

## EL HIGUERAL UPDATE



This is a mural painted by the people of El Higueral on the wall of their community kitchen, memorializing their relationship with San Andres.



Sunrise in El Higueral

X ~~H~~ola

X ~~H~~onour

X ~~H~~our

X ~~H~~eir

Clyde Edwards X ~~H~~elaire

X ~~H~~erb

X ~~H~~igueral



Words with a silent “H”

1) Feb 14<sup>th</sup>

2) Politics in El Higueral (red vs blue)

3) Going to School – its all uphill



In our church is a plaque with names of community members from El Higueral lost in a massacre on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 1981 .



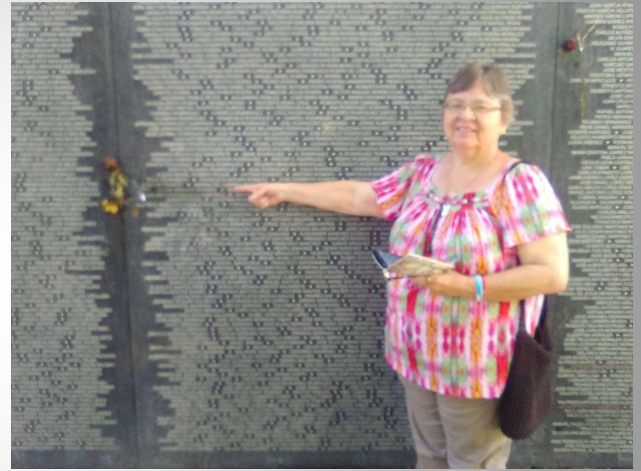


In San Salvador there is a peace park and commemorative wall similar to our Vietnam war memorial in Washington.DC.  
It lists not soldiers but civilians also who died or were disappeared during the conflict.



It includes Oscar Romero – now a saint – who was assassinated in 1980.





On it is also a list of the documented massacres that occurred throughout the 10 year civil war. You can see here, El Higueral has a place.





In one of his trips to El Higueral, Eugenio Gonzales conducted interviews and surveys as part of his doctoral thesis based on the community of El Higueral. Some of the following is taken from his thesis. Here he is talking to Toba(Cristobol) Gutierrez , whose mother was shot (eventually recovered) and his brother kidnapped by the military and adopted out to another Salvadoran family.

miércoles, 16 de febrero de 2011

## **Masacre del Higueral (17 de febrero 1981)**



Jueves 17 de febrero 1981

Masacre de El Higueral

120 víctimas

San Francisco Morazán,

Chalatenango

Ocurrido entre el 14 y el 20 de febrero de 1981

Responsables: ORDEN, Fuerza Armada (4ª Brigada de Infantería), Fuerza Aérea, Policía de Hacienda, Ejército Hondureño.

NO INVESTIGADO

SIN JUSTICIA  
EN IMPUNIDAD

There is a website that documents the various massacres and atrocities - this page is dedicated to the one in El Higueral.

Name	Reported Deaths	Date	Source
Los Ayala, Las Minas, Chalatenango	6	14-Jan-81	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html</a>
Los Toriles, Meanguera, Morazan	62	11-Dec-81	Gedda, George (1992)
Palo Grande, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan	37	8-Apr-81	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Penas Arriba (Hacienda Penas), Tecoluca San Vicente	10	Jun-81	Karl, Terry (2012)
Pineda, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	17	10-Jul-81	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
Plazas Negras, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	31	7-Aug-81	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2012_08_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2012_08_01_archive.html</a>
Reubicaciones 2 y 3, Chalatenango	25	8-Jan-81	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html</a>
Rio el Jute, El Higueral, San Francisco Morazan, Chalatenango	120	February 14-20 1981	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011/02/masacre-del-higueral-17-de-febrero-1981.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011/02/masacre-del-higueral-17-de-febrero-1981.html</a>
Rio Metoyate, Nueva Concepcion, Chalatenango	28	10-Jul-81	Beltrhan, Raul (1981)
San Benito, Tecoluca, San Vicente	23	1981	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
San Francisco Angulo, Tecoluca, San Vicente	30	25-Jul-81	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
San Rafael Los Lotes, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	4	Nov-81	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Santa Cruz, Ilobasco, Cabañas	15	30-Jun-81	Newhagen, John E. (1981)
Santo Domingo de Guzman, Santo Domingo de Guzman, Sonsonate	8	24-Jun-81	<a href="http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf">http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf</a>
Sicahuite, Las Vueltas, Chalatenango **	4	1981	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html</a>
Zacamil, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan	200	18-Jul-81	Karl, Terry (2012)
Campanario, Laguna de Apastepeque, San Vicente	110	1/23/1982-1/25/1982	Newhagen, John E. (1982)
Cerros de San Pedro, San Vicente	300	28-Aug-82	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
Cuyas Cumbres, San Isidro Labrador, Chalatenango	40	12-Nov-82	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>

This just one page of many... It shows that the place of the massacre is the river Jute...





“First they cannoned the hills where we were the people of El Higueral, as well as hundreds, perhaps thousands, from all over the area, coming from the cantons of: San José, El Salitre, El Cortés, Los Martínez, Las Chorchas, El Cerrón, Rio Grande Cardoza, Las Peñas, Izotal, Barrancón, Tilapa, Quebradón (in Rio Grande), Los Sitios. Then the soldiers advanced over the Jute River, ravaging, burning, killing everything they found in their path. They did not respect anything or anyone. It was a real hunt: old people, children, women, disabled. For a long time we lived like vermin in the bush. Many died, and some were also born in the bush.”

THIS IS ANTONIO: "YES, I HAD TO FLEE (INTO THE MOUNTAINS IN 1980). MY FATHER DECIDED TO STAY HERE AND NOT RUN AWAY, SO HE WAS KILLED BY THE SOLDIERS. HE WAS MURDERED WITH MY UNCLE BERTO. THEY KILLED

THEM TOGETHER ON FEBRUARY 14TH IS WHEN THIS HAPPENED AND WE FLED.  
WE SEE THAT AS A MASSACRE, ON FEBRUARY 14 - THE MASSACRE THAT  
HAPPENED HERE IN EL HIGUERAL IN 1981."



