

Dear Lars- Erik,

We thought you might like another quick update on one of your Guatemalan godchildren, Flori. Truth be told, we are a bit worried about her and have visited her recently to find out how things are going for her at school and with her life.



Flori was in a good mood when we stopped by the computer school and chatted to us happily – it's clear to see she has already gained a lot more self-confidence than she had when we first met her a year ago.

However, we are not satisfied that she is being completely honest with us about her ambitions and her progress.

As you know, Flori (who is 26 years old) is currently attending secondary school and only has a little more than a year left to go before she graduates. She tells us school is going fine and she expects to pass all of her courses. Some of them are difficult for her, she says, but she does not doubt that she will graduate if she puts in some hard work.

When we met Flori last year, she told us about her dreams of going to university and becoming a lawyer – she has somewhat changed her story since then and is now questioning whether she should attend university after all. “I don't feel capable”, she told us repeatedly during our visit. “I really don't think I can do it. But I love computers, and I have been thinking about going on a course after I graduate so that I can become a secretary.” Flori told us about the schools that offer these types of courses, and that she had already looked into the options a little bit.



Of course, we are a bit surprised to hear this (especially since she had not mentioned any of these thoughts to Amarilis, the computer school's director), and are wondering if she is being completely truthful with us. Amarilis tells us that Flori has continued to retreat from the school's activities – she has declined to take part in either English classes or dance lessons, and has not taken up our offer to get counselling. She has not followed up on any of the job opportunities that Amarilis has suggested to her, and does not seem very interested in supporting Amarilis's work at the computer school (we had envisaged that she could play an important role there in assisting the project's management). Amarilis feels she hides herself in the church, and is not taking advantage of the opportunities than are being offered to her.



We sense a lack of motivation from her, but do not know how to help her or if we can trust what she says. And while she seemed very genuine in explaining that she would enjoy working with computers as a secretary, we are still a bit suspicious of this sudden change of heart.

For now, we will continue to talk to her and see how she does on her end-of-year

exams. We are aware that she currently needs close attention and guidance, and will try our best to keep her motivated and positive.

Please let us know if you have any ideas about how we can support Flori in building her future, as we are all very keen to see her succeed. We'll let you know if there are any changes over here, and look forward to seeing you again later on this year.

All the best from Guatemala,  
Nicki & Nina