

# 2002 Annual Report

## EPIC Highlights

### GUATEMALA

#### RÍO MOTAGUA WATERSHED RESEARCH AND EDUCATION



The Río Motagua carrying large quantities of topsoil during the rainy season in Guatemala.

The water volume of the important Río Motagua is significantly decreasing in Guatemala's dry season. Excessive deforestation is causing the drying up of the springs that feed the river. In addition, poor soil management practices cause there to be massive erosion with tons of fertile soil carried away by rainwater. Kim Walton, with EPIC funding, did regular sampling of sediment loads of the Río Motagua during a six-week period in June and July of 1999 in order to develop baseline information related to soil erosion in the watershed. Regular water samples were taken from the river at a location near the village of El Cimarrón, Pachalum. Ms. Walton prepared a report of her research entitled *Río Motagua: Baseline Suspended Sediment Study*, July 1999. The results of her study show clearly the incredible erosion taking place in the watershed. As stated in the study's summary, in July 1999, on days when there was little or no recent rainfall, the Río Motagua transported in suspension between 3.7 kg/second and 9.6 kg/second of sediment. The sediment quantities soared when there was moderate to high rainfall. It then measured from 460 kg/second to more than 1,312 kg/second. If these figures are converted into tons/hour, the sediment load would measure between 15 tons/hour and 38 tons/hour on days with little or no rain. However, on days with moderate to high rainfall, the sediment load increased to between 1,825 tons/hour and more than 5,206 tons/hour. This means that at this location on the upper portion of the river, the Río Motagua is carrying 124,956 tons of soil every 24 hours on days of heavy rain. Kim Walton states in her conclusion, "rainfall washes unprotected soil off the farms and into the river in huge, measurable, and alarming amounts".

The data collected by Kim Walton indicates what is occurring in a year with normal rainfall. The devastating floods that happened in Honduras when Hurricane Mitch brought extraordinary rainfall are exactly what could happen in this region of Guatemala. Forests have been clear-cut and replaced with hillside farming. Here loose volcanic soils are planted with annual crops, like corn, without respect to the contour or any type of terracing. For these reasons it is urgent that proper methods of soil and water management be taught for farming this vital watershed. EPIC is funding training in sustainable agriculture and soil and water conservation for the Departments of El Quiché and Baja Verapaz on the north side of the important Río Motagua.

### **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE – RÍO MOTAGUA, NORTH SIDE**

#### **Beneficiaries**

In 2002 there were 244 beneficiary families in the Río Motagua watershed. All program participants are poor subsistence farmers who work small steep hillside farms. The communities where they live and farm are quite remote. The project had set a goal of working with 239 farmers, which was an educated guess based upon an analysis of the villages where the program planned to work. Felipe Tomás, program director, is pleased to have reached his ambitious goal.

In 2002 the program worked in 11 communities of two adjacent Departments (or states) in Guatemala's north central highlands: El Quiché and Baja Verapaz. The communities in El Quiché were Xemap Veguitas, Las Moritas, Ciprés II, Las Vegas, Piedras Blancas and El Cimarrón, all in the Municipio of Pachalum. In Baja Verapaz the program worked in San José El Rodeo, Hierba Buena, Tuncaj, and Choapec in the Municipio of Cubulco and in Ojo de Agua of the Municipio of Granados.

#### **Importance of this Program**

A major economic, environmental, and human problem worldwide relates to the millions of marginally productive small farms in environmentally fragile areas. The farms where EPIC'S sustainable agriculture program is working in El Quiché and Baja Verapaz are representative of this type of small farm. There are thousands of small hillside farms in this portion of the Río Motagua watershed and the role they play in the economy of Guatemala is typical of small farms in developing countries.

Small hillside farms provide employment for much of Guatemala's population and produce most of Guatemala's food. But these are difficult places to farm and the farm families are poor.