Do you have any relatives or relatives who have died in the massacre?

- A. **"No" (4 respondents)**
- B. **"Several relatives (uncles, nephews, cousins and more" "Brothers"**
  - "Relatives"**  
**(5 respondents)**
  - "My Dad" (2 respondents)**

Who committed the massacre of El Higueral?

- A. **The Armed Forces. The death squad. The Civil Defense. Salvadoran and Honduran soldiers.**

Are you a survivor or witness to that tragic suffering?



**A. The eleven who responded to the survey are survivors of the massacre.**

What year did you come to live in El Higueral?

**A. "I came here in 1980" (3 respondents)**

**"I've been here since I was born" (8 respondents)**

Did you participate in the war?

**"I was a combatant" (4 respondents)**

**"Guerrilla. He was a commando" (1)**

**"He made food for the people and took care of the sick. I've never wielded a gun"**

**"She was coordinator of masses and health"**

Any other details you want to add?

**"Well I remember that some places in the Jute River, the water was red in blood"**

**"Every time I see or feel a helicopter abuzz, I remember that moment"**

**"I saw so many die, not being able to do anything" "I would like to forget those days..."**

**"I saw my sisters raped, and then they would put the tip of the rifle in them and shoot inside."**

**"I don't want something like that again. I lost all my daughters"**

in that invasion...my three daughters!"

**"It's an experience I want no one to live again"**

**"I cried remembering how the children were killed"**

**"I remember how my dad was killed, cutting off his hands  
first with a machete."**

**"I feel uncomfortable talking about it"**

**"I remember the bomb that cut my dad in two..."**



JORGE CABALLERO IN 1993– Meeting with Jorge (afternoon, 3/ 22/ 1993):

" WHEN YOU PASS THE POOL OF THE RIVER (RIO JUTE), THEY (THE SOLDIERS), THREW THE BODIES THERE. AND ALL THE BODIES WERE EATEN BY THE ANIMALS. WE COULDN'T BURY ANYONE WHO WAS KILLED THERE, BECAUSE THE ARMY REMAINED THERE DURING THE RAINY SEASON. (SUMMER)"





"In 1982, all the corn we had sown was completely burned by the military, and in 1982, many people starved to death, because there was nothing to eat, and we couldn't move where we wanted either. There was a lot of fear in neighboring communities, because they knew what had happened to us (the massacre), and they were afraid to give us food. We ate zacate, (grass) anything we could eat, some fruit, and nothing else. People fell ill, and because there was no medicine, a lot of people died. Before the war, there were fifty families, and now there are only 25. Some died, others fled away, others were afraid to return. They thought the place wasn't safe yet. We think that the war has passed, and that it will never come back from again, but there are some people who are still afraid"



Last week El Higueral had a celebration to commemorate the anniversary - they try to do this every year to remind everyone of their history. Here Rosa is making pupusas. She was involved in the conflict and witnessed the events of Feb 14. Next to her is Marisol, who was born into the conflict.



Notice the red shirts – they are supporters of the FMLN (Farabundo Marti Liberation Front) now a political party.





Here is the celebration, the kitchen is to the left with the painting of El Higueral history – you can see the helicopter and airplanes...also the FMLN flag.



Our favorite couple – Niña Enma and Don Aurturo





Speeches by Marvin Cardoza, current mayor of San Francisco Morazon



A Special Service was also held..

