

Hello everybody

April 2004

Roberts Family here, checking in for our annual chat with the fans at large!

We are grateful to be, not only alive, but flourishing! We are keenly aware of God's protection around our family, physically as well as spiritually. We constantly count our blessings, especially the friendships we share with so many different people from around the world. The building project on our property is coming along. The driveway was completed in September last year. It was a big project, with much digging and many retaining walls built by just three guys. There is a stone stairway going up from the road as well, with a beautiful arched entrance. The fence wall along the front is done. It all looks really lovely, awe-inspiring. Right now the builders are continuing the fence wall up the side of the hill and will hopefully finish the fence all around, before the end of the year. (They are very courageous, considering the incline we're dealing with here!!) Only after that do we plan to start our house. Our location necessitates a solid fence, for some security as well as keeping our intended menagerie inside! It has been a marvelous adventure for us to see how this is coming along little by little, and how we are able to maintain the project mostly with profits we make in this little coffeeshop.

With all that said, we have to report that our 1984 Toyota van (328,000 miles) is slowly showing signs of eminent death. We are extremely thankful that it has run so long and so far. Since we depend on the use of a car rather seriously, for getting supplies and moving people around, it has become a priority for us to buy another vehicle. So, we are asking for some help. We are offering our coffee at a higher price to people in the US, as a fundraiser of sorts. There are several opportunities to send coffee up with Americans, who are willing to mail it in the States. If anyone of you are interested to be part of our effort here, please let us know as soon as possible, by emailing us your order. The Panajachel Organic coffee grows on the same hills as our property, right outside town in the San Francisco River valley. Some of you know its outstanding taste, smooth and full-bodied. Ususally we offer it in the US at \$8/lb, incl shipping. For this special fundraiser, we are asking \$12/lb, incl shipping. To make it easier on the volunteers carrying coffee, we prefer a minimum order of 5lbs. This weekend we have a ride for 200lbs. Since Michael still roasts 5lbs at a time, we need orders by Thursday, 4/1/04. All orders coming in after that, will be sent up with the next opportunity. Jim Clark, our friend in CA has kindly and superbly handled our bank stuff. All checks can be made out to Michael & Adele Roberts and mailed to him (Jim Clark, 46 Mt Rainier Dr, San Rafael, CA 94903.)

Our friend, Jeff McArthur in Guatemala City, has designed a website for Crossroads. Check it out: www.crossroadscafe.i8.com We hope to post our irregular newsletters there as well as updated photos periodically. We are also in the process of ordering T-shirts, caps and mugs with the Crossroads logo on. Spreading the word...

Some news about the girls: Kasia learnt to whistle a few months ago and hasn't stopped since! Lungi had a few bad falls with the scooter and the bicycle, with bruises to be proud of! Our schooldays seem to last longer this year. I was greatly influenced and challenged by a book I read in December, "The Well-Trained Mind", by Susan Wise and Jessie Wise Bauer. It has helped me bring all our studies into an organized theme, relating all the subjects to each other and following a specific sequence. The style is a classical education, teaching the trivium. It emphasizes writing, the study of Latin and an all-incompassing study of world history. The kids are running with it and my confidence in teaching them has increased tremendously! We learnt about ancient Egypt recently, and one of our projects was to mummify a dead chicken. I bought one in the market and we have been keeping "King Tutse" buried in salt in ziplock bags for two weeks now. In another four we will rub him with fragrant oil and wrap him up in linen cloths. The pyramid we built with the Lego blocks is too small to serve as a tomb, so maybe we'll mount him somewhere on the wall?

"And this we pray, for your all round strengthening and perfecting of soul." We send our love and hugs, and extend again a warm welcome if you make it to Guatemala. Blessings!!!

Michael, Adele, Kasia & Lungi Roberts
Crossroads Cafe
0-27 Calle del Campanario
Panajachel, 07010
GUATEMALA

www.crossroadscafeana.com

