

**Guatemala Partnership Administrative Team Meeting
January 23, 2005**

Opened: The meeting was called at 4:35 pm at the Marriott Hotel's 700 Grille Restaurant in Baltimore on Sunday 1/23/05. Steve Tisinger opened with prayer.

Present: Attending were: Linda Black, Bonnie & Bill Clarke, Tom & Ajax Eastman, Betsy Jenkins, Sally Sherrill, Steve Tisinger & Mike Weddle. Bob Ferguson Millie Kreider, and Ken Kovacs were not available.

Agenda: **** Denotes action points**

Mutual Goals for the Year – Clinic Health Promoters:

The HDV Clinic Health Promoters' salaries are budget items now instead of receiving compensation for selling western medicines from the "botiquín". They are to charge set nominal fees for the medical consultation and natural meds to avoid dispensing unneeded medicines or just re-selling the meds the Clinic stocks them with on a regular basis.

My Healthy School Nutrition Program:

Expanded to 4 schools now, (El Rosario, the Bi-lingual School of Chimal, Labor de Falla, El Refugio), Cerro Alto has found alternative support from another source and is no longer being served by the Kaqchikel Presbytery's Clinic.

Technical-Theological School:

The school continues to address the needs of indigenous adults with 2 classes of 20 students, 2 semesters a year. This is the last year the Presbytery of Baltimore will fund this school as it is to find alternative financing to keep Principal, Saúl Pérez, salaried, and pay for misc. expenses.

Scholarship Program:

136 students are scholarshiped as of January, 2005. Discussions with Ronaldo will discover if this is a sustainable limit. Betsy & Sally wish to include a short profile of the student's village to supplement benefactors' information, pending Ronaldo's approval. As per the present plan, 1 child per family is eligible for scholarship.

Onil Stoves:

The program runs heartily with a 2004 grant of \$5,000 from Towson PC and others.

Budgets & Balances:

Bill reports reallocation of funds as per attached balance sheet. "School Supplies" denotes physical gifts to enhance classroom instruction (desks, posters) as well as paper & pencils. Betsy & Sally cite numerical differences for "School Supplies/scholarships" between their records and those kept by the PoBaltimore. ******They will meet with Judi Forrester to reconcile differences. Bill noted that with a \$30,000 grant to the partnership budget, about ½ of what we distribute through the Clinic is raised through our churches. More diligent efforts are needed to bring other PoBaltimore churches into supporting this mission's efforts.

Trips:

July 23-29, 2005 – a Youth Trip designed to introduce older youth to service. 3 adult chaperones have committed. Students from Brown Memorial, Frederick, Hagerstown and Christ Our Anchor have inquired seriously. Steve plans to discuss with Ronaldo the types of activities our students will engage in with Mayan youth.

March 7-11, 2005- Steve T., Peter Nord and Millie K plan to represent the Baltimore Presbytery for the G.A.'s meeting of Presbyteries in partnership with Guatemala in the Capitol City.

October, 2005 – Dates are negotiable with the K-Presbtery at this time.

February, 2006 – Dates being considered need not conflict with 3/1 (Ash Wed).

Important Reading: **Weaving Relationships: Canada-Guatemala Solidarity** by Kathryn

Anderson, 2003, tells what Canada's approach to mission has been here. The emphasis on spiritual relationship could be instructive for us. Order from the Wilfrid Laurier University Press from www.wlupress.wlu.ca.

Homes Stays:

Linda suggested willing participants to Guatemala mission stay in village homes a few nights to build relationships that definitively tell indigenous persons they are worthy partners. Ronaldo is willing to set this up whenever we ask. **We will broach the topic next week.

1st PC of Howard County:

Since 2001, this church has partnered with a [Quiché?] indigenous Presbytery in western Guatemala under the auspices of the Keeseckers (G.A. missionaries) near Xela. 1st of Howard has asked the PoBaltimore to incorporate their mission effort into ours at the presbytery level. They wish to begin health promoter, scholarship and stove programs out there, and are looking to share information with us. As there were no objections to this, **Bonnie & Bill will continue discussion with this group and report to this committee on progress of talks. Bob Ferguson's history with the mission effort at Xela is needed to help us determine how involved we are willing to combine efforts with the Keesecker-led group. Tom cautioned there might still be issues between the Quiché and the Kaqchikel.

IMA (Interchurch Medical Assistance) of New Windsor, MD:

IMA has offered to help us raise funds through their 14-Protestant-sectarian network which is accessible through their website: www.interchurch.org. Their fee is 10% of whatever they raise for us. IMA has been a reliable furnisher of medical boxes to Guatemala for many years. **Bill will pursue the offer and report back to this group.

PoBaltimore's Mission Revisioning:

Jack Sharp has been appointed to lead change in this Presbytery's mission models; to move away from the Presbytery as grant-maker to empowering churches to take ownership for projects in their area for which they feel led to support. Jack wishes to evaluate our model which seems to closely approximate what he seeks. This group agreed to dialog with Jack and find out how this might affect our work.

Heifer Project-Guatemala:

The money raised by Ashland PC kids to purchase animals for developing nations will be sent to the project's work in Tecpan, as per our request. However, in order to get some of our Kaqchikel partner-villages approved as animal recipients, the process toward membership approval is about one year long and entails village coop organization, site evaluation, training and willingness to make such a gift a sustainable gift. Ronaldo suggested the Cho Antonio group, headed by Antonio Valle Tubac, would like to become an approved recipient. **Bill & Bonnie will seek to speak with Heifer Int'l people in Guatemala next week to facilitate the relationship.

Fundraising:

This group should pursue other sources for grants. Most obvious are other PoBaltimore churches, in which case, more aggressive contact and info-sharing is necessary. The "19 for 19" slogan seeks to get 19 churches to commit to this mission as a budget line item. 2nd PC was mentioned again as a church looking to find a mission home for its healthy endowments.

Other Interests: Long Range Planning:

Mike mentioned that in Fall, 2003, he saw many "Grinos" in Chimaltenango who might need the services of our HDV Clinic while they are visiting the area. **We will ask Ronaldo if and how the Clinic could contract their medical services to U.S. tourists – through the website?

Adela's Operation:

**We will report to this group on the medical status of the Hotel San Angel's cook.

Gifts:

Sally will purchase a MD flag to give to our village hosts who are bringing us to the Virgin of Candelaria's Fair and to Sonia Martinez's daughter, Lucia, who recently underwent eye surgery to correct double vision.

Adjournment: The group adjourned to dinner at 6:40pm.

Minutes submitted by Bonnie Clarke 1/23/05 by email