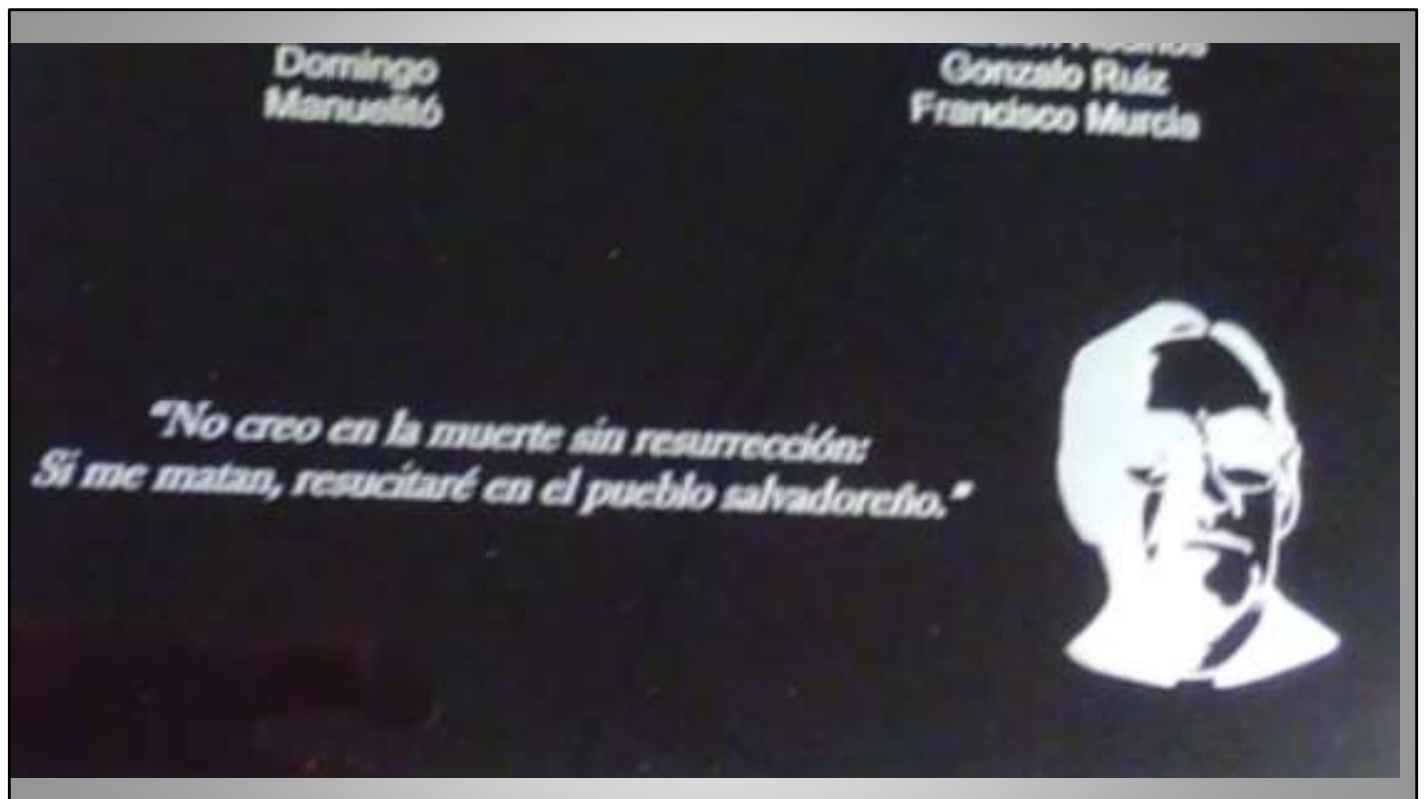




Geared towards teaching the children to not forget their history...



On the wall of the church, a mural honoring those who were lost.



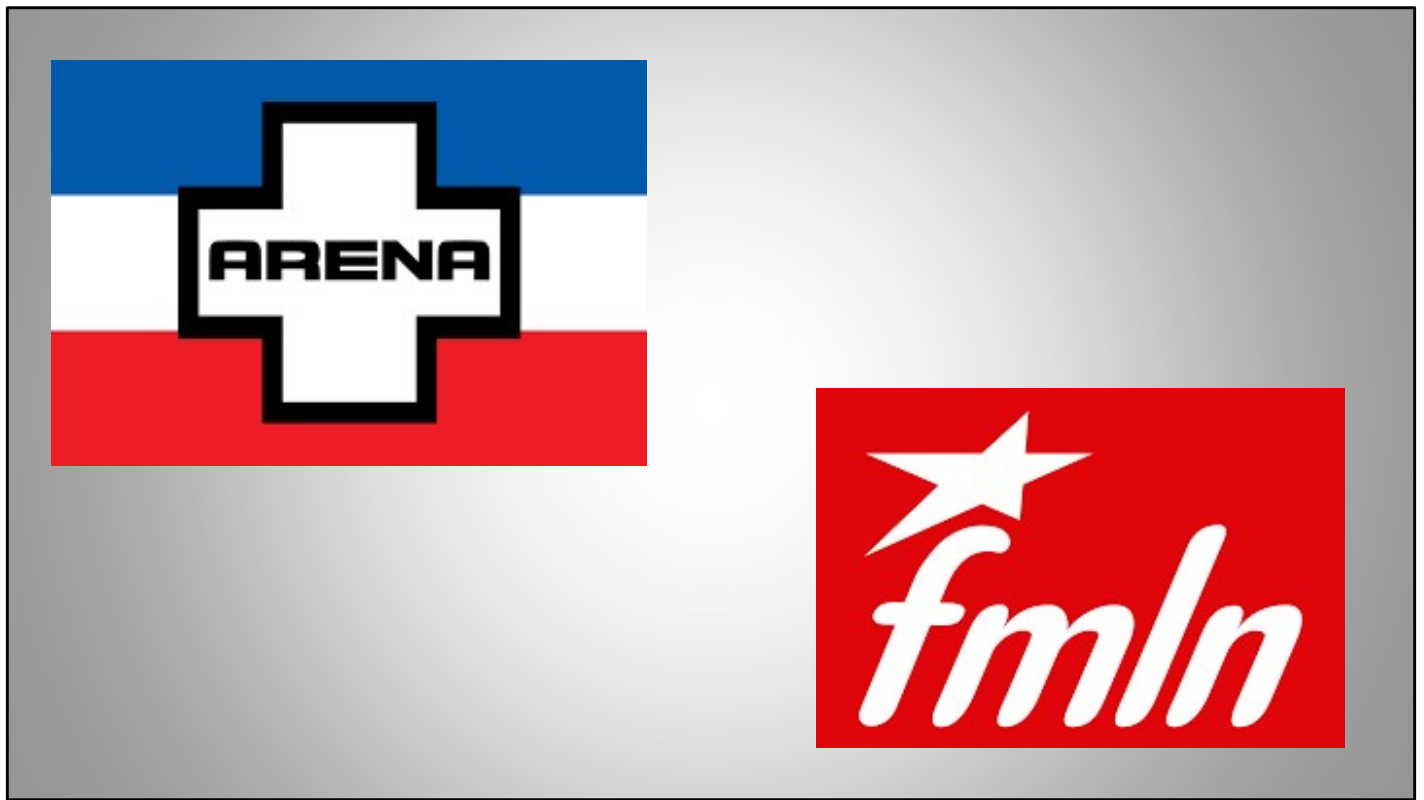
"I do not believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me I will rise again in the people of El Salvador." -Óscar Romero



RED  
VS  
BLUE

**Legislative elections** will be held in [El Salvador](#) in 2021 to elect the 84 members of the [Legislative Assembly](#) and 262 mayors.





The two large traditional parties have been ARENA and FMLN



## *Alianza Republicana Nacionalista*

The **Nationalist Republican Alliance** ([Spanish](#): *Alianza Republicana Nacionalista*, **ARENA**) is a [conservative](#),<sup>[5]</sup> [right-wing](#)<sup>[6]</sup> political party of [El Salvador](#). It was founded on 30 September 1981 by retired Salvadoran soldier [Roberto D'Aubuisson](#).

