

SPECIAL PRAYER CONCERN: The father of Edwin Gelista, Partnership Coordinator for Suchitepequez Presbytery, died this week. Please keep the family in prayer. Assurances of prayer can be e-mailed to Edwin at egelista2001@yahoo.com, or mailed: Playa Tecojate, Sector II nra., Concepcion, Escuintla, Guatemala.

**PARTNERSHIP UPDATE
MARCH 24, 2009**

RENEWAL OF PARTNERSHIP COVENANT

YOUR CHURCH'S PARTNERSHIP COVENANT was sent to your pastor for Session to read, reflect and vote on. If the Session wants to discuss the partnership, contact Ginnie (vestevens2@aol.com) or Randall (rbtoo@juno.com) to arrange for someone come & meet.

Upon approval, please consider having a formal signing as part of a worship service. It is good for the entire congregation to hear and commit to the covenant. (We'll be sending some ideas for a commitment service after Easter.)

In any case, please be sure that Ginnie is notified as soon as your Session has made a decision, and that both the English and Spanish versions are sent back to her by the end of September for Bobbi White and the Guatemalans to sign. The English version will be returned to your pastor after the November trip.

FYI: Presbytery covenant will be voted on at July 28 Presbytery meeting. Signing should be at October 23-23 meeting, when we hope Guatemalan Partnership Coordinators Edwin Gelista and Cesar Taracena will be present.

NOTE: Please remember to send Edwin Gelista, Suchi (egelista2001@yahoo.com) or Cesar Taracena, Sur (cesartaracena@yahoo.es) news about your congregation prior to visit to your partner church. Cesar's visitation list is at bottom; Edwin hasn't sent his new one yet.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE FOR PASTORS IN GUATEMALA

John Calvin Conference: Nov 10-18

- Theme: How Reformed theology interfaces with and guides our lives in society.
- Rev. Dr. Richard Boyce, member of PWNC and professor at Union-PSCE in Charlotte, will be the leader from PWNC. A Central American is being sought to be co-leader.
- Opportunity for pastors from all three partner presbyteries to share and learn from each other.
- Opportunity for PWNC pastors to visit their partner churches and be part of the celebration of 15 years in partnership.
- **Room, board and transportation for the conference itself provided by Partnership Committee**, so the cost is much reduced, between \$600-\$900, depending on cost of airline tickets.
- **\$300 scholarships are available for ten PWNC pastors. Invitations to apply are being given first to those from smaller churches who have not visited their partner churches previously.** If those who receive invitations have not accepted before April 15, requests from others will be accepted on a first-come, first served basis.
- **Contact Ginnie for tentative schedule and commitment form.**

ANNUAL \$300 GIFT TO YOUR PARTNER CHURCH

Please see that check is sent to Presbytery office as soon as you can. Checks will be delivered to Presbytery treasurers in April for disbursement to your partner church.

OTHER UPCOMING EXCHANGES

(mail to partner church can be sent with any group; size limit is legal sized manila envelope)

- *April 29-May 4: Trinity(certain) and Shelby (tentative)*
- *June: Mills River and Tryon*
- *July: FPC, Asheville*
- **Nov 10-18 Partner Church Delegation**
(application & church endorsement forms available from Ginnie, Presbytery office or web site)
 - Planned in tandem with John Calvin Conference so pastors and members can visit partner churches simultaneously.
 - Chance for churches with scholarship programs to meet scholarship students at the end of their school year and participate in 15th Anniversary Celebration of Partnership with Guatemalans.
 - **Cost \$1100. Deadline for applications: August 14**
- **Oct 19-27: Annual Visit by Guatemala Partner Church Representatives:**
Please pray that they and Coordinators Cesar and Edwin are granted visas!
- **Nov 16-20: Annual Meeting of Partnership Committees in Guatemala**

HEALTH PROGRAM

- Spring Newsletter is being e-mailed to all Partnership contacts on March 28 and put on the Presbytery web site shortly thereafter (www.presbyterywnc.org). It will be available at the Partnership display at the April 28 meeting of Presbytery. **The focus of this newsletter is on how your congregation can become better informed about the program and encourage your partner in its efforts for better health in its congregation and community.**
- At April PWNC meeting Dr. Doug Michael, Chair of Health Committee, will be doing a Minute for Mission suitable for use in your church. (Copies will be available at display table and e-mailed.)
- Priority of Health Committee in Guatemala is to identify all health promoters, continue training them, and work on a process for certification.

