



February 2008

Dear Friend,

Sometimes a letter or email arrives that brings great joy and satisfaction. Just such an email arrived in my inbox last January, and I wanted to share it with you. It is from Michael Thoeresz, a Peace Corp volunteer in Belize. Here is the main text of the email:

Roy,

Last week I was walking back from the main store in Armenia and I saw one of the High School Scholarship recipients, Concepciona. I flagged her down and we walked together toward our homes. I asked her how everything was going. Her face completely lit up and she talked a mile a minute about how great school is, how excited she is to be sending emails to her friends in other villages she never gets to see, and how much fun she is having.

I've known Concepciona for over a year and a half. She is exceptionally shy, quiet, and reserved. The person who was talking to me as we were walking was nothing like the Concepciona I knew before. She didn't stop talking, it seemed like her self-confidence had sky-rocketed, and she was walking with her head up (instead of directly on the ground in front of her).

When I finally got a chance to speak all I could end up saying was: "It's so great to see you so happy!"

Since you don't get the chance to see transformations like that as often as I do I think it's important you should know that it does happen. And it happens because you're making it happen.

*Much thanks Roy and I hope this finds you happy and healthy,
Mike*

Now you understand why it made me smile? The transformation that Michael describes in Concepciona is what we pray will happen for our scholarship students. There is a social and cultural maturity that is triggered through an education that integrates faith and learning. There is a joy in seeing life through the eyes of God that is beyond description. What Michael was seeing is, at its root, a spiritual transformation.

Michael sent his thanks to me, but in truth I am just the conduit for your gifts, support, and prayer. You are the one to be thanked. D'Aun, the Parchers and I view it as an honor to be the stewards of your gifts. Thank you.

Blessings,

Roy Goble