- a. Farms are steep, small, and frequently rocky.
- b. Farms are very susceptible to erosion and many already have soils that are depleted.
- c. The prices of the agricultural inputs, upon which the farmers have recently become dependent, have increased. Often their use makes farming unprofitable.

Chemically based agriculture such as practiced in the United States, with its high requirements of chemical fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides and water, does not provide an answer for the Guatemalan hillside farmer. An alternative sustainable agriculture is required, and it needs to have the following characteristics:

- a. Replenishes rather than depletes the soil so successive generations can continue to farm
- b. Increases farm income above subsistence so families can afford schooling, health care, clothing and other essentials
- c. Mitigates the effects of inadequate rainfall by effective water management

To meet the challenge of these requirements, Felipe Tomás is motivating farmers to practice an alternative way of farming and teaching them new agricultural practices. When implemented on Guatemalan small hillside farms, the sustainable organic agriculture that this program promotes is proving itself very successful when evaluated by the 3 criteria listed above. In only 2 to 3 years farmers can triple their income. This is very hopeful, both in Guatemala and for application in similar situations worldwide. Farming has become an economically viable vocation.

### **Outcomes in 2002:**

#### **1. Increased yields of basic grains - corn and beans**

Program participants who applied the new sustainable practices were able to more than double corn yields and triple average bean yields. Simple baseline information regarding corn yields, when traditional farming practices and some chemical fertilizer are used, was gathered from 42 farmers representing 10 villages. Traditional corn yields averaged 21.78 quintales (hundred weight) per manzana (1.73 acres). When this year's corn crop was weighed, corn yields on fields using the new sustainable practices had increased to an average of 48 quintales per manzana.

This year's beans yields were also calculated and compared with past production planted in the conventional manner. Traditional bean crops averaged 6.41 quintales per manzana. With the new sustainable organic practices, the average production was 19.54 quintales per manzana.

#### **2. Retaining and replenishing the soil through soil and water conservation**

The program's goals of increasing crop production and farm income, replenishing the soil, and mitigating the effect of erratic and inadequate rainfall all are based upon the soil and water conservation techniques which are being taught. These techniques have proven to be extremely effective on small, steep hillside farms in regions with the same conditions found in Pachalum,

Cubulco, and Granados. The success of these soil and water conservation techniques is now being seen in the program area with the doubling and tripling of the yields of corn and beans

However, soil and water conservation accomplished with only hand labor and a hoe is extremely labor intensive! The program gives no incentives other than convincing farmers they can improve their harvests, soils and children's' future. To give some idea of the hours program participants have put into soil and water conservation this year, Felipe Tomás gives these estimates:

Making A-Frames	40 hours
Laying out contours @ 50 meters/1 hour X 4990 meters =	100 hours
Digging contour ditches @ 1 meter/1.5 hours X 1920 meters =	2,880 hours
Planting grass barriers @ 1 meter/2 hours X 1770 meters =	3,540 hours
Clearing rocks and building rock walls @ 1 meter/3 hrs. X 2230 meters =	<u>6,690 hours</u>
TOTAL DONATED LABOR	13,250 hours

### 3. Special income generation projects

For a farm family to increase its income above subsistence, so it can afford schooling, medical care, adequate housing, etc., it is necessary to have some special crop or livestock for income generation. In Guatemala this means something beyond raising enough corn and beans for the family's food. The program gave technical advice during 2002 for an extremely diverse number of income generation projects. This diversity is necessary because the area is remote, and production is basically aimed at a local market.

Summary of income generation projects given technical advice and guidance:

- 40 crop related projects
- 31 livestock related projects

### LA CASA DE LA CULTURA MAYA



The beautiful house in Antigua, Guatemala, where the Casa de la Cultura Maya will be located

With support from EPIC, a group of Maya professionals has been working to create a Maya cultural center and museum in Antigua, Guatemala. The center will have a two-part mission: to detail the priceless contributions of the Maya to Guatemalan culture and identity, and to encourage an important discussion of the

cultural and environmental choices confronting Mayas today. These are the choices that will be made consciously or by default in the coming years.

