood, since most of them are in a similar economic situation.

The *conquistador* is the man that promotes the business of illegal immigration and gets people to go. Saturday I went to call him to confirm that I was going and Sunday, the 4th of July, I left with Mario.

Mario: Saturday, the night before we left, was the saddest night. My eyes were filled with tears. People comment on others that go and that some die. Mothers and fathers don't feel good because there is so much that is unsure in the trip.

Sometimes we guys are *machista*. I felt so terrible and tried not to cry. My best friend told me, "I'll never find another friend like you, with whom I can joke around, hang

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supporting democratic community development in El Salvador
promoting social responsibility in the United States for more just relations with Latin America

Program Update

POPULAR EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN URGENT NEED OF FUNDING

CoCoDA's Scholarship Fund for Popular Education in El Salvador is a way for individuals and schools and other organizations in the United States to support popular teachers and community schools in rural El Salvador. Here are updates from the two education programs that benefit from CoCoDA's Scholarship Fund, ADES and the CRC.



"Students, teachers and parents all collaborated to make the school year a success." - say ADES representatives. Here two popular teachers in the 10 de Octubre School in Santa Marta prepare for classes.

❖ Report from the 1999 School Year

- 1,243 students completed the school year
- 19 teachers completed 2nd year of study in Basic Education at the University of El Salvador, San Miguel campus
- 21 teachers took a pre-university course taught in the community of Santa Marta through a program of the University of El Salvador
- A School for Parents was held on themes such as gender, treatment of children and children's rights
- ADES, the University of El Salvador and two other organizations provided a summer school for popular teachers on the theme: "Making Education a Tool for Transformation"
- A Multiple Purpose Building was constructed at the 10 de Octubre school in Santa Marta, inaugurated August 22
- Exchanges with popular teachers in the urban school of Comunidad 22 de Abril were organized
- A commission made up of popular teachers, students, and parents applied to the Ministry of Education for accrediting a high school in Santa Marta
- The 10 de Octubre school now offers 9th grade, and San Felipe offers up to 7th grade
- 12 popular teachers failed their university computer class for lack of instruction and available computers on which to practice

❖ Teachers in Cabañas Persist Despite Scarce Resources

ADES: Association for Economic and Social Development, Santa Marta, local NGO with Popular Education program

Cabañas Schools where Popular Teachers teach:

- Santa Marta 10 de Octubre: K- 9th, 27 popular teachers
- San Felipe, K-7th, 6 popular teachers
- El Rodeo: K-3rd, 4 popular teachers
- Valle Nuevo: K-4th, 1 popular teacher
- El Zapote: K, 1 popular teacher
- San Gregorio: 1st-5th, 2 popular teachers
- El Aguacate: 1st-5th; 1 popular teacher

Total number of popular teachers: 42 (14 men and 28 women)

❖ Challenges for the 2000 School Year

- Cover tuition and stipends for 42 popular teachers
- Cover costs of 40 popular teachers to study in the University of El Salvador and in the Lutheran University
- Teach classes in 7 community schools
- Provide training for the popular teachers and develop teaching curriculum
- Organize exchanges with other schools and teachers
- Purchase furniture and equipment
- Maintain paid coordinator for the program

Santa Marta Computer Center & San Felipe School Improvements

The River Road Unitarian Church Central America Task Force is supporting two education-related projects with ADES as part of their youth/adult delegation to Santa Marta, Cabañas in July, 2000.

They will help set up a Santa Marta Computer Center at the 10 de Octubre school in Santa Marta. The delegation will also assist in the construction of a kitchen at the San Felipe school and a fence around the school.

Companion Community Development Alternatives (CoCoDA) supports democratic, community-based, social and economic development in El Salvador and promotes awareness, activism and social responsibility in the United States for more just relations with Latin America. CoCoDA supports development projects with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in El Salvador in the areas of:

- Popular Education •
- Women's Development •
- Community Economic Development •
- Democratic Communications •
- Community Health •



We strive to uphold the following principles of human development:

- local, democratic participation •
- community organizing •
- self-development •
- cultural expression and identity •
- economic, social and ecological sustainability •



The Companion is a publication of Companion Community Development Alternatives (CoCoDA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Most of CoCoDA's funding comes from individual members who contribute \$25 or more per year (\$15 student and low-income) and from CoCo Groups, which are independent groups and organizations in the United States that co-sponsor CoCoDA program initiatives. New members and CoCo Groups are always welcome.