**Roberto D'Aubuisson Arrieta** (August 23, 1943 – February 20, 1992) In 1981, co-founded and became the first leader of the [Nationalist Republican Alliance](#) (ARENA) and served as President of [El Salvador's](#) [Constituent Assembly](#) from 1982 to 1983.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> He was a candidate for [President in 1984](#), losing in the second round to [José Napoleón Duarte](#). After ARENA's loss in the [1985 legislative elections](#), he stepped down in favor of [Alfredo Cristiani](#) and was awarded the honorary post of party president for life.<sup>[5]</sup>

**Roberto D'Aubuisson Arrieta** (August 23, 1943 – February 20, 1992) was a [far-right Salvadoran](#) soldier, politician and death-squad leader. In 1981, he co-founded and became the first leader of the [Nationalist Republican Alliance](#) (ARENA) and served as President of [El Salvador's](#) [Constituent Assembly](#) from 1982 to 1983.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> He was a candidate for [President in 1984](#), losing in the second round to [José Napoleón Duarte](#). After ARENA's loss in the [1985 legislative elections](#), he stepped down in favor of [Alfredo Cristiani](#) and was awarded the honorary post of party president for life.<sup>[5]</sup> He was named by the UN-created [Truth Commission for El Salvador](#) as having ordered the assassination of then-Archbishop [Óscar Romero](#) in 1980.<sup>[6]</sup>



## *Alianza Republicana Nacionalista*

ARENA controlled the [National Assembly of El Salvador](#) until 1985, and its party leader [Alfredo Cristiani](#) was elected to the presidency in [1989](#). ARENA controlled the [presidency](#) from 1989 until [2009](#). The party gained a plurality in the Legislative Assembly in 2012.

2009



The **Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front** (in [Spanish](#): **Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional, FMLN**) is one of the two major [political parties](#) in [El Salvador](#).

The FMLN was formed as an umbrella group on October 10, 1980, from five [leftist guerrilla](#) organizations:

The FMLN was one of the main participants in the [Salvadoran Civil War](#). After the [Chapultepec Peace Accords](#) were signed in 1992, all armed FMLN units were demobilized and their organization became a legal left-wing political party in El Salvador.



2009



On March 15, 2009, the FMLN won the presidential elections with former journalist [Mauricio Funes](#) as its candidate. Two months earlier in municipal and legislative elections, the FMLN won the majority of the mayoralties in the country and a plurality of the [National Assembly](#) seats.<sup>[4]</sup>

Funes is now wanted by the Salvadoran authority for corrupt actions, such as illegally [laundering](#) more than \$700,000 in his personal bank account and was found guilty of illegal enrichment by the Supreme court. Funes and his son fled to [Nicaragua](#), where they were granted [political asylum](#) by [Daniel Ortega](#) and became citizens.



Sánchez Cerén



In 2014, Sánchez Cerén took office as president, after winning the election as the candidate of the left-wing Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). Cerén had been a guerrilla leader in the Civil War and is the first ex-rebel to serve as president.<sup>[17]</sup> Under his leadership, in April 2017, El Salvador became the first country in the world to forbid the mining of metal on its territory, for environmental and public health reasons.

Salvador Sánchez Cerén was sworn in as president. El Salvador held presidential elections. Sánchez Cerén was the FMLN's presidential candidate, and gained support.<sup>[6]</sup> According to Salvadoran law, a candidate must obtain 50% + 1 vote in order to win presidential elections. Sánchez Cerén attained the leading votes in the elections on 2 February but not the majority enough to win, so he and [Norman Quijano](#) competed in the second round. Sánchez Cerén received 50.11% of the vote, compared with 49.89% for Quijano in an election contested as fraudulent by the opposing candidate.<sup>[7]</sup>



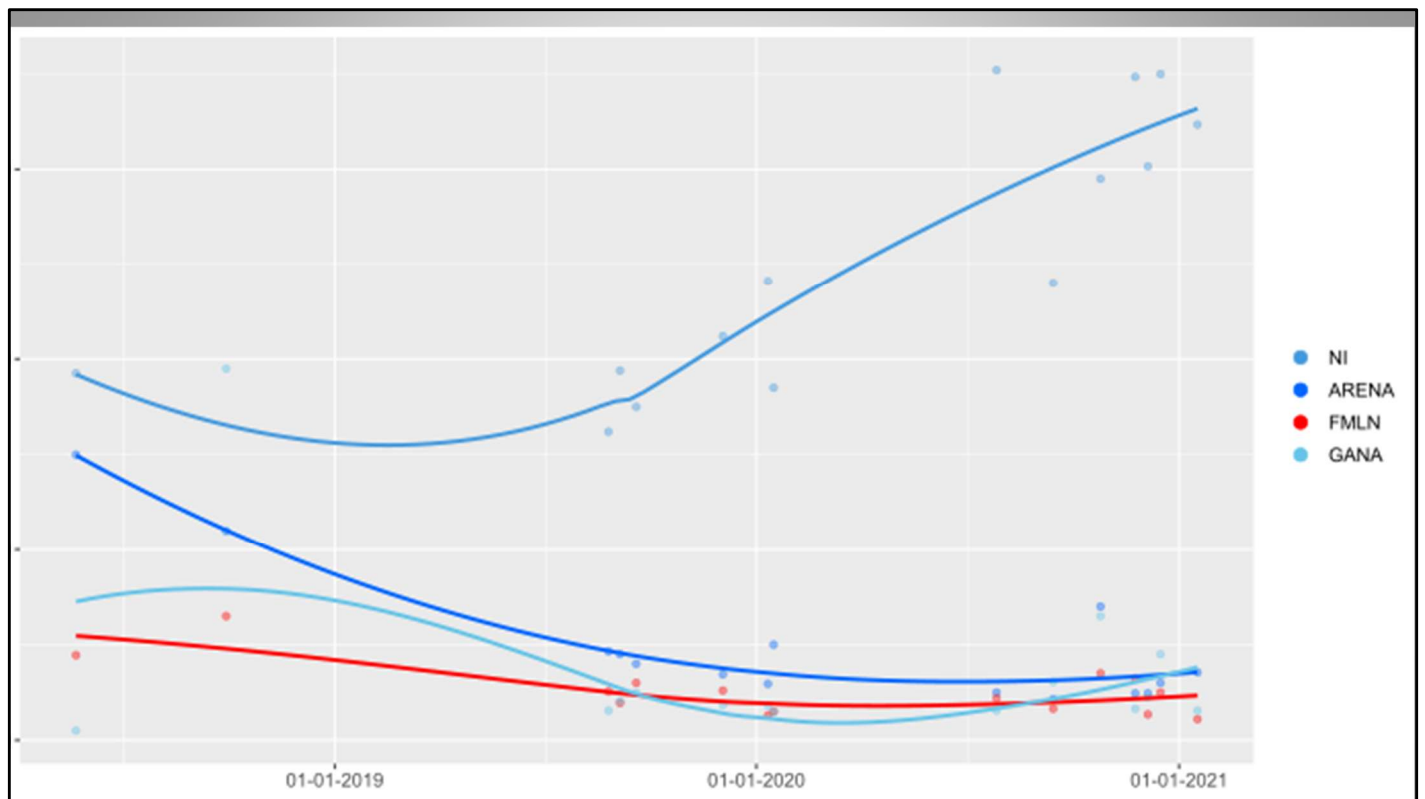
In 2019 a populist candidate ran from a 3<sup>rd</sup> newly created party and won with a huge majority 53%.



