

HAND TOOLS NEEDED

Tarahumara Indians (Mexico) Need Basic Hand Tools

Dear Friends:

Many of you have expressed interest in our work in **Mexico** among the **Tarahumara Indians**. Last winter we collected a variety of obsolete tools and supplies to take with us for the rural communities we visited. They were well received and greatly appreciated. I have found that it is easy to collect these things because they are of limited value here and don't bring much money at any auction sale. Many people are happy to get them out of their basements.

If your church or other group would like to conduct a 'hands on' project an idea would be to outline a project to collect a quantity of needed items, then clean, repair, pack, crate, and forward them to a designated location where they can be picked up and taken to rural communities. I will be happy to help with the delivery and report on the distribution. I will also help you identify a location where the materials can be sent near the Mexican border.

Donated items must all be in good condition. Unfortunately tools and supplies of this nature are heavy, so the shipping costs must be considered in the development of a budget for this project. If we look at this as a 'pilot' project maybe it can grow into a larger organization doing this work on a routine basis at a later time. It is my hope that a project like this will help those who participate become more involved in helping those who live in poverty by personally doing something to help.

Following is a list of items that will give you an idea of the types of items that are needed among the rural poor in underdeveloped areas. It is by no means an exhaustive list, but it should give you a start! Thank you all for your interest and for considering this potential project.

Robert H. Kuck, II
337 High Shore Rd.
Marmora, Ontario,
Canada K0K 2M0
Phone: 613-472-3992
Email: bobkuck@sympatico.ca

The Tarahumara Indians in the Sierra Madre Mountains of northern Mexico live in remote areas usually with no access to electricity, phone service, or other utilities. They are primarily subsistence farmers whose families survive on what they are able to grow or raise. There is generally no refrigeration available to them. Field-work is primarily done by hand or with a horse or mule. Dwellings are caves, small log buildings, or adobe houses made of mud and straw. The Tarahumara need small hand tools and household instruments that have become obsolete in North America but will be 'state of the art' for their circumstances. Example items include the following, which is not a complete list. No items should be donated unless in good condition.

Carpentry:

Brace & bits
Hand drills & bits
Draw knives
Chisels
Gouges
Rasps
Planes
Spoke shaves
Hammers
Files
Pliers
Screw drivers
Levels
Squares
Hinges
Hatchets
Axes
Hand powered bench grinders
Trowels
Hoes
Saws (all kinds)
Assorted Screws, bolts, rings, clamps
Rope (assorted sizes)

Agriculture:

Hoes
Harness hardware
Bells for horses, goats, sheep
Block & tackle (small)
Ferrier knives
Small corn shellers
Leather punches

Cooking & household:

Cast iron pots
Cast iron skillets
Water filters
Lg. Long handled spoons

Hot pads/insulated gloves
Needles
Thimbles
Small looms for crafts/beads, etc.
Beads
Clasps
Good kitchen knives (all sizes)
String
Yarn (bright colors)
Ribbon (bright colors)