COMPANIONSHIP IN DEVELOPMENT

❖ Popular Teachers in Suchitoto Are Forced to Seek Other Employment

CRC: Committee for the Reconstruction and Socioeconomic Development of the Communities of Suchitoto, Cuscatlán, local NGO with Popular Education program

Suchitoto schools where Popular Teachers teach:

- Aguacayo: pre-school, 1 popular teacher
- La Mora: pre-school-6th, 7 popular teachers
- Las Delicias: 1st-5th, 4 popular teachers
- Mazatepeque/Nueva Consolación: 1st-2nd, 3 popular teachers
- San Antonio/Valle Verde: pre-school-1st, 3 popular teachers
- El Sitio Cenicero: 1 popular teacher

Total number of popular teachers (beginning of 1999 school year): 19



Photo by Kelly Lubbeck

"I got involved (as a popular teacher) because I like this work and I feel like it is born from within me, that it is my profession. Now I am going to the university, with much sacrifice, but I hope to continue forward in this struggle." Rina, popular teacher at Rafael Palacios School in La Mora, Cuscatlán. One of her colleagues (left) leads students in physical education exercises.

❖ Report from the 1999 School Year

- 305 students attended classes in 8 schools, from K-6th
- 15 young people from the communities graduated from high school, 11 of whom were popular teachers
- 7 adult literacy circles were organized in coordination with other NGOs and the municipal government; 70 men and women participated.
- The CRC had a program coordinator who worked with a team of 5 people.
- 5 popular teachers are attending university classes in San Miguel, two of whom will receive their teaching certificates in 2000 and three in 2001.

❖ Challenges for the 2000 School Year

- The program lacks money to maintain all of the teachers in the 2000 school year.
- 10 teachers left their teaching positions because expected funding for scholarships and stipends never came through. The CRC is struggling with how to maintain classes in all the schools, since only 9 of the 19 popular teachers remain.
- The Archdiocese has been providing funding for some popular teacher stipends, which will end in June, 2000.
- Presently there is no funding for the regional coordinator of the program or for workshops and training which are necessary for developing the popular education program.

Photo by Kelly Lubeck



❖ **Women's Cafetín Is Open for Business**

In Suchitoto, Cuscatlán, the Women's Secretariat of the CRC opened the "La Orquidea" Cafetín in November.

Here Beatriz (right), one of the coordinators of the Women's Secretariat who is also a part-time cook, stands with the other two cooks, Jesús (center) and Morena (left) of La Orquidea, one of the most charming places to eat in Suchitoto.

Photo by Kelly Lubeck

❖ **Project Notes and CoCo Group News**

❖ **Radio Victoria -Victoria, Cabañas:**

The community radio station of Radio Victoria purchased a new transmitter and accessories with a 1st quarter/2000 grant to ADES of \$3,925. The grant was made possible by a gift from the Merton family in Vermont.

❖ **Valle Nuevo Land Project - Santa Marta, Cabañas:**

In March, Michael Keeth of Seattle, Washington spent three weeks in El Salvador as CoCoDA field representative to work with consultant Rubén Escalante and the Valle Nuevo Land Commission to facilitate discussions with the Valle Nuevo community regarding issues of land tenure for 265 acres of farmland purchased with CoCoDA support in 1992-93.

❖ **Santa Marta Rehabilitation Center - Santa Marta, Cabañas:**

A special year-end appeal mailing from community health worker Brenda Hubbard of El Zapote, Cabañas raised \$5,400 for operations of the Santa Marta Physical Rehabilitation Center and AIDS education campaigns in northern Cabañas. A 4th quarter/1999 grant of \$1,625 was disbursed to ADES for the project.