**Nayib Armando Bukele Ortiz** (Spanish pronunciation: [\[naˈʝiβ buˈkele\]](#); born 24 July 1981) is a [Salvadoran](#) politician and businessman who is the 46th and current [President of El Salvador](#) who has served since 1 June 2019 after winning the [2019 election](#). He ran as the candidate of the centre-right [GANA](#) party and became the first president since [José Napoleón Duarte](#) (1984–1989) not to have been elected as the candidate of one of the country's two major political parties: the [FMLN](#) and [ARENA](#). He is also the founder of the political party [Nuevas Ideas](#). He was previously elected mayor of [Nuevo Cuscatlán](#) on 11 March 2012. He was also elected mayor of [San Salvador](#) on 1 March 2015, and took office on 1 May 2015. He contested and won the elections to both public offices under the banner of the left-wing [Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front](#) party.<sup>[1]</sup>

A [populist](#), he has been criticized for governing in an authoritarian manner. In particular, he was denounced for [sending soldiers into the Legislative Assembly](#) to encourage the passage of a bill and allegedly to overthrow the [Legislative Assembly of El Salvador](#).<sup>[2]</sup> This action, his handling of endemic violence in El Salvador, and his strict response to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) have led some academics to describe him as an [autocrat](#)<sup>[3]</sup> or an [authoritarian](#).<sup>[4][5]</sup> [Transparency International](#) cited El Salvador and [Colombia](#) as examples of an "explosion of irregularities and corruption cases" related to the handling of the pandemic in [Latin America](#).<sup>[6]</sup> 20 government institutions of the Bukele administration are currently under investigation by the Attorney General's Office.<sup>[7]</sup>





Since 2019 the popularity of the NI party has increased dramatically even though the presidency is fraught with problems.



El Higueral is pretty much split down the middle between NI and FMLN.



**ING. ARMANDO ERAZO**  
SAN FRANCISCO MORAZÁN  
ALCALDE  
2021 - 2024  
**NUEVAS IDEAS**

# San Francisco Morazán

## Este 28 de Febrero

### VOTA



**ING. MARVIN CARDOZA**  
**ALCALDE 2021-2024**

*Capacidad, Honestidad y Solidaridad.*

amos Por La  Tercera Victoria



The 2 candidates for mayor of San Francisco Morazón (the ones that really impact life in El Higueral) are these.

Although Marvin Cardoza has accomplished much and is adept at promoting himself, Erazo promises an improved road to El Olvido (now just a walking trail) which means closer access to the highway.

## CARLOS CHACÓN



“Our community is somewhat divided in politics, with what the president of the republic has done, the candidates of his party, new ideas, some have made a decision to support them and their policy of these candidates is that they will help everyone who joins them. And this offer has received like three families in our community, to receive aid. Which is 20% of the voters. And this is how our community is in the political area, personally I am sure that the FMLN will win and then those who support the president's party will return in a moment. – Carlos Chacón

Partner Yamileth y daughter Allison



ELECTION UPDATE  
—  
MARVIN CARDOZA  
WON!

**San Francisco Morazán**  
**Este 28 de Febrero**

**VOTA**



**ING. MARVIN CARDOZA**  
**ALCALDE 2021-2024**

*Capacidad, Honestidad y Solidaridad.*

**amos Por La**  **Tercera Victoria**



When I went to school it was all uphill



When I was going to school in the 70s I lived in Oliver Hall, the building on the left. I hated that early morning hike up Naismith Blvd to the hill where my classes were.



In 2018 I met a young woman in El Higueral named Claudia. She participated in a t-shirt screen printing project I had going to outfit all the kids in EH with t-shirts for their corn festival. I remembered she had been one of the participants of the 2016-17 computer classes that we had arranged to take the place of high school classes that had to be curtailed because of gang activity in Tejutla. She caught on to the screen-printing thing and helped, and then with some other women, taught Alex Morse and me to make riguas - a corn mash fried in the banana leaves. My strongest memory of her at that time was her insistence that I pronounce her name correctly!





Claudia (on the left) approached us in December with a petition for assistance. She is a first-year nursing student at University of Dr Andres Bello and because of the pandemic, had lost her patronage and could not continue.

Here is some of her letter, loosely and poorly translated...



