BUILDING BRIDGES

BASIC ACCESS

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS / BRIDGES TO PROSPERITY

REX L. PEARCE, P.E.

PROJECT: ESTANCIA DE LA VIRGIN, GUATEMALA
Basic Access

Medical Care
Markets
Education
Work
Engineers Without Borders

Unleashing Great Minds on Great Problems

Engineers Without Borders USA builds a better world through engineering projects that empower communities to meet their basic human needs and equip leaders to solve the world’s most pressing challenges. Our 16,000 members work with communities to find appropriate solutions for water supply, sanitation, energy, agriculture, civil works and structures.
Bridges to Prosperity

In March 2001, Bridges to Prosperity saw a photo in National Geographic action and inspired the founders of the organization to start a project. The image showed mending a rope bridge that connected each other across a wide, hilly portion of the Blue Nile River in Ethiopia. The photo’s author, Forrest Fry, thought: “What if I can do this?”

Within three months, Ken, William, and Forrest raised money, donated time, money, and materials, and called on their members, friends, and the BTP network to help fund the project. This first project, Selam along the Blue Nile, in Ethiopia, continues to inspire a new generation of donor, volunteer, and member.

In 2002, BTP founding members founded the organization Helvitas (now HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation). The organization’s concept is that every bridge built is an opportunity for participatory development.

BTP has built over 300 bridges; build-to-explore community-driven development in over 15 countries. The organization’s work is considered an originator of the concept of bridge to prosperity and has had an important influence in the development of the concept of participatory development.

See Bridges to Prosperity at bridgestoprosperity.org
Survey, Design, Plans
Estancia de la Virgin, Guatemala
New Friends
Bridge Site on Arrival

9-30-16 Bridge Site

10-1-16 River Crossing

10-1-16 River
Rock Collection, Tower-Anchorage-Ramp Excavation

9-30-16 Bridge Site

10-1-16 Anchorage Excavation

10-2-16 Tower Construction
Bridge Estancia Tower Construction

10-4-16 Estancia Tower

10-7-16 Estancia Tower

10-7-16 Estancia Tower
San Juan Tower Constructed, Cables Draped

10-17-16 San Juan Tower Constructed

10-24-16 Cables Draped
Preliminary Cable Tension

10-24-16 Preliminary Cable Tension - Manual, Vehicle, Come-Along
Cable Sag Set, Clamped

10-27-16 Cable Sag Set view West

10-28-16 Cables Clamped 10-27-16 Cable Sag Set view East
Cable Sag Set, Anchorage Clamps Torqued

10-28-16 Ramp Construction Continues
Setting Beams (Biglas) and Hangers

10-30-16 Beams and Hangers
Cables
Setting Planks (Tablas)

11-1-16 Beams and Hangers
Deck Complete
Fencing and Lateral Stays Installed
Final Span
Food/Friends, Wear/Tear, Transportation
People
Chiquimulilla - Next Bridge - when Funded
100-m Suspended Pedestrian Span
Estancia de la Virgen, Guatemala