

RECREARTE 2012: A SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE IN THE PERUVIAN JUNGLE



The Peruvian jungle is today, more than ever, a very favorable target for foreign investment. Statistics show that Peru's economic growth was 7% in 2011, a good year. This indicates that Peru is a developing country, in a good position to face the economic crisis. The executives of the government are talking about a socially inclusive policy. The presence of a powerful oil company is noted in the Napo – Loreto basin.

On the other hand, the indigenous communities are concerned about: the contamination of rivers due to oil spills, increase in drug dealing, increase in illegal tree cutting, the informal gold mining, the fishing companies taking large quantities of fish which are then frozen, the increasing lack of teachers at all educational levels. The government's significant abandonment of the Amazon is noticeable. Social inclusion is mentioned, but a real socially inclusive policy is not a reality.

Amidst this reality, the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, in Santa Clotilde – Río Napo – Loreto, in its fourth consecutive year, is struggling to provide education to girls, boys and the young indigenous from the kichwa peoples. The RECREARTE Project is a space created by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate to provide a comprehensive education of children and young people from Napo. This January 2012, a total of 34 indigenous kichwa communities from the basin came to Santa Clotilde, through their representatives: 51 girls and boys, accompanied by a team of young animators and professionals. The central theme was "THE CHILDREN AND CARE FOR CREATION". Each day provided academic presentations; working in groups; workshops in painting, drawing, puppets, singing; catechesis for a first encounter with Christ; and a workshop on kichwa indigenous values. Recreation and sharing, a common life and sharing with the neighbors were also parts of the program. The doctors of the Santa Clotilde Health Center examined each participant.



At the same time, 25 young indigenous people from the Upper and Middle Napo, received pre-college academic formation, at the St. Eugene de Mazenod Academy. In its third consecutive summer, they received academic enrichment and have been prepared to apply for admission to the National University of the Peruvian Amazon. The young students, many of them graduated from secondary school, have found in the SEM Academy an opportunity for preparation and formation. This year the reflection was focused on "THE PRESENCE OF THE OIL COMPANY IN THE NAPO RIVER". There was information shared on the oil spills in the Loreto region during the last five years, as well as the growing illegal deforestation and timber cutting, and the increasing drug dealing in the

area. Concern was evident in the people and the discussion. We would like to thank the professionals who have accompanied this academic program. We are glad that this year, two young kichwas from the Upper Napo, Edgar Jota and Ítalo Noteno, were admitted to the university: Edgar into nursing, and Ítalo to the pharmacy and biochemistry majors. They are the first two young kichwas to go this far. It is now our turn to accompany their education process.

The Santa Clotilde Mission would like to thank those involved in this work- the benefactors, the young parish animators, the professionals at the Santa Clotilde Health Center, the lay professionals who came to the Parish of our Lady of Peace – Comas – Lima. May God, Father of the Earth, PACHAYAYA in kichwa, bless the work and effort of each one. We believe that the work done is a contribution to the Amazon, and to the indigenous communities. We believe that RECREARTE is an important experience that should continue. We believe that by listening to the children and indigenous youth, we learn a lot.



Sincerely,

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