❖ **Sustainable Agriculture - Suchitoto, Cuscatlán:**

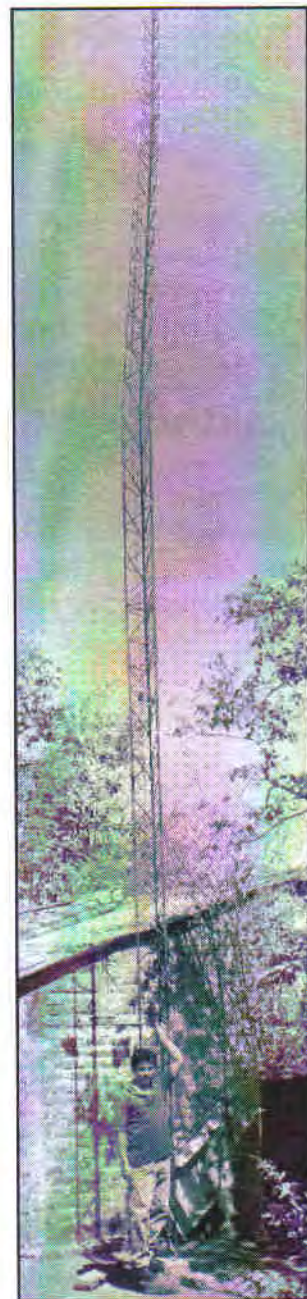
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR), a non-profit organization based in Cincinnati, Ohio, has supported a sustainable agriculture project with the CRC since 1998. The project has involved 38 families with demonstrative gardens of vegetables and fruit trees in 10 communities. RSWR financed a 1st quarter/2000 CoCoDA grant of \$4,700 to the project which will focus on bettering the quality of the fruit trees and promoting organic alternatives and crop diversification.

❖ **Community Health- Northern Usulután**

Dr. Rebecca Kragh of the Emmanuel Baptist Church (IBE) community health program in northern Usulután reports that the American Red Cross has committed to build a large spring-fed, gravity flow potable water system that will benefit the communities of San Benito, La Barca, San Simon, Los Horcones, Las Burras and

❖ **CoCo Group Workshops**

Thanks to all the U.S. CoCo Groups who hosted CoCoDA staff in strategic planning workshops in November, December and January. Workshops were held with 10 groups, all of whom demonstrated enthusiasm for continuing in partnership with CoCoDA to support community-based development in El Salvador and to raise awareness in their local communities. Many expressed desire to have more participation from Salvadorans and other Latinos living in the United States, and to devote more attention to immigration issues. Another common theme was the desire to involve younger people to develop new leadership.



❖ **Radio Suchitlán**

Nicho, Coordinator of Radio Suchitlán of the CRC in Suchitoto, Cuscatlán, stands by the recently installed 30 meter high antenna that was made possible with support from CoCoDA's Campaign for Democratic Communications. This antenna will permit them to transmit their signal to more of the communities associated with CRC Projects.

Guatemala, we went on public buses, 2 groups, each about 20 people. There were many checkpoints – at the police checkpoints there is more hope of passing through, since they accept money. The *coyote* would give money to a couple of people to pay for the entire group. It's obvious we are illegal, but they know that they will be paid, so they let us go.

The *coyotes* know how many checkpoints there are, so they are prepared with the money. From the Mexican border, it becomes more difficult. Some people have to travel in the luggage compartment. I was lucky because I got to ride as a passenger, next to the cousin of one of my friends from the community.

I had to pay 13,000 colones (about \$1,494.00) in El Salvador. Upon arriving in the United States, the family has to pay the rest of the \$4000 or the immigrants are not released.

Mario: So we went to a hotel in San Salvador. There were so many of us that were going, *mojados* (wetbacks), asking ourselves, "What will this journey be like?" There were two women that were going with us. It is riskier with women. They can be raped.

The *coyote* called us together for a meeting. He said, "I ask of you all to respect the women. And if you make any problems, I'll leave you mid-journey." I was a minor. There are special rules for us, since it is more dangerous and the police might not let us go because we're minors. He told us, "Minors and those without a passport, you'll go with me." He would take us to the border with Guatemala. In addition to the *coyote*, there are others called *polleros* or guides, the ones that direct the group and serve as guides during the journey.

So the next morning four of us left in a Chevrolet with the *coyote*. The rest of the group went in a bus, a Condor, as if they were going on an excursion to Guate. We got on the other bus with the rest of the people once we crossed the border.

Carlos: We got to the D.F. (Distrito Federal, capital of Mexico). We went part of the way by bus, part of the way on a little boat about 2 meters long. This was the scary part for me. The tide was high and there were 26 of us stuffed into this little boat. We had been on the water for an hour, we couldn't get out and the waves were high. We could only pray that we wouldn't drown right there.

