

**Guatemala Partnership Admin Team Meeting  
April 1, 2005 Minutes**

Attended: Bonnie & Bill Clarke, Tom Eastman, Millie Kreider, Steve Tisinger  
Guest: Dr. Warren Schubert, of the medical team we met at the San Angel Hotel in January, 2005, operating at the Berhorst Clinic in Chimaltenango.

Warren's Surgical Team: Recruits docs/nurses from the Minnesota area to perform typical surgeries

for impoverished residents of several areas, including Guatemala.

Typical Guatemalan surgeries: cleft lip & palate, hernia, gall bladder, prolapsed uterus, hysterectomy.

Suggested surgeries for 2/06: general, gynecological, congenital hand deformation, and possibly tooth extractions if Warren can get a dentist, a chair, and other needed supplies such as oral sutures.

Finances: Patients' surgeries financed by doctors/nurses trip "tax". No longer working under Common Hope's aegis – they can plan/ execute their trip for much less than the Antigua based medical aid group.

Long Range Goals: Do surgery in other world locations but spend at least 1 week/year in Guatemala.

Perform dental extractions for impoverished people.

Interface with native Guatemalans before surgery week begins.

2006 Needs: Top notch trip mgr. to line up adequate surgery & nursing

staff,

collect/keep track of trip fees, advise participants on pre-trip shots needed, insure all travelers get/have valid passports, arrange airport transfers, etc.

Surgery Candidates (especially for dental extraction)

Dental surgery Assistant (?)

Autoclave at Berhorst for speedier instrument sterilization

Sharing Resources with Warren's Surgery Team:

K- Presbytery to locate/set-up clients needing surgery in '06: **Dr.Pat?**

Employ our local health promoters as translators for the surgery team?

Email Warren our Merck and J&J contacts for free medical stuff: **Mike?**

**Millie** to be the dental surgery assistant?

Help purchase/placement of autoclave at Berhorst: **Dr.Mike/Pat/Sally?**

Make IMA connection for Warren: **Bill?**

Onil Stoves: Ronaldo reports the K-Presbytery can place another 50-60 stoves.

Bill moved \$5K from '04 mission grant to stove allocation, '05.

Towson PC is considering another \$5K donation in late '05 for stoves.

Helps International, Onil mfr, planning to move closer to Guat City to meet large demand for stoves in Kaqchikel region. This will eliminate transport costs.

Presbytery Conference in Guatemala: The March meeting of all U.S. and Guatemalan Presbyteries who are in mission relationships was attended by Peter Nord, Steve Tisinger and Millie Kreider; 3/05. Baltimore/Kaqchikel presentation went well with the observation that the K-Presbytery is operating more like an NGO than a traditional presbytery, and that suits the character of our overall, less conservative partnership. Ronaldo & Saul spoke openly about the Guatemalan Synod's unkept

promises to Presbyteries, and that prompted a discussion about our partnership's work conducted outside the purview of the Synod. The following was resolved for '05:

- 1) We support the Guat Nat'l Presby Church through a "good faith" offering of \$1K to the Synod watching for accountability in finances & work it claims it will do, such as support PC missionaries sent by GA.
- 2) Dialog w/Synod to see if independent auditors are checking books of new Synod Treasurer (?)
- 3) We gradually increase this funding to 5% of budget if accountability, efficiency and real resourcing happen
- 4) We report annually to the Synod about the K & Balto-Presbyteries work.

Noemi's Visa to Visit US w/Ronaldo: Concluded; it was a mistake for Ronaldo & Noemi to try to get

her a visa last year without GA and Synod help. This year, the process followed is: Nord sends official invite to R&N w/copy to Maria Arroyo of GA. Arroyo writes official invitation on behalf of PCUSA w/copy to Guat Synod. Synod writes cover letter w/ our invitation to US Embassy. Marcia at Pres Gov will walk the Similox through the application process and facilitate the application. Paperwork, on behalf of Noemi arrived in Guatemala about 4/3/05.

Millie's Visit to Pastor Josefina Inay de Martínez's house: In March, Millie spent time w/the

Martínez family and learned the following: The rift between Josefina & Margarita is complete, but Ronaldo maintains a K-Presbytery link when necessary. Josefina no longer goes to Bola de Oro to do women's Bible studies. She pastors her church at San Rafael and conducts women's Bible study at her home. She continues to live with her 3 youngest daughters (Floridalma, Sonia, and Ana), her grandchildren (Lúcio, Diego, and Lúcia Josefín), and an old friend of her husband's. Lúcio's scholarship was not received in January, but it has been covered to date. Josefina seems to be at peace right now.

