

Washing machines bound for San Lucas

by Kathy Huebert
San Lucas Mission Office

On May 19 and 20 a group of about twenty volunteers (several from the St. George and New Ulm areas as well as from far away as Hewitt, Duluth, and St. Paul) loaded 33 wringer washing machines of various shapes and sizes into a 40-foot container bound for the New Ulm Diocesan Mission in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. The machines, stored at the St. George School, had been collected by Fr. Brian Oestreich from Sleepy Eye. Many had seen years of doing laundry here in the States and were 'retired' with the onset of the automatic washing machine. When Fr. Oestreich put out the word that the Mission could use wringer washing machines, he had no idea that thirty-three of them would appear! The machines were loaded along with other items such as medical and dental equipment and supplies, school supplies, bicycles (most

courtesy of Stan Dammann of Lambertton), new and gently used computers and printers, plywood, furniture, clothes, and many miscellaneous items.

The container traveled by truck to the Twin Cities, then by rail to Houston, TX, and by ocean freight to Santo Tomas, Guatemala. After clearing the duty-free status, the shipment was trucked the final leg of the journey. The items are brought into Guatemala through Caritas de Guatemala, an organization which deals with items for humanitarian purposes.

The container has reached its destination and some of the washing machines are already being used at the Mission - a welcome hand compared to washing clothes in the lake or tubs near their houses by hand.



Helping to load washing machines bound for the Mission in San Lucas are Don Wendinger, Steve Biebl, Dave Wendinger, Dave Davis (packing supervisor), and Rick Franta.

(photo by Mike Portner)