The cultural center will function as an educational resource whose purpose is three-fold:

- To preserve, esteem and promote all expressions of Maya culture including Maya dress, music, dance, art, weaving, agriculture, cuisine, and family, community, spiritual, and values. The Center will work for Maya cultural survival in an environment awash with Western material values that threaten the maintenance of Maya identity and cultural traditions.
- To reach out to the non-indigenous (ladino) population of Guatemala with special programs and events. For school age children, Maya docents will provide interactive age-appropriate presentations for schools classes adapted from the experience of Kauffman Museum with these types of programs. These educational programs will be designed to improve racial understanding and help the ladino children develop pride in the contribution of Mayas to their own Guatemalan national identity.
- To serve as a place where Mayas will have the opportunity to present their own interpretation of Maya culture to Guatemala's international and national tourists. Many tourists are drawn to Guatemala because of the beauty of the country and its indigenous Maya people. However, Mayas for the most part have no institution through which they can express and explain who they perceive themselves to be and to present their understanding of their place in the world. The "Gifts and Choices" Maya Cultural Center will be located in Antigua, the most visited tourist destination in Guatemala.

In December of 2002, the Maya Cultural Center initiative moved further towards its goals with a 2 week on-site consultation by Chuck Regier, Curator of Exhibits at the Kauffman Museum in Kansas. Regier is serving as a facilities and design consultant working with the Guatemalan Maya team. Kauffman Museum, a regional ethnographic and environmental museum, has been providing advice in the planning phase of the cultural center. In addition to experience with Guatemalan textiles, Kauffman Museum has expertise in providing excellent educational experiences for children and youth, including field trips for school classes, interactive children's exhibits, and a full program of summer camps for children of all ages.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR FUNDAMARCOS**

Most of the administration of FUNDAMARCOS is provided by contributions of time and money by its Maya founders and officers. EPIC supplemented this in 2002 by providing a grant of \$422.16 in support of the organization's administrative expenses. The grant helped pay the cost of telephone and Internet services and office supplies. It is very hard for a small NGO like FUNDAMARCOS to receive grants that will cover the organization's administrative expenses.

## **EL SALVADOR**

### **APRODEHNI – EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION**

Working through APRODEHNI, the Association for the Promotion of Human Rights for the Children of El Salvador, EPIC launched an emergency campaign in response to the disastrous earthquakes striking El Salvador on January 13 and February 13, 2001. The quakes, measuring 7.6 and 6.1 on the Richter scale, left one-sixth of all Salvadorians homeless or without their place of work. Assisted by EPIC funds in 2001, APRODEHNI provided 1,200 families emergency supplies, including food, water, plastic sheeting for shelter, and blankets. In the coastal village of La Herradura, La Paz, shallow older wells became salty following the earthquakes. EPIC funds were used for simple new community drinking water systems in La Herradura and to help with the construction of a community-meeting hall in El Chaperno, Department of La Paz.

In 2002, EPIC sent APRODEHNI additional funds to help with the construction of new homes for families of Camotepeque in the Department of San Salvador, and La Segoria in the Department of Sonsonate. APRODEHNI gave a training course explaining important principles for constructing housing that is more earthquake-resistant. This special instruction for builders and future homeowners emphasized those technical practices which are essential when building antiseismic housing with adobe. APRODEHNI used information from a set of 27 pamphlets on Antiseismic House Construction that EPIC had given them during visits by Mary and Paul McKay shortly after the earthquakes of 2001. This set of pamphlets had been developed in Guatemala after a major earthquake there in 1976. The antiseismic principles and construction techniques explained in the pamphlets were applicable because culturally and technically construction is similar in Guatemala and El Salvador, and both countries are very prone to earthquakes.

