

**Report for Outreach/Mission Division
Rev. Anne Morgan, Division Chair
April, 2016**

- The Division continues to implement the new structure approved by presbytery last fall.
- **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

MISSION TRIP – PDA FLOOD RESPONSE in SOUTH CAROLINA MAY 1-7

The Mission Team includes: Bob Abel, Jim Benton, Ed Forsyth, Ben Hill, Bob Klatt, Ed Lane, Melvin Meares, Joanne Mitchell, Russell Rankin, Vince Roebuck, Mindy Roebuck, Sarah Shumate, Charles Stringer, Cindy Therriault, Bobbi Trick, Phil Trick, Darell Tobias, and Kenneth Unnash.

The goals for this trip include:

- Perform needed tasks: demolition, insulation, drywall, painting, landscaping, flooring, etc.
- Build and experience God’s gift of community within the team, the owners of the homes being rehabbed, and volunteers from other locations.

The team will be hosted by Lake Murray Presbyterian Church and will be working in homes in the badly flooded after the dam on Lake Murray failed following epic rains last October.

- **MALAWI PARTNERSHIP - May Delegation – May 15-31**

The Mission Team includes: Tommy Burleson, Barbara Heilman, Betsy Keith, Thomas Kilgore, Teresa Locke, Andrea McFee, Jackson Mott, Brian Schroeder, and Barbara White.

The Goals of this trip include:

- Broaden our understanding of the people of Malawi & draw us closer together;
- Share our stories of Christ’s love and bring it back to share here;
- Work on needed tasks in conjunction with our partners in Malawi;
- Create awareness of larger issues in the world & support for the ministries in Malawi.

See attached important letters from Barbara Nagy and Bobbi White concerning the change in Dr. Nagy’s call. (Outreach Attachment 1)

- **GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE- June Delegation: June 2-10**

The Mission Team includes: Unavailable for this report.

The Goals of this trip include:

- Broaden our understanding of the people in Guatemala & bring us closer together
- Share our stories and Christ’s love and bring it back to share here;
- Demonstrate the strength of our ongoing partnerships with churches and presbyteries in Guatemala;
- Foster communication and relationships between partner congregations.

Micro-loan project – some exciting and life-changing things are happening with this project. (Outreach Attachment 2)

- **HUNGER COMMITTEE** will meet April 30 to evaluate the NICKEL-A-MEAL applications received by the April 1 deadline. These funds will be disbursed in July. You will find at the Presbytery of WNC display an application form and guidelines for applying for these funds for the next deadline which is October 1. Please note: The Hunger Committee generally does not fund programs on successive years.

- **CAMPUS MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

Our campus minister, Karol Farris, at UKirk at Western Carolina University, continues to build a ministry with students there. She is continuing to develop the student ministry program. If you know of any current WCU students or those who may be attending in the fall, please share their names with Karol so that she may reach out to them and encourage their participation in this new campus ministry. For more information about UKirk at Western Carolina University you can visit their websites at: www.ukirkwcu.org and www.hillsidegrind.org or read an update in the Stated Clerks Report (Stated Clerk Attachment 4).



Outreach Attachment 1

Dear friends,

I would like to share with you the difficult decision I have made to leave Malawi at the end of this school year for Happy, in June of 2016. You, our beloved friends and supporters in Western North Carolina have been our daily joy and partners throughout the past twelve years of ministry here, and have become dear friends of the community at Nkhoma as well. This decision comes at a particularly challenging time for Nkhoma Hospital and the Building Hope campaign, but has been made after months of prayer, contemplation and seeking guidance from wise colleagues and spiritual mentors. I have not taken it lightly.

Several years ago members of the Presbyterian community were willing to support my education in public health, attempting to be faithful to the Presbyterian Church's call to address root causes of poverty and injustice. I firmly believe this is the right pathway, and that continuing this effort is the most effective way of bringing health and wholeness to disadvantaged people everywhere, especially women and children. However, my previous extensive commitment to acute care pediatrics at Nkhoma Hospital, with few other clinicians available, made this change in call very difficult to accomplish. We have attempted numerous strategies over the past two years to ameliorate this situation without success, and as a result of the overwhelming workload of trying to manage both positions and support Happy in her learning disability, significant challenges in my own health have developed. Happy's education has also remained very problematic in spite of unprecedented support from PCUSA and members of our own presbytery.

