

## Visiting my friend Sibia's parents' farm and church in Guatemala

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*Juan, a second-grader, attends school in morning and works in the afternoon*

This past weekend I went to visit with Sibia at her parents' farm about 90 kilometers from here. She lives in the city in order to go to school here. Since she had told me that her father had many animals and lots of land, I had expected a relatively large house.

Her father does indeed have much land, with corn fields and beautiful hills - with mountains in the near distance and ocean in the other direction -- absolutely beautiful! Also he has 15 cows, a horse {the other horses there, maybe 10 in all, he told me were not his but he was paying for them -- renting? Buying?), 3 goats, a pig, chickens (each one tied by one foot with a string to a pole or something secure), dogs, cats, banana trees, coffee trees, coconut trees, and various very interesting fruit trees.

I here were also 10 children -- Sibia is the oldest -- but only two rooms for a family of 12. When I was there Sibia, two sisters and myself slept in one room and everyone else slept in the other. They also have a large open "shack" for the kitchen, with a dirt floor, and a wood-burning "stove." There was also a well, an outhouse, and absolutely no electricity -- but many candles. In addition to being a farmer, Sibia's dad is the evangelical preacher of the town (it's about a two-kilometer walk to the church).

The weekend I was there they had Bible Day. Sibia, who works with the children of the church (probably 20-30 go to Sunday school each week), really prepared an excellent program for them. Also some adults recited poetry about Christ and sang songs. There were maybe 75 to 100 adults in the church, and zillions of children -- even the doors and windows were packed with people looking in.

I opened the program by singing "All My Brethren." The boy, age 19 or 20, who is in charge of music for the church asked me for the music afterward and I gave it to him. He is also studying in Guatemala City at the Guatemala Academy of Music. He is intellectual and musical, and will come Wednesday to study the Principle. I also spoke at length with the student preacher, about 23 years old, who is studying at the Guatemala Bible Institute in Chimaltenango, but he comes to Guatemala City very often. He seems to be more set in his Biblical interpretations than most people I've met here, but he plans to visit and discuss the Principle with me more deeply.

Today I ate lunch with a girl named Lilia who works as a secretary for an architect, where she has a huge office all to herself. Lilia speaks English very well. Her parents also live on a farm with 10 cows and many other animals almost the same as Sibia's family, and also with no electricity, etc. They live about 18 kilometers from Puerto San Jose. Lilia may take English lessons from me on Saturdays since she wants to speak better English, and afterward we can talk about religion. Right now she is quite interested in hearing more about Divine Principle, but more interested in English.

I've also been maintaining my relationship with the Lopez family and love them all quite dearly. They have many projects with musicians' leagues, artists' leagues, and preparation for their daily radio

programs. Also, Mr. Lopez works as an abogado, which I thought meant lawyer but I know he has not received a law degree. However, he does represent people in court and confer with them on legal matters.



*Vendors line the street in downtown Guatemala City*

I will be teaching technical English to a group of five civil engineering students (lucky my dad is a civil engineer) each night, and conversational English to an electrical engineer three times a week.

Maybe after all this I'll turn into an engineer. A medical student named Norman helped me put signs up (offering to teach English) all over the University of San Carlos, the largest campus here.