

An Enjoyable Stay With An El Salvadoran Family by Richard and Jane Sinning



During our trip to El Salvador, Richard and I stayed two nights with Sergio and Sonja Duran and their son Josue Rafael, or Rafa. Rafa, who graduated from the University of San Salvador last December, is the CIS coordinator for San Rafael Cedros. He has been supported by the Scholarship and Formation Fund from Our Lady of the Presentation for the last eight years.

The Duran's house is five miles away out in the country from San Rafael Cedros. After a long day of visiting students and their families, our van dropped us off as close to their house as it could get. We walked through the dark El Salvadoran night, guided only by stars, as we passed by sugar cane fields along the way.

Upon arrival at their house, we were met not only by Sergio and Sonya, but by three young cousins of Rafa's. Britani (7 years), Maybelline (8 years) and Alejandra (13 years), who were very curious about these two visitors from North America. Even though we did not speak Spanish and they did not speak English, communication was not a problem. We had brought notebooks and pencils with us, so we began drawing simple pictures and writing the names of the objects in English. They in turn wrote the names in Spanish. By the end of the evening, we had created quite a large dictionary. It was a very enjoyable way to spend an evening and it proved to us that not being able to speak the same language was not a barrier, but an opportunity to learn and interact with others.