# HONDURAS

## LA SEMILLA DEL PROGRESO SUSTAINABLE ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTER

La Semilla del Progreso Training Center promotes sustainable organic agriculture that (1) replenishes the soil, (2) increases farm income, and (3) mitigates the effects of excessive or inadequate rainfall by effective water management. Given its geographic location and long Caribbean coastline, Honduras will continually suffer from hurricanes. Ironically, Honduras suffers more frequently from drought, and rainfall seems to be becoming more erratic. In the instruction given by La Semilla del Progreso's staff this year, there was a special emphasis on the management of soil and water on hillsides as well as on agricultural practices that enable small farms to continue being productive even in time of insufficient rainfall.

### **Program Outcomes – 2002 Agricultural Year**

Teaching Sustainable Organic Agriculture:

1. Four new groups were organized, and each group received La Semilla del Progreso's full training program that promotes environmental consciousness and teaches sustainable organic agriculture and methods of soil and water management. The total number of new participants was 88 farmers.
2. Advanced instruction and on-farm supervision was provided for active farmer/leaders from the most responsive groups in the 2001 program. The total number of these advanced farmer/leaders was 57.

Implementation of New Practices:

1. 91% of the first year participating farmers tried at least 3 new sustainable agricultural practices.
2. La Semilla del Progreso also worked with 3 groups of youth. Most group members were given a parcel of land to work and encouragement by their parents. Land is precious and scarce for poor families in rural Central America. Thus, giving sons and daughters land on which to learn on is a significant vote of confidence, both in their children and in the La Semilla training program.
3. A very significant finding for program personnel was the increase in acceptance and implementation of new practices that occurred during the second year of participation in

the La Semilla del Progreso program.

4. Nearly all of the farms of La Colonia 3 de Septiembre are being farmed employing soil and water conservation and practices of sustainable organic agriculture.

#### Yields:

This year, average corn production on those fields using program recommendations was 52 quintales per manzana, or approximately 2,600 lbs/acre. This program average includes all participants—teens and experienced farmers, first year and second year participants. (Obviously experienced farmers studying in the program for 2 years had much higher yields.) The baseline study done by La Semilla del Progreso in 2000 found that the average corn production in the area was only approximately 900 lbs/acre, using traditional farming practices and some chemical fertilizer. Since corn is grown primarily for family consumption, this represents a very significant increase in available food.

Likewise, bean yields surpassed expected goals. When using program recommendations, the average production of beans for participants was 21 quintales per manzana, or about 1,050 lbs/acre. The expectations were 700 lbs/acre for first year participants and 1000 lbs/acre for advanced participants. Having enough beans to provide the correct bean-to-corn ratio in a diet based on corn and beans is extremely important for adequate protein and good nutrition for Honduran families.

#### Drought Mitigation

1. Of the 91% of new participants who tried at least 3 new sustainable agricultural practices, all included practices promoting soil and water management for mitigating the effects of drought.
2. Just over 50% of the advanced participants have constructed water catchment basins and/or *zanjas productivas*. The catchment basins retain possible overflow from contour ditches in times of heavy rains. *Zanjas productivas* are very large contour ditches filled with water retaining organic material and planted. These provide food security in times of drought since they will still produce a crop.
3. There was enthusiastic acceptance of planting drought-resistant traditional crops as part of crop diversification and “crop insurance” in times of little rain. The drought during the 2001 summer growing season had made everyone aware of the possibility of losing their basic food crops of corn and beans. *Camote*, a yellow sweet potato, was planted for crop

diversification by the majority of participants. For example, in La Colonia 3 de Septiembre, 20 of 21 participants planted *camote* and/or *yuca* and both produced prolifically. In El Portrerillos, El Tablón, La Sorto, and Las Aradas, 45 new vegetable gardens were planted. All of the vegetable gardens, and especially those planted by the youth group of señoritas, had a section planted with drought-resistant traditional vegetables such as *mostaza*, *guisquiles*, *yuca*, *ayote*, and *chipilín*.

