

San Lorenzo Anglican Church

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To: The Mayor of Toronto
The Honourable David Miller
City of Toronto, City Hall

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

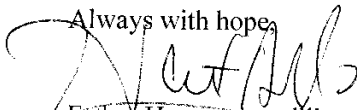
Dear Mayor Miller,

I would like to begin by introducing myself to you. My name is Father Hernan Astudillo and I am the parish priest of San Lorenzo Anglican Church in Toronto, as well as the founder of The Caravan of Hope, the San Lorenzo Latin American Community Centre and Radio Voces Latinas. I am writing this letter to ask you for your continued support to our Caravan of Hope. For the past seven years, I have organized a group of volunteers to drive a caravan of decommissioned school buses and ambulances from Toronto to Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Throughout these years, the Caravan has received the endorsement of the City of Toronto as well as the generous donation of ambulances from the City.

Earlier this year in March, I and four other volunteers, drove two ambulances (one of which had been donated by the City of Toronto) to the city of Soyapango, El Salvador and gave them to the Mayor, Carlos Ruiz. The City of Soyapango is a sister city with the City of Toronto, and as such they were delighted with this continued support. Once in El Salvador, the ambulances are used as mobile health clinics bringing medical help to isolated communities throughout the country. Our Latin American community, under the direction of the San Lorenzo Church collected the money to pay for all of the border taxes and gasoline required to drive both the ambulances to El Salvador.

This coming year, we will proceed in the same way. It will take us approximately 12 days to reach El Salvador. It takes about 5 days to cross the United States, 5 days to travel through Mexico and 2 days to travel through Guatemala and reach El Salvador.

Thus, I am asking for your continued support of this project. Your donation of two ambulances will cover the needs of thousands of poor and marginalized people, not only in Soyapango, but in other municipalities, as well. Please help us to sustain this miracle of life by continuing to share in our 8th journey of the Caravan of Hope, building paths and bridges of solidarity.

Always with hope,

Father Hernan Astudillo