Dear Brothers, Members of St. Andrew. I greet you very fondly in wishing for successes and blessings in your work that you do on a daily basis. After this short, but warm greeting I move on to the next thing.

Hello! My name is Claudia Cardoza. The reason for the writing is to make known to you my request of which concerns my studies. Well, I have been studying nursing for a year, until a few days ago I finished with my second shekel, which gave us no choice but to do it online because of the cobid-19 pandemic. At this time I am in hospital training; these practices I am doing for days at home from

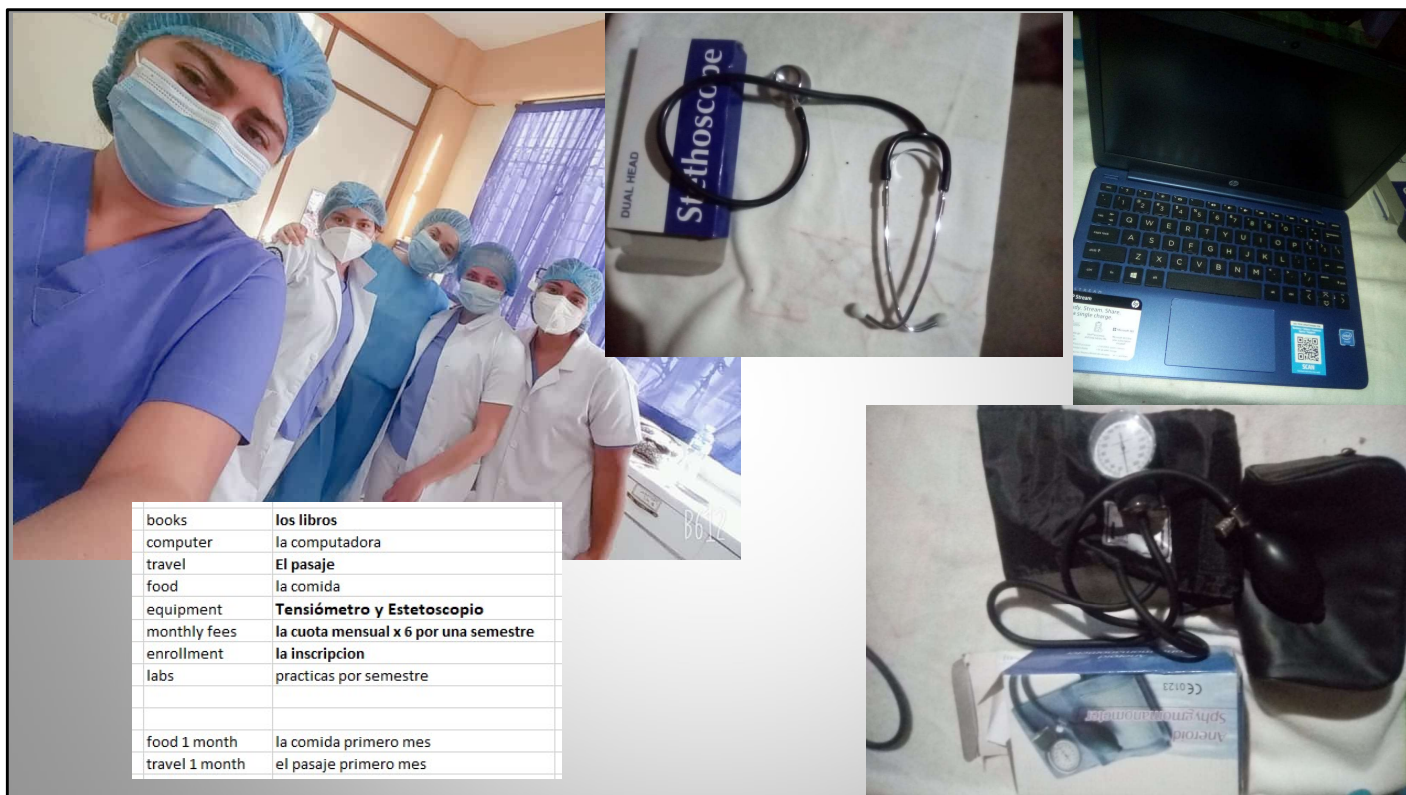
which it is online that is the theoretical and others I perform them at the beautiful Andrés University of Chalatenango such as channeling, injecting, vital signs, performing healings, placing nasogastric probes, bladder probe etc.

I want to tell you that I had difficulty finishing my university year for reasons that I do not have the necessary resources because the profession I chose demands a lot of money, uniforms, instruments, books, computer, internet, prints etc. and at the moment I do not have books, own instruments such as blood pressure monitor, this toscope, I have a computer lent to me by ADESCO (the Directiva) of my community, but this computer is not in good condition because already tube damages and it was searched who also does not charge; it always has to be connected to the charger that passes it energy to keep it on, but when leaving the light turns off and there are moments that I am working when this happens which erases the work that I have already done in it and generates problems to advance, so I need a good condition so I don't have any inconvenience when it comes to working on it.

