



February 28, 2010  
© 2010 Barry A. Stevens



*Gabriel is another of the Bridge Kids this year – as of this issue, we're working on 49 children in the School Program!*

## **RECENT NEWS**

Staying out of Harm's way, and getting some repairs done at The Bridge. You all are the Good Guys! Two Dutch volunteers sail in on a raft of craft. Climbing Cheney's Ladder. Comments from two of our Pledge Donors.

I realize this is March 5 – but it is Part 2 of the issue we sent out on February 28.

## **MENDING FENCES**

**The good news** – when the town wells dried up a while ago, the water company brought us water! **The interesting news** – their truck was wider than the gate on our driveway. The gate and fence needed repair. And the walkway gate leading into our yard had also needed repair for some time/

Enter **Harm Kuppens**, a Volunteer from Holland. Harm (pronounced Harrrrrrrm) looked around at what needed to be done, and said "looks like you really need to fix those gates." He volunteered to fix both the driveway gate and the smaller gate at the walk-in entrance to our yard. As he started to work, I found that the best thing I could do was... to stay out of Harm's way!



*Harm at work, fixing up the gates.*

He generously bought the materials, and spent several days making the repairs in between his Spanish language classes from Nanouk, a local woman who coordinates volunteer activities and runs a Spanish Language Class.



*Harm at the walkway gate and roof – work well done!*

Harm is traveling a bit, then is on his way to the west coast of Costa Rica, where he'll be building his dream – a foundation of his own to be of service in this country! Thank you, Harm!

## **WE'RE GONNA MISS HER**

Faustina, the 105-year-old Bribri great grandmother whose smile graced many Bridge events, passed away recently. Her grandson came to visit late one evening, telling us the sad news, and extending an invitation to attend the memorial service at their church the following morning. Nanci attended on behalf of The Bridge.



*Faustina smiles and claps her hands at a Bridge party.*

We remember Faustina smiling, laughing... she was completely amazed when she learned that the world was round. Many volunteers and guests at The Bridge have gone with Nanci to visit this grand old lady at her home on the mountain.

We'll miss you, Faustina.

## **PRICE SHOPPING – PUERTO VIEJO STYLE**

Nanci works hard to make sure we get the best prices for the stuff the Bridge Kids need for going into school. The price shopping made me recall something I saw recently. It should give you an idea of what price shopping is like around here.

For some time, we've been buying a nutritious cereal called "Fitness". The going price for it has been about 2,700 colons, (about \$4.90) Recently, a brand-new supermarket opened up in Puerto Viejo – "MegaSuper". When I first bought Fitness Cereal there, the price was 1,700 colons. Later, I saw two men whose faces I later recognized as being from MegaSuper doing some "shopping" in Old Harbor, the store we'd been using. The price for Fitness Cereal at Old Harbor was 2,700 colons. The next time I went back to MegaSuper, I noticed the price for Fitness Cereal had been RAISED to... you guessed it... 2,700 colons. We've seen similar examples with tuna fish, milk... many products, many stores.

Price shopping, as practiced here, ensures that every store charges the maximum available price!

## **YOU ARE THE "GOOD GUYS"**

Some of you may remember the first time you sent us an email. Our email has a "Good Guy List", and when someone writes us for the first time, they are not on that list. They get a message, follow a simple procedure, and are put on that "Good Guy" list. We use this feature because it reduces our email handling time each day by a LOT.

When I tried to add someone to that list recently, I learned that we'd gone about as far as we could go. We hit the limit on the number of "Good Guys" we're allowed to have – 2,500 names. If we were going to keep adding names, I had to go through the list and delete names of people we hadn't heard from in a very long time.

As a result, some of you who have been on our “Good Guy” list may have your next email “bounce”. If that happens, we’re sorry – and please just use the email form letter you’ll receive and I’ll make sure you get back on the list.

You are the good guys – and we want to stay in touch with you!

So please let us know if you don’t get this message!

## **VOLUNTEER CORNER**

### **Floor and Pytrik**

Two young women from Holland – Pytrik Salverde and Floor Goekoop – came to The Bridge to volunteer during February.



