

February 2, 2012

The Guatemala Partnership Committee has much to share with partner churches in PWNC, and anyone interested in the Guatemala Partnership, so all are invited to attend the **Friday, February 24 “Gathering” to be held at First Presbyterian Church, Morganton.** There will be a light supper provided by members of the Partnership Committee at 6 p.m., followed by a meeting at 6:30 p.m. If you plan to come for supper, please reserve a spot no later than Wednesday, February 22 by emailing [Randall Boggs, rbtoo@juno.com](mailto:Randall.Boggs@juno.com)

There is no charge for the meal but if you would like to make a donation, those funds will be used to support the work of the youth in our partner presbyteries, Sur Occidente and Suchitepéquez.

The **agenda for the “Gathering”** will include –

- time to share **concerns and questions in regard to partner churches**
- an **update from Doug Michael on the health project** as well as a report from **Newton’s visit** with their partner church
- an **update on the process of restructuring the work of the Partnership Committee**

Please remember in prayer the delegation from **First Presbyterian Church, Newton who will travel to Guatemala February 10 – 18** to visit with their brothers and sisters at El Redentor Church in the Presbytery of Sur Occidente.

Members of the delegation are Ann Sperry, Elise Yaussy, Luke Ponder, Ray Rhinehart, Doug Michael.



Gracias a Dios, there are small, hopeful developments in the pursuit of justice in Guatemala. Rios Montt, who was president of Guatemala in the early 1980s when there were horrendous massacres in indigenous villages, is now under house arrest and hopefully will be tried for genocide and war crimes. Alfonso Portillo, president of Guatemala from 2000 – 2004, is fighting extradition to the United States where he would face charges of money laundering.

Here are several links with articles, programs about what is currently happening in Guatemala.

<http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/02/02/a-testament-from-guatemalas-war-years/>

<http://www.npr.org/2012/01/30/146099709/guatemalas-former-dictator-faces-trial>

Let us pray for the judges and others who have had the courage to try to bring these men, and others, to justice, pray for protection for them and their families

Let us pray that our Guatemalan brothers and sisters might know the rule of law and justice in their country.

May we know the work of God's Spirit among us,

Ellen Dozier

Interim Volunteer Coordinator Guatemala Partnership

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