### **LOMA LINDA TRAINING CENTER**

The Loma Linda Leadership Training Center was to be the legacy of a lifetime of effort by José Elias Sanchez. Suddenly, with the rains of Hurricane Mitch, the training center where Elias had given courses to 40,000 persons since 1972 was washed away when water, mud, rocks, and trees roared down the canyon where it stood. Hurricane Mitch, in late 1998, also destroyed his home, office, and personal library. Only the terraces of the sustainable agriculture demonstration area remained as testament to his effective soil and water management practices. A new cement block center now stands on higher ground above the stream. The Canadian International Development Organization covered the cost of blocks and mortar to build two dormitories, a large classroom, bathroom facilities, and an institutional size kitchen. Teams of Honduran volunteers put in innumerable construction hours of labor. EPIC and the Dunamis Peace Institute together provided \$7,357.98 to purchase desks, chairs, blackboards and kitchen equipment. In addition, EPIC and DPI bought Loma Linda a TV, VCR and educational videos to equip the center.

To the great sadness of all who knew him, on the Saturday before the rebuilt Loma Linda Training Center was to have been inaugurated, Elías died very suddenly (18 March, 2000). Elías Sánchez's widow and co-worker, Cándida Rosa Osorio, is continuing the important work initiated by Elías. On July 22, 2000, a group of friends and former colleagues of Elías signed a document legally forming "Amigos de Loma Linda". EPIC became one of the "amigos" with Paul McKay as chair. Processes are now underway to establish Loma Linda as a legally recognized non-profit educational training center so that Loma Linda Training Center can continue Elías' life long work of promoting sustainable agriculture, vocational training, environmentally sound life styles, and soil and water conservation. In 2002 EPIC provided funding to the "Amigos de Loma Linda" group for their legal and administrative efforts to clarify Loma Linda's non-profit status.

# MEXICO

## MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE PROGRAM EVALUATION

EPIC's director Paul McKay was asked by the Mennonite Central Committee to lead a team to do an evaluation of their programs in Mexico. The evaluation had the goal of helping assess their efforts in Mexico since 1985 in order to refine their work of sustainable development and peacemaking in that country. The initial week of the evaluation consultation was done during 2002. In 2003, the evaluation will be completed during two and a half additional weeks of in-country consultation time in Mexico

# PERU

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING WITH SOCIETAL OUTCASTS

Leonardo Luna Arbocco is working in the city of La Merced, Department of Junin, with the most troubled sector of Peruvian society. Most of the youth he works with use drugs and alcohol and may be gang members. Some of the adults were formerly part of the Peruvian terrorist group, The Shining Path. Others may be involved with narcotrafficking or have marriages that are being destroyed by alcohol and infidelity. With approximately 22 of these individuals Mr. Luna has had success in evangelism, and he has helped these persons to overcome the psychological traumas they have experienced in their lives. For example, one typical youth with whom Leonardo worked had alcohol and drug problems. This young man is now studying in the university and working with other troubled youth. Another man was a policeman who had his own narcotrafficking gang. This ex-policeman is now working honestly.

# BENIN

## FFASE: TRAINING HEALTH PROMOTERS

Many people in rural West Africa are without access to the health care services we benefit from in North America. FFASE (*Formation des Formateurs et Animateurs de Sante dans les Eglises*

or Training Program for Health Worker Trainers and Health Workers in the Churches) was begun in 1998 as a practical extension of the work of the Centre de Sante Bethesda Clinic in Cotonou, Benin. This clinic had been established in 1990 by a coalition of protestant churches in West Africa with help from the Mennonite Board of Missions. EPIC began supporting FFASE in 2000, and since that time the program has trained both *animateurs* (health care workers) and *formateurs* (persons capable of training new health care workers). Churches of many denominations are participating in the program, with the goal of having a Health Promoter within each participating congregation. Trainees have been able to impart their knowledge and share resources with hundreds of rural families both within and outside of their church communities. The FFASE training consists of 64 sessions conducted over an 8-month period, with the last two months devoted to practical training.