MEETING DATES (always confirmed by e-mail)

- **May 30** : time 12:30-3:00 pm at Black Mtn. Church. The Bannerman family will be doing a hands-on workshop on "hose play" and recreation that we can use when we visit with our partners in Guatemala.
- **August 22:** "Partnership 101" - an afternoon workshop at "Let's Celebrate," annual Presbytery training event at First Presbyterian Church, Morganton. It is being planned for everyone who wants or ought to know about what our partnership with Guatemala is all about. It will also be part of the orientation for Calvin Conference participants and members of the partner church delegation going in November. Program/registration booklets will be mailed to churches and be on-line after June 12, 2009.
- **September:** Tentatively a Saturday workshop on ideas and materials to help our partners support children and families in their academic development.
- **October 26:** 5:30-8:00; place tba (Hopefully a time with our Guatemalan guests)
- **December 10:** 5:30-8:30, Black Mountain Church. Reports from Annual Meeting in Guatemala and highlights from Calvin Conference and Partner Church delegation.

CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A priority in 2009 is "Phase 2" of scholarship program. That is, to find ways to encourage scholarship recipients in their academic pursuits and help parents help them as well. **If your church has had a success, please share it.** For instance, FPC Asheville is preparing a list of Spanish language books that others may be able to use. They gave each child in their scholarship program his/her own book at the end of the school year. Having any book in the house, other than the Bible, is rare in Guatemala so this was a real treat. A list of ideas is being prepared to send to

everyone & workshops planned to prepare delegates for visits to partner churches. (See dates above.)

PARTNERSHIP CHURCH VISITATION SCHEDULE SUR OCCIDENTE

Church	Pastor	Coordinator Visitation Date(s)
Arca de Noe	Geovanni Teruel	March, September
Bethel	Cleotilde Reyes	March, September
Betlehem	Ruben Morales	February, August
El Buen Samaritano	Hugo Guzman	February, December
Buenas Nuevas	Antulio Perez Morales	June, December
Camino a Canaan	Samuel Merida	June, August
Camino de Santidad	Wilfrido Rabanales	April, October
El Cordero de Dios	Emilio Mazariegos	January, August
El Divino Salvador	Eliseo Echeverria	February, July
Eben Ezer	Samuel Merida	June, December
Estrella de Belen	Miguel Chacaj	May, November
Fuente de Vida	Demetrio Velasquez	January, July
Genezereth	Amilcar Fuentes	January, July
Horeb	Hilario Gomez	May, November
Jerusalen	Samuel Merida (interim)	April, October
Jesus la Luz del Mundo	Nicolas Chan (Tayun)	March, , September
Libano		March, September
El Mesias	Humberto Baten	April, October
Monte de los Olivos	Luis Gomez Mazariegos	February, August
Nueva Jerusalen	Jacobo Cifuentes	May, November
El Redentor	Eliseo Echeverria	January, July

Cesar gave only the months of his visits. cesartaracena@yahoo.es; eldertaracena@yahoo.es

SUCHITEPEQUEZ

Bethesda	Jose Asencio	Feb 15
Eben Ezer	Edwin Gelista	Jan 25
Genezareth	Edwin Gelista	Jan 18
El Golgotha	Mardoqueo Valiente	Jan 10
Jesus el Buen Pastor	Aplonario Chay	Mar 15
Jesus Fuente de Agua Viva	Edwin Gelista	Mar 6
Monte Hebron	Alejandro Tot	
Monte Horeb	Jose Asencio	
Nueva Esperanza	Alejandro Tot	Mar 22
Pocoman Madian	Josue Cardona	Feb 8
Primitiva.	Matias Sanchez	Feb 22

*Edwin's schedule is only through March. Egelista2001@yahoo.com. We will e-mail his spring schedule when we receive it.

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