Mario: We reached the last city in Guatemala before arriving in Mexico. There we just slept on a straw mat on the floor. The house was a place for illegals that were passing through. It was really dirty.

We left in a pickup, 14 of us. They took us to a mountain. As we climbed the mountain, there was a division there with a sign that said, "Limit between Mexico and

"There are two possibilities: You are able to cross to the other side, or you get sent back to El Salvador. You get three tries. If you don't make it in three tries, you pay again."

Guatemala." We crossed the border via the mountain so that the police wouldn't see us. There was a severe thunderstorm. We came down the mountain soaked.

We had to cross through coffee plantations at night that were filled with water. They took us to a house where we stayed four days. When they were in the mood, they brought us food. We couldn't leave because police were everywhere. We were in Mexican territory and it was more dangerous than where we'd been.

Carlos: When we got to the other side of the lake, we had to keep going. At that point, we traveled in a large van, 60 of us shoved inside, pressed against each other, some on the laps of others. The dust was terrible and already it was hard to breathe with so many people stuffed inside the vehicle. Suddenly one of the tires burst. They ordered us out of the van and we had to hide in the vegetation by the side of the road because there was a helicopter above, searching for illegals.

After waiting the entire day in the desert-like vegetation, we finally got in the van and hadn't gone more than 3 kilometers and another tire burst! They fixed it, and we had just gotten 30 of us in the van and it burst again!

We finally got to a town to stay in some hotel rooms. We were told that we would cross the border the next day and that we'd be going through the woods. We were each given one container for water and told to hang onto it because we'd need it. Some didn't worry and left their

water. So I took 3 containers and wrapped them in a shirt so that I'd have extra.

Mario: We were told that from where we were, the four of us would be carried in the luggage compartment below the bus. At 10 p.m. they put us in the luggage compartment, ordering us to get in quickly and not to move even a finger, because with any small movement they would find us and then it's all over.

We waited and waited inside this space for them to board the passengers. It was tremendously hot, we were sweating, and it was even worse after being closed up in that house for four days. We were getting desperate. I thought to myself, "I can't make it. I can't make it." Someone who suffers from blood pressure problems couldn't make it. Thank God none of us had this problem.

Finally we left, after an hour of being locked up, trying not to move. Once the bus took off, it was more tolerable because there were spaces where air entered and we could breathe.

Carlos: We were taken to the edge of a major highway and told to jump out and go into the bushes. We couldn't even stand up when we got out because our legs were asleep from being stuffed in the van. We had to stay the entire day in the bushes, waiting to walk during the night. At about 5 p.m. we began walking through the woods. At about 7 p.m. we were close to the border.

We were going to jump the border where the train tracks cross and suddenly we saw the soldiers. They ordered us to our knees and had their guns pointing at us, probing us in the face, "What are you doing here? You're trying to get to the other side, aren't you?"

Two of the Mexican women with us began to talk softly to them and begged them, "Please don't send us back. It is because of the great need that we come and do this." They said they wanted cigarettes and those who had them gave them cigarettes. They said, "Go on, we understand the situation," and let us go.

Mario: The bus stopped often, at every police checkpoint. We could tell when they were checking for illegals. They tapped the tires. We stayed very still. The *pollero* got on and acted like a *cobrador* (the one who charges people for their bus ride). He could do the Mexican accent

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The CoCo Forum

REMEMBERING ROMERO: A CALL TO GRASSROOTS PROPHETIC ACTION

Never before has the anniversary of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero's martyrdom been celebrated with as many activities, with multitudes in attendance and overall with a true sense of faith and hope of liberation.

It is clear that after twenty years, Archbishop Romero continues reuniting and uniting us, provoking and convoking, because he continues to communicate hope and inspiration to us. There were many activities: presentations of books, concerts; it was a river of people. The *pueblo* was certainly present, never failing Oscar Romero. This brings us joy, but it also moves us to reflect.

What does it mean for us to celebrate Saint Romero of America?

Remembering and recognizing the person of Romero is celebration and hope; it is struggle and resistance to the unjust structures that continue oppressing this *pueblo*. It is to make real and give impulse to the cause for which he gave his life: the option for life of the poor and exploited. It is to take seriously the causes of solidarity, social justice. Oscar Romero is calling us to collective, ecumenical, grassroots prophetic action in this desert of globalization.