FFASE's goals for each trainee include improving the understanding of illnesses and how they are transmitted; improving understanding of the relationship between health and the environment; developing the ability to analyze the sources of existing community health problems and ways that these problems might be prevented or mitigated; encouraging churches to take responsibility for the health of their families and communities; and integrating the physical and spiritual aspects of health into the training at all levels of the program.

EPIC's support of FFASE in 2002 was for the purchase of teaching materials, including copies of the resource book Where There Is No Doctor in French for each trainee and photocopies of teaching exercises. Through encouraging organizations like FFASE, EPIC is able to support grassroots-level health care and disease prevention—important components of sustainable and hopeful communities.

## THE UNITED STATES

### **FREE THE SLAVES**

In keeping with EPIC's commitment to international human rights, EPIC provided project support in 2002 to Free the Slaves. Free the Slaves is a non-profit organization working to end slavery worldwide. Free the Slaves is the sister organization of Anti-Slavery International in London, the world's oldest human rights group. Free the Slaves was incorporated as Anti-Slavery

International, Inc. in March, 2000 and received its IRS 501(c)(3) status in June 2000. In August of 2000, Free the Slaves became the organization's working name.

The Guiding Principles of Free the Slaves are:

- All people have the right to be free from any form of slavery, and to assert that right.
- All people who are or have been enslaved should have the opportunity to realize their full potential.

Free the Slaves seeks to:

- create an inclusive and diverse movement, respecting the dignity and views of all people involved in eradicating slavery.
- base all program strategies on accurate research.
- support sustainable solutions, preventing adverse repercussions for those we aim to assist.
- seek guidance and ideas from agencies around the world that are carrying out local and regional anti-slavery programs.

Free the Slaves' work directly targets these 5 factors.

### **1. Working with Partner Organizations**

Free the Slaves works with grassroots anti-slavery organizations by funding their work and enabling local movements around the world to learn from each other.

### **2. Raising Awareness**

Free the Slaves works to increase awareness of the 27 million contemporary slaves by providing engaging ways to learn about the subject. This includes a video library, web site, educational materials for schools and community groups, and public presentations.

### **3. Promoting Slave-Free Trade**

Free the Slaves partners with concerned businesses and NGOs to eradicate slavery from product supply chains and build a consumer movement that chooses slave-free goods.

### **4. Educating Policy-Makers**

Free the Slaves works with governments to enforce effective anti-slavery and anti-trafficking laws, and where necessary, draft new legislation.

### **5. Researching**

Free the Slaves researches modern slavery in order to determine its scope and nature, and to formulate targeted ways to combat it.

Free the Slaves sees slavery in the context of efforts around the world to enable people to meet their basic needs. Access to economic opportunities, health services, universal education, and strong rule of law would reduce the vulnerability of poor people to enslavement. Free the

Accomplishments of Free the Slaves during 2002 include:

May 1 Free the Slaves and Cocoa Protocol stakeholders sign a "binding memorandum of cooperation"

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- June 1 Chocolate industry establishes a joint international foundation, the International Cocoa Initiative, to oversee and sustain efforts to end slavery in cocoa harvesting
- September 22 *Carpet Slaves: Stolen Children of India*, adapted from Kate Blewitt and Brian Woods' documentary "Slavery: A Global Investigation" based on Kevin Bales' research, wins 2 Emmys for research and investigative journalism

### **LIVING ON EARTH**

A final payment was made to KUNC, community public radio for Northern Colorado, to finish EPIC's one and a half year sponsorship of the National Public Radio environmental program "Living on Earth."

