



June 14, 2010
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*“So THIS is chocolate!”
Eefjie Sabelis, a delightful Dutch volunteers, makes a discovery
at Timoteo Jackson’s house.*

RECENT NEWS

A Bridge Kids lays out Costa Rica as part of his homework. The national trade school – INA – teaches classes here – look in on a class session. Living and working in “no-plans-land”. We finally take baby steps in video for you to see more of what goes on here! More volunteers – Yay! Another milestone reported in The Chicken Chronicles.

SCHOOL DAZE

School’s really in session here, and most days you can find one or more of the Bridge Kids on the porch getting help with homework.



Here's Erik, one of those "Four Little Boys On Fire... not so little any more, and proudly displaying a map of Costa Rica that he made in one of those homework sessions on the porch.

On some days, it's great to have help from volunteers, and on all days, Nanci's on the job. I can help in a limited way, when it's mathematics or geometry, but my Spanish – especially as used to describe the homework questions being asked, is, uh, er, "muy creativo".

With your support, there's always something going on.

CLASSY DAYS AT THE BRIDGE

In our May 14 Special Edition, we breathlessly told you a little about the INA class being held here at The Bridge. INA is the government-run trade school, and they simply announced they were teaching classes at The Bridge! We're here to serve. The class literally pieced itself together, and is now in full swing. Here's some more news about that exciting development!



Leopoldo showed up one day, and with the help of a few of his classmates delivered a load of lumber, then dove right in and built some tables for the class to use. Fortunately, we had a power saw – he was prepared to do this by hand.



A small crew shows up 15 minutes early each class day, and gets the tables and chairs set up before the instructor and the rest of the class arrive.



The class is in session! Some faces we recognize from days at the Community Kitchen – 16 students plus the instructor.



When it gets too warm under the tarp, or perhaps for a change of scenery, Instructor Mark Anthony adjourns the class to the back yard.

They have scheduled two or three days a week, until December or January, on schedules set up to meet the needs of the students. It's especially fun, and challenging, when the classes and the Community Kitchen are on the same day!

The first class being taught is "Artesanias" – translated loosely into English – "how to make the things that tourists buy." The second is expected to be "plomaria" – plumbing. Many of these students live near a huge water tank inside the Reserve, but AYA, the water company, will not connect them – the customers have to do it themselves. Of course, once they attend the class, they can go "plumb crazy" and hook up to that water tank. And, they can go on to earn money with their new skills.

Mark is quite an artist himself, and he and Nanci have been swapping picture books. What's really great is to listen to the camaraderie, fun, and laughter developing in this group. It's a different bunch than has been coming to The Bridge, so it expands the circle of people here. The Bridge Kids and their families are getting a first-hand look at the answer to their question – "Why should I go to school?"

NO PLANS LAND

This part of Costa Rica is growing quickly. As they build, we often encounter some rough edges, and that can make getting things done... "interesting".

Recently, the electricity has been going off, sometimes for hours at a time, as they string new wires, replace old ones, and repair wires damaged as a result of storms. Even though we live in a rainforest, with an average rainfall of 13 inches a month, supplies of clean water can be in short supply as demand grows. Last week, we were without water for three days.

Every so often, we need to make use of the only main highway connecting us with the country's capital, San José, and the airport. We may be receiving a shipment of donated supplies, sending our printer out for repairs, or waiting for another of the wonderful volunteers who come here to help at The Bridge. We sometimes hear the question "Why is it so hard to get around?"



Here's an aerial shot of Rt. 32, the main highway from the Capitol to the east side of Costa Rica, where we're located. When this landslide happened, the road was closed for several days. According to taxi drivers, it is only closed now when it rains. It's not clear what happens to the people traveling half way up the mountain when it rains.

I wrote two books with the word "Planning" in the title. As proof that God has a sense of humor, we're here, getting things done.

Fortunately, we keep some reserve water, and vegetables can be washed outside on "veggie chopping day". We cook soup using a gas stove, reducing the impact of power outages. The things we need to do using that highway are flexible enough that it hasn't caused us any problems.

These things do make plans for getting things done somewhat variable.

VIDEO!

We were generously donated a very good video camera so we could show you more of what's going on around here. I tried it out for the very first time at our Easter party. It produced files that could only be read by the software that came with the camera. The pictures were VERY high quality, and absolutely outstanding... but there was no way I could show them to you!