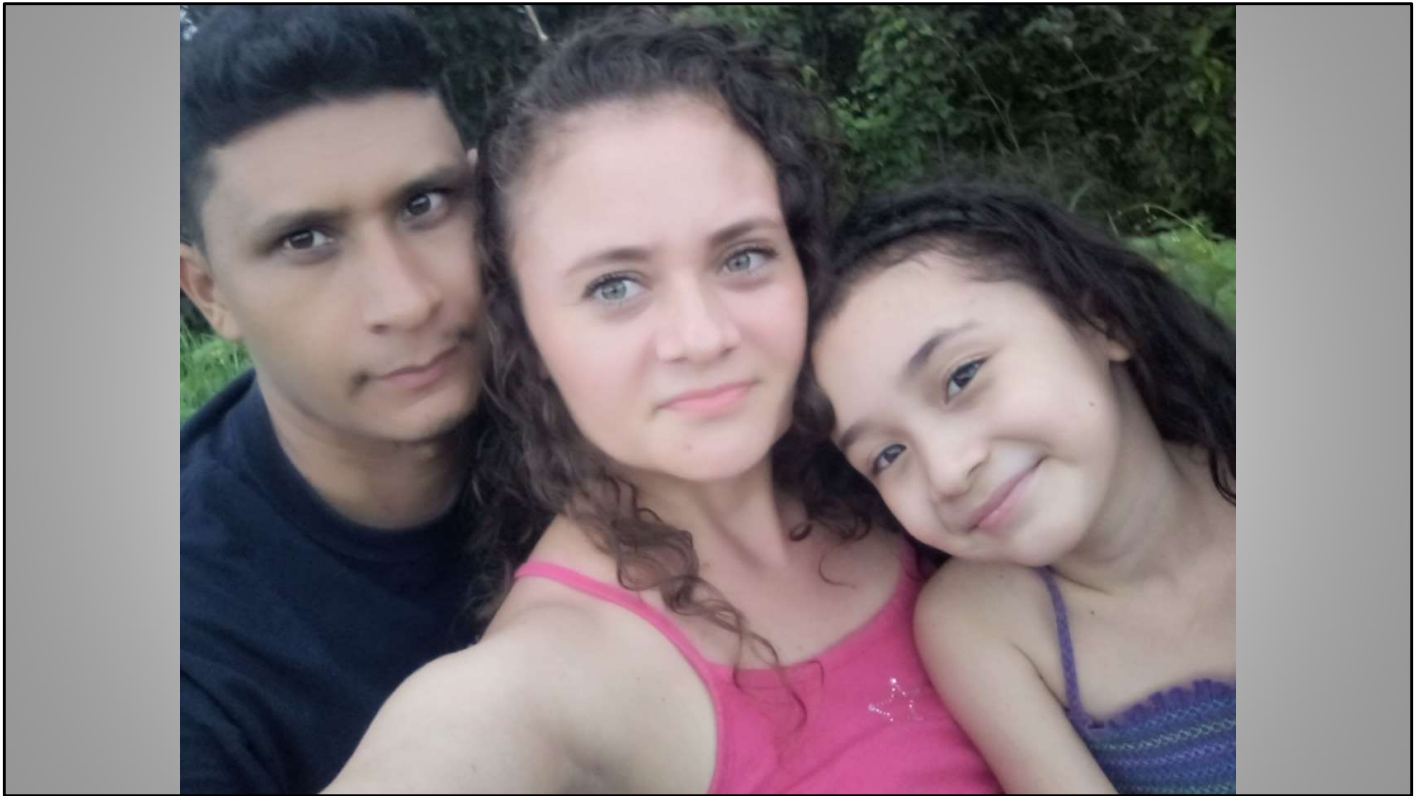


I live with my partner, he's called Julio Cesar Arévalo, son of Don Lulo. He is a farmer and works by farming, for with what little he earns by plowing the land he supports me, but it is not enough because he has to buy food, light, water etc. And here a farmer does not earn much; nine dollars are paid for one-day work. I also have a very beautiful princess, she is called Genesis Giselle Arévalo; she is seven years old and because the two of them are the ones that motivate me to move forward, although the difficulty is presented to me I always stand forward for tomorrow to be able to help them financially and you see them shine my attention as a nurse.





We have a fund here at St Andrew titled “El Higueral Scholarship Fund”. It is outside of our biyearly pledge to assist with high school students. I felt that if there ever was a student that deserved assistance, she would be the one. She is a member of the Directiva (treasurer) intelligent and highly motivated. We got her set up with books, equipment, tuition (for the next semester). And some of you on this call have contributed to this fund. I asked her to tell us a little about her daily routine and was humbled when I her read her story.



“I want to tell you about the routine that I have in my daily life in regards to my studies. When I started with my studies in my first cycle, I was going to classes three days a week plus one day when I had to go to do group assignments with my fellow students.

My hours were from 8 in the morning until 3:40 in the afternoon for three days; these days were Mon , Tuesday and Wednesday.

The days that I received my classes, I would get up at 3am in the morning to prepare breakfast for my partner, I prepare coffee, some eggs, with beans and I make him omelets for breakfast and lunch. Because he is going to work to be his bean field or because he found a job where you get paid 9 dollars for his labor performed in the day , we also have a small coffee farm he works; gives us 5 quintales (jd: about 500 lbs/year). At 4 I have everything ready. Then I shower, then I take a shower and get ready and then go to El Olvido (jd:a very small town down the mountain from El

Higueral and on the main road to Tejutla to the south and La Palma to the north) that is where the station is for the bus I take to go to college.



