

Partner Church Delegation to Guatemala *November 10-18, 2009*

On church partner trips, delegates normally spend three days with their partner churches, living in members' homes, worshipping, attending church meetings, spending time in the community (like visiting schools and going to market). Obviously, these trips offer more challenges and more opportunities to be blessed than most other kinds of mission trips.

Orientation is an essential part of the experience and applicants must attend all meetings. Those who go to Guatemala representing their congregations need to both have personal calls to this sensitive and important mission and also be called and commissioned by their churches. Participants must be willing to relinquish personal privilege for the good of the community, be serious about their faith, and open to God's spirit leading them in new ways, teaching them new things through another culture, and enabling them to share what they have learned on their return. It also means they will give very high priority to this mission and commit to preparing for it individually in prayer and study and with the whole team during orientation sessions. Patience, flexibility, and good humor are important qualities since it at times it might seem like NOTHING is going according to plan. Team leaders are Barbara Hosbein (member of Banner Elk Church and Guatemala Partnership Committee) and Zack Allen (member of FPC, Burnsville).

The cost per person is \$1,100; if the cost of airline tickets goes up considerably we may have to make a surcharge. On the other hand, if the cost stays low, the total may be reduced. Send a deposit of \$700 with the application; the balance is due August 14. Make checks out to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and designated to Account #100094-Guatemala Mission Team. The "Recommendation, Commitment, & Endorsement" form from the church must also be returned to address below by August 14.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Congregation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Please answer the following questions.

1. Describe your understanding of the purposes for mission teams and your personal reasons for wanting to participate on this one.
2. In what ways do you think you might be able to strengthen your congregation because of your participation on this team.
3. What gifts or personality, skills, and experience will you bring to the team? (The team will need a broad variety to become a unit, so include anything you think might help ... first aid training, good humor, music, photography, good organizer etc.)
4. Do you have any health problems? _____ What are they?
5. Do you speak Spanish? _____ If so, with what proficiency?

(over)

All participants are expected to make certain spiritual and physical commitments before, during and after their mission experience. **Please consider and initial these below and sign your pledge to pursue them.** You will receive an orientation handbook and other materials for reflection and study.

- _____ 1. **I commit myself to working with my pastor and the session in order to develop a plan to help my congregation grow in faith and vitality** as a result of their involvement in this mission trip.

- _____ 2. **I will pray** regularly for mission team participants and their churches (including myself and my own), and those with whom we will be interacting in Guatemala, that we will all be sensitive to God's leading.

- _____ 3. **I am willing to invest myself** in the mission team community and relinquish individual rights if they run counter to the community's best interest.

- _____ 4. **I will make it my highest time priority to attend** the orientation meetings, tentatively planned for:
 - a. **Saturday, May 30, Black Mtn Church (time tba):** Hose Play/Recreation workshop, led by someone from the Bannerman family.
 - b. **Saturday, August 22, FPC, Morganton:** Attend the Partnership Workshop at "Let's Celebrate" from 1:30-3:30, then stay until 5:30 for a meeting for the church delegation and pastor's conference participants. ("Let's Celebrate" is Presbytery's annual educational event; one of the workshops will be "Partnership 101." Brochures will be mailed to churches in late spring.
 - c. **September, Saturday or Sunday (tentative):** Workshop on educational activities appropriate for Guatemalan children.
 - d. **Saturday, October 3, 10:00 am – 3 pm (place tba)**

- _____ 5. **I will study the orientation booklet** in preparation for the trip and **attempt to learn some Spanish.**

I pledge myself to do the above.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return to:
Guatemala Mission Team
PWNC
114 Silver Creek Rd.
Morganton, NC 28655