

Monday, July 14, 2008

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Jason Jogway and his family came to visit recently, and brought a lot of books to give away. We saved a few for use at The Bridge, and turned the group loose on the remainder. Here, Zoraida, Mayra, Inez (partially hidden), Griselda (partially hidden). Irene (blue blouse at the right), Maria, and Baby Khrys look over the books. Thanks, Guys!

RECENT NEWS

School's out, and the Book's a-Building! as Nanci and some of the Bridge Kids compile a coloring book. Question – What is an ¿Ú? – see below! Are those bugs, or VW Beetles? Chop wood, carry water. We're visited by a Champion! And... communications are looking better!

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THERE'S NO SCHOOL?

School is out right now. There's no homework help being given, and no volunteer English tutors working with the kids. And - it's pretty quiet around here on days when the Community Kitchen is closed.

Nanci and some of the kids are continuing to work on a "Bribri Coloring Book", with line drawings of animals and their names in three languages – Bribri, Spanish, and English. This can be a fun step as an aid in preserving the Bribri language. You've already seen the cover in an issue of the Newsletter. You'll see more of the inside work as I learn how to photograph the pages in crisp, clear black and white using my digital camera.

Local business owners have said the coloring book should sell quite well here. We look forward to that.

We thought you'd like to get a hint of what's inside... here's a sample page (smaller than normal, of course...)

This is of a typical Bribri house, built with a machete and an ax.

The word for house is –

In Bribri **Ú**

In Spanish **Casa**

In English: **House**

I'm still learning how to take these pictures, so there just may be a few imperfections in the photo, but you get the idea!

The plan is to make the completed book available in gift stores here – gift store owners say it should sell well. It will also be available for purchase from LULU.COM. The revenue obtained will, of course, be put to use to fund our programs here.

Did You Know?

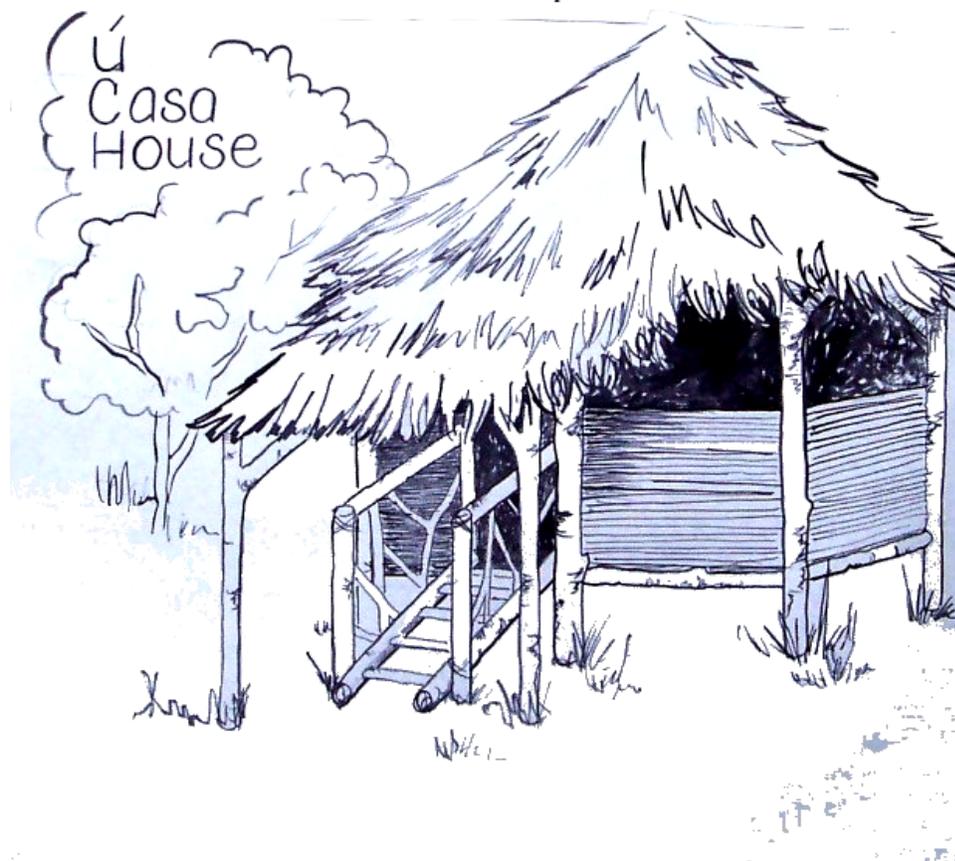
Some Bri Bri's build their house with only two tools; a machete and an ax.

'Sekmako' leaves are used for making thatched roofs.

¿Sabias Que?

Algunos Bri Bri's construyen su casa con solo dos herramientas; un machete y una hacha.

Hojas que se llaman 'Sekmako' se usan para hacer techos de quincha.



More to come on this cultural preservation project!

HOW BIG DID YOU SAY THEY ARE?
(¡Meet the neighbors!)



Here's some (slightly smaller than life-size) lovely bugs known as "Rhino Beetles". The board they're walking along is a 2" x 4" , the kind you might find in your own back yard!

So, that makes the bugs' bodies about, say, 4" across? And perhaps 6" – 8" long?

¡And, we're told, these are "babies"!

Fortunately, they don't bother us at all.

Can't wait to meet the adults!

MEETING IN THE INTERIOR

We go to Shiroles to meet the Junta and see a Type 1 Medical Clinic

As we mentioned before, we've been asked to help find funding for a "Type 1 Medical Clinic", to be built in Volio/Uatsi, near Timoteo Jackson's Rancho Grande. My first question to Timo was "Who will control the money and the construction project?" We went with Timoteo to a meeting in Shiroles of the Junta – ADITBRI - described to me as the equivalent of a Town Council.