Oscar Rodríguez

Oscar Rodríguez is Director of the Ministry of Service and Development at the Emmanuel Baptist Church (IBE) in San Salvador.



The Emmanuel Baptist Church was a principal organizer of a week-long ecumenical event commemorating the life and death of Archbishop Romero which brought hundreds of participants from El Salvador and internationally. The banner above was painted by youth who participated in the vigil the 24th of March, commemorating the 20th anniversary of Romero's martyrdom.

MARIA TERESA TULA REMEMBERS ARCHBISHOP ROMERO

In February of 1978 I met him. I was impressed with what I saw the first time. He was meeting with the Committee of the Mothers of the Disappeared (Co-MADRES) -- there were about 20 people at that time. He stood up from a student's desk in which he'd been sitting. Smiling (he had such a pleasant smile), he said, "pasa adelante, welcome, and may God bless you." He made me feel so comfortable.

He offered support for all kinds of problems-- emotional, spiritual. Upon speaking with him, many felt relief, a sense of rest, peacefulness. He was so positive and made us feel good, and he had a strong spirit of struggle...

Every weekend we met with him. We read the Bible for reflection, meditated about the moment in which we were living. He said, "These are difficult moments that we are living through. Our children are like Jesus and the Gospel, trying to change living conditions, making the Word real. You mothers are those that feel the pain..." He told us to see our lost children in other children.

He strived to give hope, something positive to us, so that we could move on. He gave us faith in God, in other people, in the struggle. He gave moral and spiritual support. He

denounced the disappearances of the young people. He pleaded with the government to stop adding names to the list of the disappeared.

There is a custom that the Archbishop gives his hand and one bends down and kisses his ring. Not with him. He put himself at the same level with the people, as a brother, as if to say, "I am here for you." He said, "We must continue struggling. There are more difficult days to come. You must have the strength of mothers." Someday he promised we would see peace, and our children...

For me, 20 years have not passed. My *compañero* died in 1980, too. His death and the death of Archbishop Romero happened at almost the same time. Afterwards, I would visit the cathedral, asking Monseñor for peace and comfort. It was as if he were there, as before. For as tired as he was, he always had the strength to sit with someone and listen.

When I saw the procession (on March 24, 2000) on the television, I felt so much emotion. I was very happy to see the commemoration, the fervor of the people. I saw them chanting, "Monseñor Romero, Presente!" I feel him very close, and always ask him for help and understanding.

María Teresa Tula, CoCoDA Board Member and U.S. Representative of Co-MADRES, came to know Archbishop Oscar Romero through her human rights work in El Salvador.

(Immigration, continued from page 5)

well, so he could pass without a problem. We arrived at 5 a.m. and waited for all of the people to get off the bus.

We left walking and were about to get a taxi when we ran into the judicial police - they are more dangerous, carry rifles and pistols. "Aha, assholes," they said. "You are Salvadorans, not Mexicans. We're taking you to jail." They put us in their vehicle and then said, "unless you want us to let you go, which we'll do if you give us money." Nobody wanted to give up the

*They ordered us to our
knees and had their
guns pointing at us,
probing us in the face,...
"You're trying to get to
the other side, aren't
you?"*

money they did have, but I was really worried so I gave them an emergency \$10 that I had sewn inside my pants--I had \$20 total. And of course they were very happy because they love dollars - they are like gold to the police. "Get out of here," they said, and let us go.

Carlos: At 5 a.m. we crossed the border to the highway. We were wet because we had to hide in the swamps and walk through streams to avoid the searchlights. We hadn't slept, didn't have water, were exhausted. We found a tub of water for cattle and drank from it. I tried not to sleep but couldn't help it. At 9 a.m., when we thought we wouldn't make it any longer, they came and picked us up. We were divided up into three vans and went on our way to the drop-off point in the U.S. We arrived at a house, safe. There the *polleros* called our families to tell them we were there and to charge them, because they wouldn't let us go if they weren't paid.