I finally called the CEO in charge of the whole company, described my problem, and asked, simply, "Wazzup?" I got to talk with a very helpful executive assistant, who explained the problem to someone at the subsidiary company that makes the camera - and before I knew it, I had a solution! After downloading some free conversion software, I was able to prepare a few files for you to view and experience a little bit of what it was like to be here at our Easter party!

As you view these files, remember that the picture quality has been reduced (making them easier for you to download). The good news - they should be viewable with a standard media player.

To see the videos, click on one of these links:

[V01 volunteers serving a meal.avi](#) 47 seconds of video

[V02 Easter at the bridge.avi](#) 1 min 32 seconds

[V04 water balloon fight.avi](#) 18 seconds

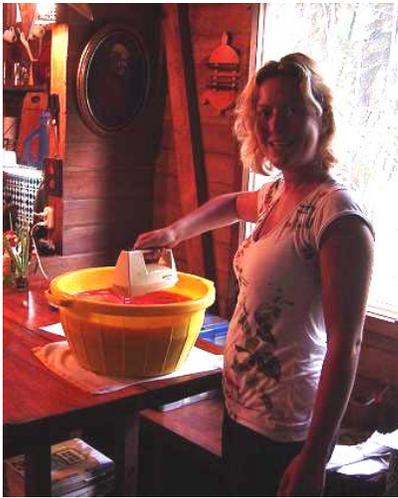
These will take a few minutes to download – 1-3 minutes with high-speed access – and then they'll play in your media player. If you're using dial-up access to the Internet, I suggest first downloading only the "V04" file – the shortest of the videos – and see how the process works for you.

Enjoy!!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

We continue to be blessed with the volunteers from around the world. They come to serve at the Community Kitchen, work on any of the projects that come up – homework help, Internet search and information gathering, cleaning the exterior of the house, carpentry repairs, and more.

Say "Hi!" to some of those great folks that I don't think you've had a chance to see yet.



*Martine Van der Poel
Holland*



*Brad Johnson
USA*



*Gladys Hernando &
Elena Bombardieri
Spain & Switzerland*



*Tessa Brik,
Holland*

Martine and Tessa were students at Claro!, a local Spanish language school. Brad teaches English at a community College in Seattle, Washington. Gladys and Elena live in the Central Valley of Costa Rica, and were visiting in Puerto when I met them at one of my frequent stops at Bread & Chocolate, a great place for a cup of coffee and conversation.

Thanks again, guys-n-gals!

CHICKEN CHRONICLES

You remember the rooster – the one with 11 toes and his head on sideways? Nanci the animal rehabber has been on the job. His name is Corky, and he's coming right along. He goes outside every day now, walking around with his own unique gait, chasing down bugs to eat – he does best when the bugs are on his left side, where his head is pointing.



Here's Corky, out near the chicken coops scouting for bugs.

He amused the entire gathering at The Bridge the other day by chasing across the yard after Mrs. McNugget, our white hen who was coyly running away from him. As he ran, he was banging into chair legs, recovering, running again, bumping into table legs, recovering from that, and taking off again after the elusive Mrs. M. The scene would make a great cartoon!

To the delight of all, he finally caught up with Mrs. M., mounted her, and completed his roostering duties in only a few seconds.

I'm having to rethink my maxim of "When he crows, he goes." So far he hasn't crowed before four A.M., though I'm up anyway.

Go, Corky!

DONOR NOTES

We are blessed with 13 people who are in the "Intrepid Bridger's Club" – they have committed to a monthly pledge amount. You can see how the Pledge Program and the "100 Tens" effort, are going by [clicking on this link to visit the website](#).

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](#).
- **GoodSearch** – Use this Yahoo-powered search engine, choose El Puente as the "Charity you Goodsearch for", and The Bridge will get a penny **every time you search!** [Click here to see how.](#)
- **GoodShop** – shop online at over 1,000 brand name stores, and The Bridge will receive about 2% of the purchase price as a donation! [Click here to see how.](#)

- **Make your travel arrangements through us** – by using the information links on our website, you'll be going through an travel group that's agreed to provide us with a small donation for every travel service you pay for through them!
[Click here to go to the travel information 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.

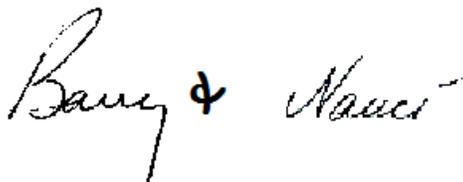
Do it NOW! You'll be glad you did!

Thank you for your support!

Well,

...djmiache

Enjoy!



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 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](#)

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