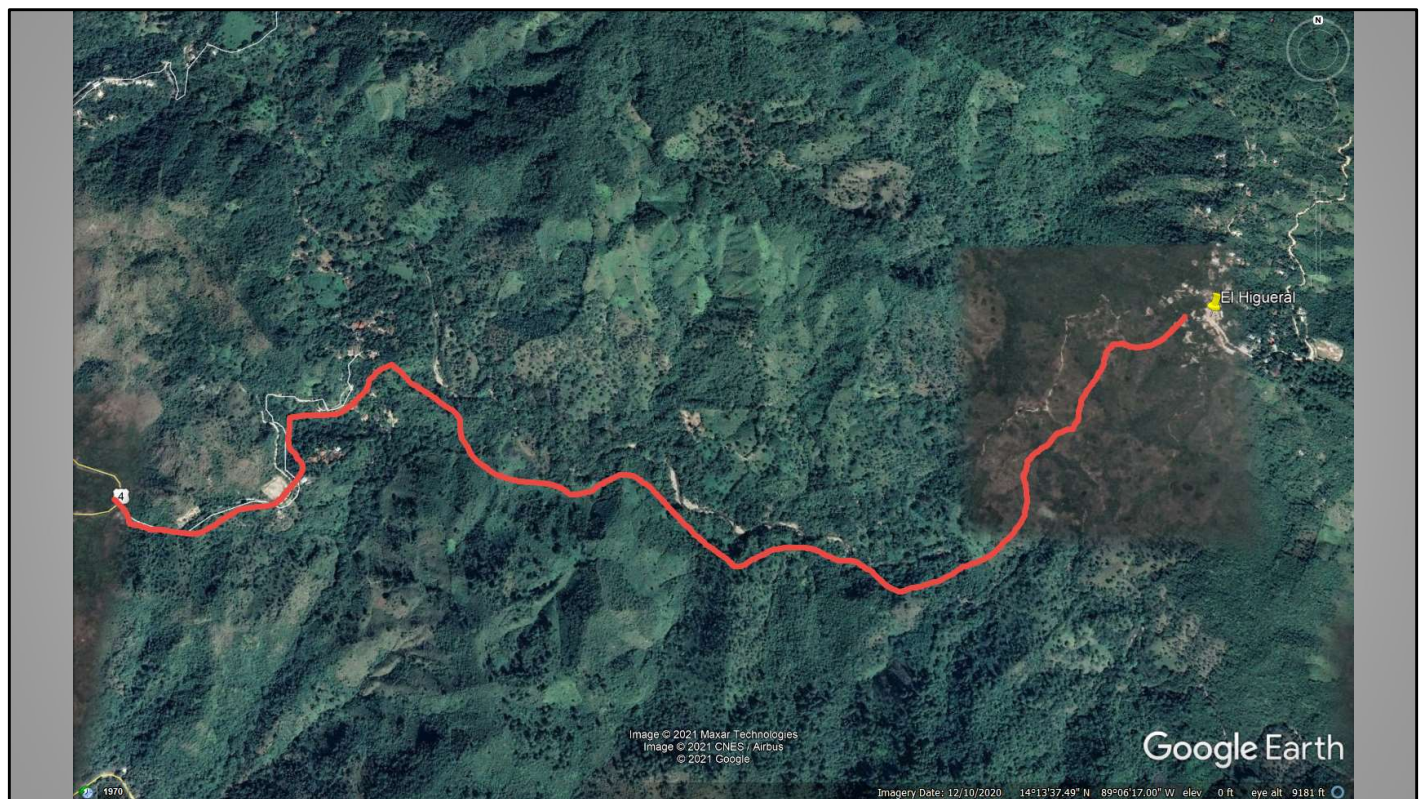
My House



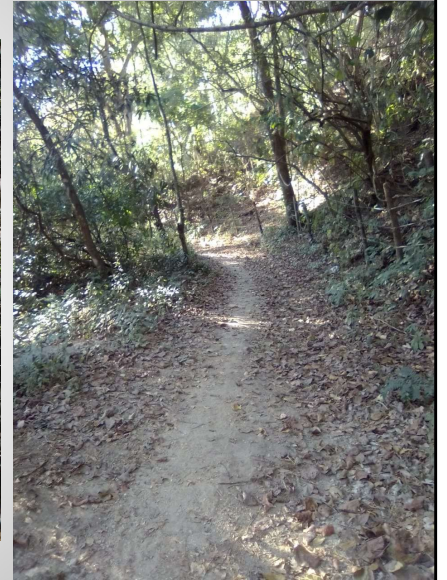
Mother & Father  
in-law

When I leave my house, my husband also goes to work, my little Genesis we wake her up to take her to her grandmothers (my mother-in-law), so that she can take care of her until my husband comes home from work. Because he comes home first, then when he comes he goes for her to take care of her while I'm gone ."





“To get to El Olvido I have to walk ***an hour and fifteen minutes***. I'm leaving from here at a quarter to five o'clock or in the morning to go on the bus at six in the morning.” (jd bold italics my emphasis)



jd: This is the 1 ½ hour footpath, no vehicles can make this trip to the highway. To get to the highway you must cross the Rio Grande 2 times, once across a rickety wood suspension bridge.

Five AM in the morning is before dawn. She has to use a flash light.

Beatrice Mancía, who also attended the same school a few years ago, was accompanied by her brother Carlos every day to the highway and back in the evening.

Claudia does this on her own.





“Then I have to take another bus, I have two options where I can take this bus; which is in Amayo and the other in Tejutla to finish arriving in Chalatenango, which is where the University where I am going is located .



My School

There are 20 minutes to go when I arrive at the university at 8 to enter my class . In these 20 minutes I have my breakfast, I buy 2 pupusas(jd:a tortilla stuffed with beans or cheese) and a coffee; at the end of my breakfast I go to my classroom where it belongs to receive my class which is at 8 in the morning. I leave my class at 11:45 in the morning and then go to lunch. At 1 in the afternoon inside again to receive another class. This lasts until 3:40 in the afternoon, when I go out I run because I feel distressed that I will arrive at my house late at night and I have to walk a little more than an hour to El Higueral. Because at the exit my only action is the bus that goes until Amayo , from Tejutla at that time there is no more, so I am forced to take the bus from Amayo , I take any bus that goes to Amayo and I arrive at 4 : 30 but the buses that come to El Olvido at that time are very scarce. I manage to take the bus at 5:15pm (jd:this is usually sunset in El Salvador), I am reaching El Olvido at 5:45 pm. I have been arriving here at El Higueral at almost 7 at night. (In the morning the



road is downhill and I run to move more quickly and get more early to my destination, but in the evening it is uphill and I find it very tiring. When I get home, my husband has dinner prepared for me so that when I arrive I can rest for a moment and then do my homework; those that my teachers left me during the day . Because every day they leave us homework. I go to bed at 12 at night. This depends on whether I have finished with my tasks and then go to bed and sleep for a few hours because at 3 in the morning I have to get up again to continue in my routine which is Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. ”



If you water it, it will grow (if you smile, it will grow)