Mario: After a week, we went as passengers in busses to the D.F. We left at 5 a.m. At 8 a.m. the police at a checkpoint stopped us. They got on the

bus and began to ask questions. I pretended I was asleep, but they watch carefully and saw me. They woke me up and asked where I was from and where I was going. I couldn't fool them. "You are Salvadoran," they said, and told 8 of us to get off of the bus. Some got lucky. The women went on, as well as three of the men.

The police started making fun of us, saying, "These guys want to go to the North." We asked them to let us go. They took us about 2 kilometers from there and said, "You get off here. You pay us or else we'll take you to *la migra*" (immigration jail).

I took out my last \$10. Another guy gave \$50, others gave \$10. One didn't have anything and said so, offering the police his watch. They threw it aside and said it was worthless. They let us go and told us that there was a bus going to Mexico City. Of course, we didn't have any pesos and couldn't get a ride on the bus!

So we were wondering where we were going to sleep when suddenly our *pollero* showed up with two taxis. "Why did you wander away and get lost?" he asked us, joking around. We all got into the taxis, happy now.

Carlos: Upon arriving here, I felt so much happiness! I couldn't believe I'd made it, after so many obstacles that we had to go through. I made it in 20 days.

Within a week of arriving I began work. You need a week to be able to rest and recuperate, be fed and prepare to work. If you are lucky, you find a job right away. Sometimes it's a bad season to find work because of the weather.

Now I feel so happy. Life is not easy here and we make a lot of sacrifices, but I feel good because I have work and when I stick my hand in my pocket, I can buy what I need. In El Salvador we work and never can you stick your hand in your pocket and find 10 pesos there.

Mario: In Mexico City we stayed in a house of illegals, about 100 of us, for 8 days. We only got a light blanket to

sleep with on the floor. We ate well, though, and could watch television.

The next bus ride we went as passengers. It was an 18 hour ride. The guide gave us money so we could pay the police when they took us off the bus. Each of us got 300 pesos at each checkpoint. They would take all of us off of the bus and we would pay them, every time.

But then we were stopped at a military checkpoint. They took us off the bus and asked us questions. We said we were Mexicans. They said they didn't believe us. We insisted. One of the soldiers said, "Okay, I'm going to get boiling water." They were trying to scare us. They said they would kill one of us. We were scared. "Okay," we said. "We are Salvadorans." They took us to immigration jail, put 13 of us in one cell, along with eight others that were already there. We kept hoping that our guide would come and get us out, but how? It was immigration jail.

At midnight Tuesday they took us out and loaded us on a bus for Mexico City. Three busses of illegal immigrants were taken from the immigration jail in Mexico City, filled with Hondurans, Salvadorans and Guatemalans.

At immigration in Guatemala, they contracted another bus to the border with El Salvador. We got to the Salvadoran/Guatemalan border at midnight. We hadn't slept at all.

I arrived home on a Sunday, after more than 25 days of journey. After having put up with hunger so long and no sleep, I didn't even feel hungry anymore. I had circles under my eyes, long hair and an unshaven face. I got home and there wasn't anyone there. Someone from the bus must have told my mother and she came running to see me. Then everyone else from my family showed up. "I was so close," I told them, "and they sent us back."

Editor's note: Mario did make it to the U.S. on his second attempt, departing September 1st and arriving October 6th.

*We envision
a global
community
founded on just
relationships
among people
and nations,
rooted in the
democratic
sharing of
resources for
sustainable
social and
economic
development.*

CoCoDA

Vision Statement

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CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

<i>May 19-21</i>	<i>CoCo Encuentro in Bethesda, Maryland</i>
<i>May 22-31</i>	<i>CoCoDA Board and Staff Delegation to El Salvador</i>
<i>June 15-26</i>	<i>Evansville, Indiana Delegation to El Salvador: Health Care and Community Development</i>
<i>July 15-25</i>	<i>St. Mary's/Indiana Delegation to El Salvador: The Church and Community Development</i>
<i>July 15-31</i>	<i>River Road Unitarian Church Delegation to El Salvador: Popular Education in Northern Cabañas</i>

Opportunities to Support Community Development in El Salvador

*Scholarship Fund for Popular Education in El Salvador
focus on popular teachers*

*Campaign for Women's Development in El Salvador
focus on women's economic development*

*Campaign for Democratic Communications
focus on community radios*

*contact the CoCoDA national office for information
about becoming a co-sponsor of one of these initiatives*

