



# The Tarahumara Times

December 2019 - Issue 4



## "2019 Christmas Message from Fr. Miguel"

Dear Friends:

On the occasion of the upcoming Christmas holidays I want to send greetings to you with great thanks. I want to communicate to you a message of hope and encouragement; something important for these times of turbulence and confusion that we are living.

During this Season, it is important to give ourselves time to remember that God is constantly manifesting Himself to us. Saint Ignatius of Loyola in one of his letters said: "God never ceases to visit, instruct and comfort". In his spirituality, we find a constant invitation to learn, to slow down, pause and realize how God accompanies us in our daily life. In the midst of doubt, fear, conflict and confusion God will always have something for us. Do we really believe this? This Christmas how will we try to live it?

The mission for the Kingdom is not only action but the dynamics of God with each one of us; beyond what we do or say. I invite you to ask yourself a question before going to sleep during this time of daily celebration: *What is it that God is doing with me?* And then try to be silent for a moment. Very soon you will realize that God responds to you in the daily events of your existence. We can affirm that the life of God in each one of us develops little by little in history and with paradoxes and ambiguities.

I personally take on the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola when he wrote to Antonio Enriquez: "Let us *not* stop entrusting ourselves to God ... let us *not* forget to remember that on this earth we are pilgrims until we reach our definitive homeland; and try *not* to become so attached to the lands we pass through that we forget where we are going, or lose the love that is our final destiny."

A very blessed and Merry Christmas to you all!

*Miguel Quintanilla S.J.*

General Director

Santa Teresita Complex, Creel, Mexico



**"Peter, do you love me .... feed my sheep."** *John 21:17*



[tchforegon.org](http://tchforegon.org)



**Tarahumara**  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
FUND  
Of Oregon

## A Brief History of the TCHF / Creel, Chihuahua, Mexico

The Tarahumara Children's Hospital Fund (TCHF) consists of three separate groups working together to support the Tarahumara Mission in the Copper Canyon of Mexico. These groups are located in Michigan, Louisiana and Oregon. The Mission headquarters is based in Creel, Chihuahua, Mexico with Fr. Miguel Quintanilla, S.J., serving as General Director since March of 2015. Long-time advisor and liaison Fr. David Ungerleider, S.J., is based in Tijuana, MX and works closely with Fr. Miguel to coordinate the activities of the U.S.-based groups with the Jesuit Provincial Authority.

Our purpose is to raise money and awareness in the United States to support vital services provided to the Tarahumara Indians in the Copper Canyon region of Mexico. A small hospital was opened in 1979 that has 75 beds, 2/3 for children. A "Water for Life" initiative began in 2015 is currently in the process of testing, remediating and installing new clean and sustainable wells. A boarding school teaches children about their own culture and language, the Spanish language and teaches them skills to make a living as farmers, craftsmen, and teachers of their people. In recent years, outdated and obsolescent oxygen generating and X-Ray equipment has been replaced as well as heavily used ambulances and rehabilitative playground equipment.

The Tarahumara people do not have the means to pay for these services themselves. The Mission must rely on the support of foundations and individuals who recognize the importance of both preserving a cultural heritage and ensuring the healthy future of a tribal community. Fr. Miguel continues the belief of "helping people help themselves" put forth by Fr. Verplancken back in the 1960's. The Mission does not just "hand out" charity today: It trains and uplifts the Indian people so that they can provide for themselves tomorrow.

**Creel, Chihuahua, Mexico:** Creel is a town in the Sierra Tarahumara (part of the Sierra Madre Occidental) of the Mexican state of Chihuahua, located 109 miles to the southwest of the state capital Chihuahua City. At the census of 2010 it had a population of 5,026 inhabitants (down from 5,334 in 2005).

Near Creel is Divisadero, perhaps the best-known overlook of the "Three Canyons" area of the Copper Canyon, as well as Basaseachic Falls, one of the highest waterfalls in Mexico. Creel was historically a logging town, although tourism has become the primary industry over the last 25 years. Today, there are many hotels, restaurants and a number of tours down into the canyons.



National Provincial View of Chihuahua



Regional City View of Creel

**\*\*\* Season's Greetings from John and Peggy \*\*\***

On Thanksgiving, we were reminded of just how grateful we are for all of the many supporters of the TCHF over this past year. After 20 years of holding our annual benefit dinner, we are now heading in a new direction and more than ever need your support. Please visit our website to view recent accomplishments ([tchforegon.org](http://tchforegon.org)).

Fr. Miguel and his team are doing an outstanding job administering the many projects in Creel, Mexico. Thank you to the many donors who have designated their contributions to help purchase corn and beans, to build and maintain water wells and to operate the hospital. These are all basic yet vital services that the Tarahumara community depends on for their survival. Fr. Miguel recently installed a solar panel system which has reduced the monthly power bill to 10% of what it was before! The next project on his list is the replacement of equipment in the hospital and laboratory. Please consider directing your donation, great or small, to help offset the cost of these improvements.

We encourage you to open your hearts as you consider year-end donations by remembering the needs of this worthy cause. We thank you as always on behalf of the Board of Directors from the TCHF of Oregon. May God Bless your generosity. Sincerely, John and Peggy (*President and Secretary, TCHF of Oregon*)

**amazon**smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Please support our Amazon Smile program by logging in with the following link when shopping. All purchases initiated through this portal will generate a donation to the Mission.

Thank you for your support.

[smile.amazon.com/ch/46-1411759](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-1411759)

**Published by the TCHF of Oregon**

14009 S.E. Matilda Drive, Milwaukie, OR, 97267 (USA)

**Phone:** 503-659-4342 / Fax: 503-652-5991

**Email:** [pyjb@comcast.net](mailto:pyjb@comcast.net)

**Web:** [tchforegon.org](http://tchforegon.org)

*John Brockamp (Pres) / Peggy Brockamp (Sec) / Paul Kester (Treas)*

*Fr. Miguel Quintanilla, S.J. - General Director*

*Fr. David Ungerleider, S.J. - Liaison and Advisor*

Average Temperatures / Precipitation in Creel in Dec:

*High Temp 54 F / Low Temp 28 F / 1.2 Inches*

FOR INFORMATION ON CREEL AND THE COPPER CANYON:

[visitcoppercanyon.com/](http://visitcoppercanyon.com/)

[visitmexico.com/en/main-destinations/chihuahua/creel](http://visitmexico.com/en/main-destinations/chihuahua/creel)

[mexonline.com/index.htm](http://mexonline.com/index.htm)