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In my 79 years, I have seen many changes here in Tecpán. It gives me much happiness to speak of these changes. For example, today we have health services that were totally absent when our children were young. Even at the time of the horrendous 1976 earthquake, there were no real medical services. Actually, that's how I got connected to Dr. Behrhorst. Our oldest daughter was very ill, so we took her by bus to Chimaltenango. Sadly, she died. Because of an absence of health services here, Dr. Behrhorst asked me to train as a health promoter. I did that, traveling to Chimaltenango once a week for years, often accompanied by my young son, Leonél. I learned from Dr. Behrhorst some essential ingredients of health care: treating people with kindness and respect, and always devoting generous amounts of time to listening to people. I also learned a lot from our textbook, "Where There is no Doctor." I was able to serve my people for decades. Once when I was called to a community, a youngster said to me, "Why don't you get a bicycle so that you could get to us a little quicker." A very good idea, I thought. I saved up, and bought a bicycle which, of course, helped me get to people more rapidly.

A significant change is what has happened in a few generations in our family. I myself had only minimal schooling. My father was alcoholic and died young; my mother raised us, and we were very poor. But I was able to become a health promoter. My wife is more into business. She sells vegetables now in Tecpán, but she used to sell in Guatemala City. We were able to get some land, and now we're converting part of our house into a hotel with eleven rooms!

Our children all have professional health careers. Of course, I am proud of them and am happy that we had enough land to sell off some to pay for their educational expenses. Our two daughters are nurses and our son, Leonél, is a doctor. In fact, some of our 14 grandchildren are already talking about becoming nurses and doctors!

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