*Meet Floor & Pytrik*

These delightful ladies brought a raft of craft with them. One morning, after they had helped at the Community Kitchen and things had quieted down, they sat down with scissors, crayons, and lots of craft materials, and showed the kids at The Bridge how to make some really cool shades.



*Floor shows Maria how to get started*



*Pytrik is on the job with a couple of masked boys*

After a while, almost everyone was running around wearing these colorful “glass masks”. Good job, girls!

Crafts are fun for everyone!

**Bob Cheney**

Bob Cheney is a high school teacher from the USA. He runs a program where he takes groups of students on field trips to areas where help is needed for disaster relief, and the group members get to work and do what they can.

When he visited The Bridge on a personal trip recently, he asked if there was anything he could do here. "Sure is", I replied. "See that wooden ladder with a broken rung? That rung is rotten, and the wood in the rest of the ladder is on the same path. Could you rebuild that ladder?"

Bob nodded his head. He got the wood from the hardware store, and proceeded to build a new ladder!

Unfortunately, he went away before I got a photo of him. We will, however, think of him every time we are climbing Cheney's Ladder!

Thank you, Bob!

## **DONOR NOTES**

We recently asked our Monthly Pledge Donors if they would care to share with all of you why they chose to join our Subscription Program. Here are two of the responses we got.

### **DEAN & LEONE FORSETH, Portland, Oregon.**

"I met the Stevens' during their visit to our church in Portland, and was impressed by their sincerity and commitment to those they serve. I asked for a private meeting over tea, and became convinced that their approach truly is, as their slogan says, HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES. I'm satisfied that very little of what I pledge goes to "overhead"...it almost all gets to those we seek to help. I also like the focus on youth, and working to break the poverty and dependency cycle of these good people. I am honored to play a modest part in their tireless and productive efforts. P.S. I appreciate the regular updates on their programs and progress."

(Barry's note: Dean Forseth's church is the New Thought Ministries of Oregon, a community of United Centers for Spiritual Living)

### **LARK RANDALL, San Diego, California**

"I love all the work Barry and Nanci are doing and am privileged to have known them when The Bridge was a dream...now it's a thriving reality! More and more kids are going to school every year. With my automatic payment to The Bridge, all I have to do is sit back and read Barry's newsletters.... I don't ever have to write a check. It's all done automatically. And when I want to increase the amount...I just increase it on-line and ZAP, they get more money the next payment. If I had to write a check, I might forget but with automatic payments, they are guaranteed my monthly contribution!! To me, it's a no-brainer! Gotta love technology and anything that makes my life simpler while still being able to help others!!"

## **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 relevant web sites or discussion boards.**
- **Look at our list of critically needed supplies** – [click on this link to get to the "What Can I Bring?" page on our website.](#)

## **VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**

**Thank You for the continuing support we have been getting.  
You all are allowing us to continue to serve!**

**NOW's a GREAT time to contribute.**

Make a **Monthly Pledge** by [clicking here.](#)

Make an **Immediate Donation** by [clicking here](#),  
and donate online using PayPal, or mail a check.

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

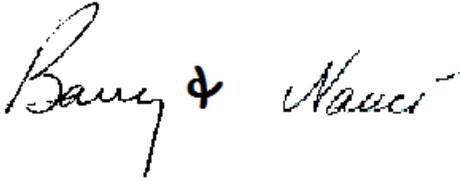
\*\*\*\*\*

**Thank you for your support!**

Well,

...djmiache

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry & Nancy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING THE PICTURES**

...go to [www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly) and download the file with the date of this issue.

Go to The **Bridge Blog** -"Angels With Their Skins On" by [CLICKING HERE](#)

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**

Email: [barrystevens@earthlink.net](mailto:barrystevens@earthlink.net)  
[nanci.stevens@gmail.com](mailto:nanci.stevens@gmail.com)

Our toll-free number from the US is  
1-866-462-7585  
SKYPE: barry.stevens2