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Dear Precious Family and Friends,

I'm writing with a heart that's both heavy and hopeful. Since last September, I've been ready to return to Mexico many times, longing to be back in the village with the people I love — but each time I prepare to go, something happens that stops me.

- **Violence in the region** has made it unsafe to return. Friends in the village have urged me to wait.
- **In January**, the fires in Southern California filled my home with ashes and smoke. I became sick and had to leave for two weeks while the house was repaired and deep-cleaned.
- **In March**, I became gravely ill with **sepsis** while visiting my son and spent ten days in the hospital and weeks recovering.
- **In July**, I got sick again and realized I needed to stop striving and truly wait on God's timing.

Waiting has been one of the hardest lessons of my life. My heart aches every day for the people in the village — for the children, the mothers in the fields, and the sound of worship in our small gatherings. But through the tears and stillness, I'm learning to trust that God is still moving, even when I cannot.

Because I couldn't return, I organized a **fundraiser for the Day Care Project** here in the U.S. The dream remains alive — to build a safe place for the children while their mothers work in the fields.



While I wait, God has opened new doors. I received a **scholarship to begin my Doctorate in Theology**, have met with **nonprofit leaders** about partnerships, and have shared the Day Care vision with **churches and home groups**. I've also been invited to help with **leadership training in Southern Mexico**, to **launch children's programs in the Philippines**, and to organize **outreaches among Indigenous groups** in Central California and other safer parts of Mexico.

I am still working on **regaining my full physical strength** after being ill for more than half of this year. Even so, my heart has never stopped beating for the mission God entrusted to me more than twenty years ago — to love and serve the Indigenous families of Mexico.

I want to assure you that **every donation to Bridge To The Nations** — whether for the **Day Care Project** or the **General Fund** — is safely kept in our ministry's bank account and has **never been used for personal purposes**. I have never taken a salary, and *Bridge To The Nations tithes from every donation received* to bless other ministries and projects.

This has been a year of deep loss, waiting, and trust. Yet I hold onto the promise that God will finish what He began. I believe the Day Care will rise, and one day soon, I'll walk again through the dusty roads of the village I love so much.

Thank you for your prayers, love, and faithful support. You've kept the flame of hope alive.

With love and gratitude,

Maria E. Lopez Duran
Founder & Director
Bridge To The Nations

P.S. Please continue to pray for my full recovery and for God's timing to return to the village. Your partnership keeps hope alive, even in the waiting.



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