

## Christmas 2017

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Dear Reader,

Merry Christmas to all of our wonderful and faithful supporters. We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and will continue celebrating the birth of Christ through the Christmas season. This is the perfect time of year to give thanks to the Lord for all the wonderful gifts bestowed upon us. As Board members we would like to say thanks to so many people. We are ever thankful for Father Emil Cook for inspiring us with his continued desire to serve God by serving the poor, and for Miguel Bueso for taking the reins at APUFRAM and serving with such enthusiasm and determination to educate every child in Honduras and the Dominican Republic.

We thank God for the APUFRAM staff and all the families that entrust their children to them. We are grateful to all the people who travel to Honduras and the Dominican Republic each year to volunteer. To the families that hosted Fr. Emil on his USA tour this year, and to all the people who sponsor children, share their financial treasure, read the newsletters,

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**Mission  
APUFRAM  
International is  
dedicated to  
supporting the  
vision of Fr. Emil  
Cook and APUFRAM:  
helping the poor  
help themselves  
through Christ-  
centered education  
at sites in Honduras  
and the Dominican  
Republic.**

**Stay Connected with  
Other Volunteers**  
Past and present  
volunteers are asking  
to stay in touch with  
those who have made  
a lasting impact on  
their lives. [Write us](#) to  
get back in touch with  
old friends and stay  
connected.

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services?

Help us raise funds by  
using Goodsearch.com as  
your search engine and

visit our web page, check us out on Facebook, or tell their friends about us, we want to say, "Thank You!". The success of APUFRAM and AI would not be possible without your support. We give thanks to God for all you have shared.

I would also like to challenge everyone this Christmas season to reach a little farther, go the extra mile and try something new. You could sponsor a grade school or high school student or perhaps a recent high school graduate so that he or she can go on to college. You could invite Father Emil Cook to stay at your house next year on his tour. Consider also taking a trip to volunteer in the Dominican Republic or Honduras either as an individual or a group member; assist with the newsletter; translate sponsor or children's letters if you have the ability; or share a different talent you have that could help

APUFRAM and AI grow and educate more underprivileged children. Let the Christmas season inspire you to be the best you can possibly be.

Congratulations to all of Apufram's recent graduates!

God be with you,

Roger Koziolk  
APUFRAM International  
Board Member



**A Letter from APUFRAM**

**Flores, Honduras**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Receive a fraternal greeting from the APUFRAM family. We wish each of you successes and abundant blessings in your life, and, at the same time, wish you a Merry Christmas and a New Year full of blessings.

Thank you for continuing to support all of the social assistance projects that our noble organization maintains in Honduras and

raise money for APUFRAM every time you search or purchase anything online. It's easy to sign up and start donating to help APUFRAM help the children. To learn more and to get started, go to [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com) and sign up with APUFRAM International as your favorite charity. Every time you search or shop online with Goodshop, money will be donated to APUFRAM International.

Many of your favorite online stores are participating. For a complete list, visit [Goodsearch.com](http://Goodsearch.com).

Using [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)? Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select APUFRAM International as your favorite charity, and Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase to APUFRAM International.

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the Dominican Republic, and for helping us to fulfill the dreams our young people, orphaned children, and abandoned mothers have to overcome their poverty.

We have already finished the classes in our educational centers in Honduras; the children and young people went on vacation to visit their relatives for a while and spend Christmas and celebrate the New Year with them.



We continue working in search of self-sufficiency as well as on the production projects in the different centers. We are in need of some farm equipment, including a grass chopper and a sickle mower, in order to better feed the animals.

We continue to repair the infrastructure of the centers. There are several groups that have confirmed their desire to visit us next year to learn about our project and to help us achieve our goals.



By the grace of God we are developing the projects little by little; we ask for your collaboration to continue with this work of solidarity. We pray that God will prosper the works of His hands and thank each one of you for being part of this family.

In Christ Jesus,

José Miguel Buezo Ulloa  
Executive Director APUFRAM

**Letter from Fr. Emil Cook**  
**FLORES, VILLA DE SAN ANTONIO, COMAYAGUA**

Dear Friends of APUFRAM,

Greetings to all of you there in the States. Most of you know that for the last three months I have been visiting our friends and supporters in the States. It is certainly good to be back here in Honduras. I pray that all is going well for you and your families. On our promotion visit to the States, my companion and I drove more than eighteen thousand miles visiting friends and supporters.

We were affected by the two major hurricanes in August. Also, some of our regular hosts were sick, and sadly a number of our supporters have died. These events just can't be planned for beforehand. We do miss our departed supporters, but we were blessed by new friends too. I want to express my deepest thanks to all the friends who invited us to stay in their homes during our visit to their area. We are grateful for all that they did to make our visit comfortable and for inviting people to their homes so that people could hear our plea for help for our poor here.

We returned to Honduras on the nineteenth of November just as most of our students were returning to their families. We won't see those students again until the tenth of February when the new school year begins. There was a lot of work done here during our visit to the States in repairing some of our buildings, inside and out. It seems that graduation of our high school seniors will be held around the second of December. We have to wait until the Ministry of Education in the capital gives us the date.

We hope to have a good group of our seniors going to the university in February. Today is election day, and we pray that all goes peacefully. So many things should be done, and really can be done if they get the right people into office. We try to encourage our students to stay in Honduras and work to make it a much better place to live and support their families here. It will be difficult, but sometime in the future this has to be done. It seems in making things better there is always suffering involved, and sometimes a great deal of it. There are plans for the next year or so in many areas-- economically, in farming, and the creation of new services to

help people--plus revaluations of this ending year. All of this is exciting in many ways.

Also, we want to express our thanks for all your prayers and your financial support which has helped so many children, orphans, and our abandoned mothers have a year of hope and moving forward. Additionally, we must mention the many people who have made tremendous sacrifices to visit us and work with us during their visit here. Many villages here are also so grateful for your help in the construction of churches for their people. God bless you all and have a blessed and wonderful Christmas and New Year. Keep us in your prayers.

Love, joy, and peace,  
Father Emil Cook

### ***A Letter from a Volunteer, Nicole Mattson***

¡Hola a todos!

If you told me a year ago that I would be preparing for my second trip to Honduras at this time, I would have told you, "No way, José!". However, here I am, only twenty-six days away from my return to Honduras and the students and staff of APUFRAM. So why am I compelled to return?

I am compelled to return because there is not a day that goes by that I am not thinking about Honduras and APUFRAM. During my first trip, I learned more about compassion, strength, and faith than I could have imagined. I not only made new friends, but I gained a new family. I truly believe I was given more than I gave, and I am forever changed as a person. I am compelled to return in order to continue giving to the mission of APUFRAM and empowering the people of Honduras. There is more work to be done in order to provide the best resources for the students to continue to grow and learn. They are the future, and they can make the future great.

I am compelled to return because I want to be there. I need to be there. I want to explore more sites, meet more people, try more foods and play more soccer games. I want to celebrate the holidays with those I have come to love.



Speaking of the holiday season and, with it being near, please keep in mind how you can give to APUFRAM. A gift can be in the form of time, money, or prayers. Any and all forms are greatly appreciated.

¡Dios bendiga!

Nicole Mattson

*Please pray for the children of Honduras and the Dominican Republic and our faithful sponsors.*



*Pope John XXIII's Christmas Prayer*

*O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share  
with all our hearts in this profound mystery of  
Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women this  
peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and  
which you alone can give to them.*

*Help them to know one another better and to live as  
brothers and sisters, children of the same Father.*

*Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness, and purity.*

*Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your  
infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love.*

*And give us your heavenly peace.*

*Amen*

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