### **GILBERT WHITE BIOGRAGHY**

A biography of Gilbert F. White is being written by Robert E. Hinshaw, EPIC member and current treasurer. Gilbert White is not a household name, neither as geographer nor as public servant, as were scientists such as anthropologist Margaret Mead, biologist Paul Ehrlich, or astronomer Carl Sagan. Yet his contributions already have impacted and increasingly will influence all of our lives perhaps as dramatically as have those of any scientist in the 20th century. Dr. White is the globally recognized father of the interdisciplinary study of natural hazards—disasters when we humans confront rather than avoid the extreme events of nature. He founded the Natural Hazards Research and Information Center in Boulder, Colorado. Dr. White has received virtually all awards and commendations internationally for his contributions. In 2000, the United States National Academy of Sciences awarded Gilbert White the Public Welfare Medal, and President Clinton presented him with the National Medal of Science.

White's biography, about a Quaker geographer whose life has spanned 90 years thus far, is also a chronicle of United States and international scientific exploration of human involvements with water in the 20th century. There is more: it also is about the relationships between academia and government at all levels of "man's painful, faltering, and crucial struggle to find his harmonious place in the global systems of which he is a part." Painful because the primary focus of Gilbert White's career has been on natural

hazards and the disasters resulting from human interaction with one crucial and attractive resource: water. Faltering because of the impediments to interdisciplinary research on sustainable development and effective utilization of available knowledge by policy makers. Crucial because the rising toll from disaster losses is outstripping our best mitigation efforts in even the most developed economies and periodically immobilizing societies with the least developed economies.

## **Program Consultations – Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador**

With several projects, EPIC is a project partner with fiduciary responsibility, and this requires that Paul and Mary McKay make visits to EPIC's Central American projects. On each of these visits in 2002 they were able to participate in training, planning and evaluation meetings with program staff. Going out to see the progress of program work, they were able to interview program participants to determine community support and beneficiary satisfaction with the EPIC programs in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

## **Commemorative Gifts and Living Memorials**

Since Father Thomas Cowley gifted EPIC with the legacy of his entire estate fourteen years ago, EPIC has been able to expand its work in the service for which Father Thomas dedicated his life. EPIC has now established a Commemorative Gifts and Living Memorials Program so that EPIC members and friends can honor friends and family, living or deceased, through a gift to EPIC.

During 2002, EPIC received additional Living Memorial gifts honoring the life of Kai'yutah Clouds. Kai, a Cornell University graduate student in Agriculture, was abducted in Guatemala on October 15, 1980, tortured, and murdered. Kai, who claimed his Native American ancestry, went to Guatemala in order to assist his Maya brothers and sisters following the devastating earthquake of February 4, 1976, that killed 24,000 people. Once there he became aware of the fact that there was an on-going environmental disaster occurring in Guatemala. On a second trip to Guatemala, he lived with the Maya people of the highlands and observed that the agro-

chemicals they were using in farming were being both over-used and misused, causing illness and occasionally death among the farmers.

The dreams and hopes Kai'yutah Clouds had for the people of rural Guatemala continued to live in the hearts and minds of friends and family in the Rochester and Ithaca, NY, areas. Members of the Rochester area Politics of Food group have worked to raise funds for a Kai'yutah Clouds Organic Agriculture Memorial to be administered by EPIC. Funds already raised for this purpose have been used, in memory of Kai, for additional training for Maya extensionists teaching soil and water conservation and an alternative organic agriculture based on a Maya worldview.

A Living Memorials record book has been handmade for EPIC in Guatemala. In this book will be recorded the name of the loved one being remembered, the date and place of birth, and the date and place of death. Living Memorials are a wonderful way to carry into the future the love and spirit of a person by supporting EPIC's work for a better world. EPIC also encourages Commemorative Gifts to EPIC on the occasion of a birthday, anniversary, graduation, ordination, or other special event in the life of a friend or relative that you wish to celebrate.