



News from Fr. Frank ...

Dear Friends,

It was great talking with Stephen Cusack! Thank you everybody for the finance re the utility.

I got a Mazda 4 wheel drive. It has made a great difference to me. Stephen also asked me to write and explain the latest developments. We have had a tough time from the authorities – (government). I will gladly explain at length when I return in August for a visit.

Here in Ecuador, the Society of St James sends missionaries to new areas of what we call invasions - this is where the poorest of the poor invade land and try and make a start. They have no other way. Associated with the invasions are dirigentes (community leaders). They decide who goes where and try and order the invasions and work towards building an infrastructure.

Political parties are also involved some of these dirigentes are like the Mafia.

There is widespread corruption in all of this as there is everywhere in Ecuador. What usually happens is that years along the track the local government (municipality), eventually legalises the invasions and provides escrituras (land ownership) of course you have pay again for the land! Usually the Church does not pay the second time round as we are all about community service. We were nearly thrown off our land... A long story. I got together with the authorities and political leaders and we saved the community from Desalojo – (being thrown off the land). Unfortunately insecurity is part of living amongst the poor and has to be accepted.

I am in the process of building what will be my temporary home consisting of three small rooms up high in San Francisco (South America). This will eventually become a medical dispensary. It will be ready to live in by July. I don't have enough funds to finish the building, just enough for the three rooms, so I am going to have to ask for more finance soon - sorry about that!

I have been given \$25,000US from St James Society to build a presbytery....But I Will need another \$20,000 before I can get the real house built. The plans have been drawn up for the church and comedor and guardaria (communal kitchen and kindergarten) down in San Fran No 1.

Ernesto the architect will send you those plans by his computer with some photos as well of the site. I hope to use the comedor and guardaria as a Church and meeting rooms for Community Development, while we wait for a Church to be built one day.

The locals put up a Very Dodgy Church but it works. It has a dirt floor but it was built with love and enthusiasm.

Easter was great! We had mega baptisms and live Drama on Good Friday – a procession all along the highway incorporating all the communities of the parish mission. 20ks. We had one car accident during the procession...thank God no one was seriously hurt! The Prison is Chaotic but I love the Ministry.

Our own Prison Community- Vida Nueva – (Minimum Security) made the cross and got involved at the Last station up high in San Francisco with the Crucifixion. It was beautiful!

Anyway I must go and help a family with building a house - another deserted mum - she is pregnant with her 7th child.

Love and Prayers, Fr Frank

Registrations

You can register interest in the Mission by completing an enrolment form via the website at www.frfrankmission.org.au. Enrolling within the Mission will ensure you are kept up-to-date regarding news from Fr Frank, and activities including fundraising to provide support.

Donations

There have been a lot of requests for information regarding the appropriate process for making donations to the Mission. Funds may be direct debited or deposited into the following Commonwealth Bank account:

Manual Deposit:
Account No. 2902 0090 3419
Agent No. 13274

Electronic Transfer:
Account No. 22524
BSB: 062-786