Timoteo is the second from the right of this picture. The man at the far left is the President of the Junta, and was introduced to us as Orgeli Lazaro Rodriguez. This group of two women and five men will be in overall charge of the project. I've asked for identification of each of the people in the photo, and expect it will be forthcoming.

As usual, we'll keep you posted on this one.

We'll also have a future story on what a "Type 1 Medical Clinic" looks like down here.

SHE'S A CHAMPION!

Stacey Champion visited us recently, with a HUGE suitcase of donated supplies and used children's clothes. All of which will find good homes here.



Here; we (almost) snuck up on Stacey and took a shot of her taking a shot... you can see how successful the sneak attack was...

Thanks for the donations, Stacey!

RANDOM NOTES

Communications – Things are looking up. The Internet is (mostly) working for high-speed access. I've bitten the bullet, and have installed SKYPE – my SKYPE address is **barry.stevens2**. (Looks like I waited so long, that some other Barry Stevens got there first. If you're on SKYPE, and you want to get in touch, send me your SKYPE address, and a suggested local time to connect, as well as your location/time zone, so I can figure out when to call. We can call SKYPE-to-SKYPE anywhere in the world for free!

Water – We're having water – sort of. It runs at very low pressure, not quite enough to find its way consistently into the house during the day. Enough, however, to use a garden hose near ground level to fill up what seems like an endless supply of plastic buckets and tubs. We attempt to keep these covered, since we have a lot of froggie neighbors who, apparently, require water to get on with their sex lives, and after a VERY noisy all-night session, lay about a million eggs. Si Dios Quiere (If God Cares, as the locals say), the pressure gets high enough during the very early morning hours to fill up more buckets inside the house, and those times find me up filling those inside buckets to avoid having to carry that water in from outside. And on a really good day, we have a good rainstorm, and the town wells produce enough pressure to keep the outside tank filled. Yay!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Joyce The Juice Queen (A. K. A. Joyce King) is back from the US, and is stirring up a storm at the juice pot... Thanks, Joyce!

YOU CAN HELP US!

There are several ways you can help.

- **Send this email to people you know** who might also enjoy it.
- **Post a message about us on social networking sites or discussion boards** dealing with adventure, travel, volunteering, education, microlending, human services, eliminating poverty, or other humanitarian activities.

HELP WANTED

We're getting close to starting the "green fund" that we wrote about earlier. We're looking for a lawyer that can help us get things set up, papers filed, and so on. And, hopefully, do so on a pro-bono basis. If you know someone who might be interested, please pass along the contact information. If they want information about us, it's available at www.elpuente-thebridge.org/present

I'm also talking with a financial marketing firm, with a track record of raising money for venture-capital operations by contacting very wealthy people – the kind of people who would have the trust funds that can make the "green fund" go.

One step at a time.

DONOR NOTES

We say "Thank You!" again to our regular donors, who faithfully provide a monthly donation to help keep us going! THANK YOU! You'll see who they are when we finish an added website page... "The Bridge Fun-dometer"

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

THE "INCIDENT"

By now, most of you know we had an "incident", in which a computer virus caused us to lose some information relating to El Puente on my computer. As of now, we've recovered most of it from various backups. Virtually all data on newsletter subscriptions, accounting, donations, and email addresses were recovered, with only 19 email addresses unaccounted for.

COMMENTS AFTER RESOLVING THE “INCIDENT”

I am evaluating a software package called DonorPerfect, which provides a complete database system for donor and donations information management and interface with an accounting system such as Quickbooks. It costs \$30 per month.

We are now preparing our data for submission to an accountant for use in formal financial reporting. An accountant has been identified, and he has agreed to reduce his monthly fee to \$100 from his normal fee of \$200.

We are still looking for someone in Costa Rica who is willing to donate the accounting work to The Bridge and/or pay for the DonorPerfect software. If you have any ideas, please let us know!

CURRENT BUDGET POSITION

We recently sent out a budget for July, 2008. The bottom line is:

TOTAL COST OF PROGRAMS	\$1,736	61%
TOTAL OPERATING COST	\$1,105	39% (Covered by donation from a Founder)
TOTAL BRIDGE COST – JULY	\$2,841	

Received as of July 11

Donations	\$165
Product Sales	\$24
Donated Social Security	\$1,050
Total received as of July 11	\$1,239
Needed for July as of the 11th	\$1,602

**As you can see, donations continue to be a vital part of our operation.
Donations now would be *very* good indeed.**

**We're grateful at the continuing support we have been getting.
You *all* are allowing us to continue to serve!**

NOW's a *GREAT* time to contribute.

Donate online by [clicking here](#), where you can use a **credit card** or an **E-Check**.

Or, mail a check to “**El Puente**” with “**Member 29409704**” in the Memo Field to:
USE Credit Union, 8697 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa, CA 91941

Deductions are tax-deductible

(And please drop us an email letting us know you've done it
so we can say a proper “Thank You!”)

Do it *NOW!* You'll be glad you did!

Thank you for your support!

Well,

...djmiache

Enjoy!

Barry & Nancy

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING THE PICTURES

...go to www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly and download the file with the date of this issue.

Go to The **Bridge Website** by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Go to The **Bridge Online Store** by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Download a **Powerpoint presentation** by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Download **brochures in Spanish or English** by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Go to the **newsletter archive** by [CLICKING HERE](#)

See some **Video clips** showing activities at The Bridge by [CLICKING HERE](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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