CEDEPCA's observations on the Kaqchikel Presbytery: Dennis Smith advises we keep supporting the K-Presbytery as their work is good. Antonio Otsoy, formerly of the K-Presby, has been pushed aside. He's looking for another partnership to help his family with education costs. CEDEPCA has a weaving center in Chimaltenango. The Atz family, featured on the *Precarious Peace* video, and Mrs. Saquic, formerly with the K-Presby, work there. It was suggested the October visit include a talk with Dennis Smith and a visit to the weaving center to see if there is anything there our mostly defunct sewing cooperative can collaborate on. Carla Kohl, friend of Tim Stern, is on loan by CEDEPCA to teach in Guatemala until '07, at which time she plans to return to Princeton. She is willing to visit with us in Guatemala and hold seminars on Presbyterian activity in Guatemala.

Micro-Credit Programs: U C of Canada has participated with Bola de Oro, Cerro Alto and Labor de

Falla for a number of years. Projects funded include making/selling shampoo, handicrafts and growing tomatoes for export. The three villages borrowed \$5K @2.5% for 6 months to buy land. In addition, Labor de Falla obtained its own grant from UCC for getting potable water to the village and irrigating fields with waste water (?). This was accomplished about 2 years ago when Moira Peters lived there under UCC auspices. The K-Presbytery wants to begin micro-credit financing with a grant from our partnership. We hope Sandi Rowland, experienced in Central Amer micro-credit, will dialog with Ronaldo about this and present requests and considerations to the rest of the Admin Team.

Home Visits: Steve, Peter, Millie spoke with Ronaldo about the possibility of some of our mission

delegates spending a night or two with indigenous families to get a first hand experience of rural Mayan life. Ronaldo nixed this, saying the stress on folks' lives and living conditions are so high, that he couldn't recommend this experience at this time. He said Moira Peters, from the UCC, got moved 3 times during her 6 month stay because the burden felt so taxing. He noted that First of Howard PC folks stay in a church during their Guatemalan stay.

K-Presbytery Reaches Out to Us: Apart from home stays, Ronaldo asked us to think about what his

Presbytery can do for us while we are visiting? Please submit ideas at the next Admin Team Meeting.

Summer Trip, 7/05: At meeting time, Steve said there were 7 youth and 6 adults set to go for the July

mission trip to the Kaqchikel Presbytery. Delegates come from Christ Our Anchor, Ark & Dove, Brown Memorial, Woodbrook, and possibly some from Towson PC, if their Honduras trip falls through.

Sally noted a First PC of Annapolis who is interested in attending a Guatemala mission trip as a family group. The parents have 3 teens, ages 13, 16, 18. Suggestions for working up to accommodating family groups were: 1) Steve and Bill Hathaway discuss this viability first. 2) Bill H. interview the family to see what their expectations are & discuss with Steve. 3) The family to take a family trip to Guatemala this summer on their own or with a tour (?). 4) The eldest son attend this summer's youth trip and process it with his family before further action is taken.

Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas: At end of 3/05, Ronaldo emailed saying the Kaqchikel Presbytery was withdrawing membership from the UCC-sponsored group which historically practiced solidarity, accompaniment, and possibly election vigilance/witnessing through the worst years of the Civil War. He said FPM had done little since the 1996 to help the poor, women, and the marginalized. Kathryn Anderson, UCC Pastor and affiliated with FPM through the Tatamagouche accompaniment program (of which Moira Peters was an intern) is surprised by the Kaqchikel's action. We believe Josefina Martínez's women's ministry is carried out through FPM. Does this bear on the break? Peter Nord has been dialoging with Kathryn to determine why this happened. Kathryn wrote a letter of appeal to Margarita/ Ronaldo citing her desire for the K-Presby to remain affiliated. Peter will update this Admin Team as news comes in. We thought it would be a good idea to get Dennis Smith's view of the situation. It was not determined who would email Dennis about this.

Manual for Mission, Functions and Tasks, 2005: Attached please find the complete 18 page report

Ronaldo sent to me in March. We requested a summary of what each person's job description is in the various programs of the K-Presby, and Ronaldo responded with a summary of each activity's purpose, aims, and job descriptions of all participants. Our hope is that this report will be shared among the folks Ronaldo supervises so that the original concern, brought to us by Dr. Patricia, will be addressed. The doctor complained to us that the school psychologist in the My Healthy School program does nothing and gets paid well for it. We asked what her duties were, and she indicated they had not been specifically delineated. Please note the lines of authority. Ronaldo is in charge of

everything. Dr Patricia has no authority over Flor de Maria, Felicitá, or nurse Vilma when she is their on-the-job supervisor and the one working closest to them. I urge you to peruse the report, jot notes and questions, and resolve to discuss this next Admin Team meeting. Perhaps this is a place where Ronaldo and Dr. Patricia can learn and grow past the machismo system in their personal/business relationships.

My apologies for this lengthy report, but this represents 2 ½ months of happenings without Admin Team discussion.

Best Regards, Bonnie Clarke 4-14-05