

Hello,

We hope this email finds you safe, happy and healthy. This year has certainly been challenging for all of us, but it has been particularly trying for those living in San Cristobal Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. Not immune to the global spread of the coronavirus, San Cristobal has experienced lockdowns and local market closures that have been devastating on the livelihoods of many residents.

With meager governmental aid, Guatemalans have already suffered greatly in 2020. And now, Hurricane Eta has [created rampant flooding in San Cristobal, Alta Verapaz](#), that has destroyed homes and caused mudslides that have killed hundreds of people.

This already fragile community is hurting and in need of help and the hope that the Christmas season brings to us all.

Given the current climate in San Cristobal, would you consider making a donation to the Guatemala Christmas Basket Project to provide a basket of basic goods to a family in need? We greatly appreciate your past support and while this year our efforts will look a bit different in order to prevent the spread of COVID in San Cristobal, we are prayerful that with your help, our project can still offer much needed aid to this vulnerable community.

Instead of a large celebration event, this year we will deliver the baskets to impoverished villages surrounding San Cristobal. Each basket will still include \$50 worth of basic necessities purchased locally in San Cristobal, and we will also provide other items that people are in great need of right now, like hand sanitizer and masks.

Due to uncertain travel conditions, the project will be in the capable hands of Pedro's family who have been on the front line of past events.

On Sunday, November 22, we will be collecting "Drive-By" donations for the project outside of the Noble House following the morning's worship service from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If interested, please feel free to drop by and provide us with a donation. We are accepting cash or a check made payable to Union Presbyterian noting "Guatemala Baskets" in the memo line. If you are unavailable on this date, donations can be mailed to Union or dropped in the offering (again, remember checks must indicate "Guatemala Baskets" on the memo line).

We are looking to collect funds by December 6 to allow enough time to prepare the baskets for delivery on December 19, 2020.

In the midst of hardship, your donation shows those hurting in San Cristobal that someone sees and that someone cares. We thank you in advance for your donations and/or prayers!

Sincerely,

Pedro and Samantha Torrez