Here we are rapidly passing through the month of May and we are so late in getting information out to you all. We have talked about it often, but with the busyness of life this letter got pushed back and not done. Well today it will be done and sent on its way to you all!!

We have been busy with all the usual activities at Fundaniños. Menu planning, clothing shopping and distribution, sorting and organizing donations, filling in for cooking, laundry, organizing events and supervising, spending time with kids for special events and normal daily life, dentist runs (four of our kids are actively in the process of getting them), medical runs, shopping, and basically anything else you could think of a parent to do pretty much fill our days with the kids.

There have been several teams which have blessed the children this year so far. The teams have helped in various projects of the home and various activities and events with the children. One team of friends spent Holy Week keeping the kids very busy with a VBS and other activities. Personally we were honored with a team from Christ the King, our home church in Lancaster, who were here for a week. We have a few more teams scheduled for the year.

It is hard to believe that in March we completed four years at Fundaniños. These years have been some of the most exciting and yet exhausting of our 10 years in Guatemala. We have learned a lot and gained a much better understanding of the challenges some of the children of Guatemala face in the social welfare and court system. In amidst the moments of frustration, disappointments, and—yes, at times—anger, we have been blessed to see children grow, mature, learn, and rise above the situations life has given them. The resilience of youth, combined with the amazing power of Christ, enables even the completely broken to rise and live. Sometimes we wonder if we are really making an impact, but God is faithful.

Thank you to all who have been a part of our lives and ministry for the past 10 years. It has been an exciting ride, and we look forward to what God has for the future!

Semana Santa (Holy Week) is a huge event for Guatemala. Most school are closed all week and offices close beginning Wednesday afternoon and are closed through the weekend. It is a time of big family events, travel, and religious ceremonies. The focus of many of the traditions is the death of Jesus, with a culmination of huge processions that take place on Good Friday. The processions consist of large floats remembering the crucifixion and religious icons which are carried by people young and old through the streets of the town, some of the processions lasting for four or more hours. Families, businesses, and organizations come together to prepare sawdust petal carpets (but may use other materials such as flower petals, sand, fruit, paint etc.) to lay in the path of the processions more hours. and one family that spent 8 hours working on their carpet, minutes as the marchers crossed. They see their commented that it was a great time for the larger present for the task). Every year we are amazed at more so, realize the journey to the cross culminates

Interestingly, Guatemala holds the Guinness World Record (set in 2015) for the longest sawdust carpet measuring 7,641 feet long.
We are hearing a lot in the news about the volcanic activity happening in Hawaii right now. It is breathtaking and amazing to watch, and to realize the awesome power of nature in her beauty and destruction. Did you know that Guatemala boasts 37 volcanos, of which three remain highly active? Two of them, Fuego and Pacaya are close to us and on a clear day can be observed sending off ash clouds and smoke. Fuego is the most active at this time, regularly sending off lava flows (recent photo of Fuego to the right). Fortunately, most of the area around the volcanos are not populated (due the high activity), but occasionally the ash clouds require evacuation of the surrounding communities. On a side note, because of the volcanoes, the sand of the beaches on the Pacific is black.

Finances:
With our upcoming transition to Orphan Resources International, we will continue to need the support in prayer and finances to minister in our expanded role with the children of Guatemala and those who care for them. CTEN will continue to manage our finances on our behalf, so there is no need to change the location or method of your donations. Thank you so much for your faithfulness and generosity. The faithful regular donors help us to plan our budget, and the special donations we receive help cover unanticipated or one time expenses.

Donations can be given online at www.cten.org/dennisfreed or mailed to CTEN, PO Box 291307, Kerrville, TX, 78029-1307, with a note indicating the donation is for Freed Family support. May God bless your faithfulness.