

Our fall delegation consisted of 6 partnership members who traveled to Guatemala in late October to be with our Kaqchikel brothers and sisters. Our purpose was to review the past year's work, plan together next year's goals and further strengthen our relationship through fellowship and worship. The following are some highlights of the trip and the year:

- The staff of the Herbert Valentine Clinic saw over 1500 patients in the first nine months of this year. This was largely accomplished through increased village visits by the doctor. Health promoters are now fully trained and in place in all 17 villages served by the clinic. Their roll is to be the local health representatives, dispensing over the counter medicine and advice on healthy living and making appropriate referrals to the clinic when warranted.
- The clinic's experimental nutrition program was a great success. Sixty school children in one village were chosen to receive a daily dietary supplement of vitamins and soya protein drink. Data recently collected show that, on average, each child has gained 10 pounds in the last nine months. This program will be expanded to three villages next year and will cover over 300 children.
- The scholarship program begun this year made it possible for 23 elementary and middle school students to attend school. For the cost of \$125 (\$150 for middle school) a child can be supplied with a uniform, books and supplies which enable him or her to attend the "free" public schools. This program has met with overwhelming acclaim both in Maryland and Guatemala and we began the task of identifying the 70 students we will be able to sponsor for next year!
- We toured the nearly completed school for Mayan leadership and cultural education which has been constructed at the Kaqchikel Presbytery site. This three classroom facility will serve 20 adult students per semester as they prepare to be responsible citizens using Mayan culture as a basis.
- Our second experimental program this year has been the construction of Lorena cooking stoves in one village. These stoves provide a safe, properly vented cooking center for a household where the alternative is by and large an open wood fire on the ground in the kitchen. Fifteen stoves have been constructed so far and word is spreading fast – at last count over 90 women were hoping to be included in the project next year (and this is only one of 17 villages...).

For those of you interested in more information about the Partnership, please visit our new web site – www.guatemalapartnership.org . We certainly hope to be in your giving and mission plans for year end and the holiday season. Because we are expanding the scope of this mission, we are always looking for more people to join us in our partnership with the Kaqchikel. How are you called to mission? Please feel free to contact me directly.

With His Grace,

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