Over the past twelve years of ministry at Nkhoma, I feel proud and blessed to have been part of the work of Nkhoma Hospital, and extremely grateful to have partnered with you throughout the process. Through our mission letters we have communicated various funny, unique or touching stories of life here, but they are mere glimmers of the incredible privilege felt in extending the compassion of Christ to the many people who live in this community. The lives changed, the numerous health workers trained, the proper ordering of children's health services and the fleshing out of God's love for Malawi will not go away with our departure. Advocacy for health rights and healthy communities will also continue to bear fruit.

As I have served in Nkhoma, Malawi, this presbytery has been a tremendous support to me, Nkhoma Hospital, and Ebenezer School. We began with a connection primarily through my medical mission, but strong relationships have since been developed with hospital staff and others these last twelve years. Even during the years that I have not been in Malawi, Presbytery of Western NC mission teams have continued to come to Malawi and faithfully do their work. The Building Hope Campaign as it impacts Malawi is supporting Ebenezer School, direct patient care at Nkhoma Hospital, a mobile medical clinic vehicle, and community health improvement in our Nkhoma Synod health centers. These initiatives are needed more now than they have ever been before, and the administrative and financial structures needed to see these projects succeed are robust and stable. I firmly hope our personal needs as a family to move to another assignment will in no way weaken the strong commitment our presbytery has made to Nkhoma Hospital and Ebenezer School. They remain ministries of extremely high effectiveness and integrity.

May God continue to bless you as you faithfully live out your ministry with the Nkhoma community.

Barbara Nagy and family



Outreach Attachment 1

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina

114 Silver Creek Road, Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: (828)438-4217

Fax: (828)437-8655

To: Presbytery of Western North Carolina
From: Rev. Bobbi White, General Presbyter, PWNC
Date: March 31, 2016

Dear Friends,

Most of you know of Dr. Barbara Nagy and the incredible work she has done over the past twelve years in medical ministry at the Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi. Due to personal, family, and health concerns, Barbara has decided that she will leave her mission co-worker position in Nkhoma, Malawi at the end of the current school year in June (See her attached letter). While her future career is uncertain, her effectiveness as a physician in the midst of drought, famine, poverty, and political uncertainty speaks for itself. During her tenure in Malawi, the infant mortality rate in Nkhoma has dropped by over 75%, and together, the medical staff and management have developed a strong hospital complex in an area plagued by complications. They have had the vision, resourcefulness, and commitment to make extraordinary advances in basic health care in Malawi.

Though for many of us in the PWNC, Barbara Nagy has been the “face” of the mission efforts in Malawi, there has been much accomplished by this presbytery in the same decade. Ever since Barbara’s first year at Nkhoma in 2003, this presbytery has sent a mission team annually (or twice a year). These teams have worked with Barbara and her colleagues in Nkhoma to reach the health and education goals that have been mutually identified. We have developed strong working relationships with both the hospital staff and community leaders, like Drs. Reyneir ter Haar and David Morton, lead physicians at Nkhoma Hospital, and Willeke ter Haar, the director of the Ebenezer Institute of Learning, a school that this presbytery started in response to local need. The development of the nine outlying rural clinics associated with the Nkhoma Hospital has also been the particular ministry of this presbytery. After many visits and mission teams to Nkhoma (at least 4 while Barbara was back in the US), our ministry in Malawi has grown beyond dependency on Barbara. The abundance of good work that has been accomplished in the past in the name of Jesus Christ will surely continue into the future. There is a solid base of commitment in the PWNC and with our partners in Malawi to continue this robust ministry in Malawi.

Our partners in Malawi share the same commitment to continue. To that end, I will be traveling to Nkhoma in May alongside this year’s mission team to solidify our mutual commitment, our system of accountability, and our partnership in the absence of Barbara Nagy. Other PCUSA mission co-workers familiar with the area have also agreed to assist, if needed. Clarifying our shared obligations and continuing to nurture personal relationships will allow us to progress in a healthy manner. If you have questions about these transitions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me. I would welcome your insights.

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We certainly wish Barbara and her family all the best, and pray that every step on their path is guided by the loving hands of Jesus Christ. I hope you will take the opportunity to thank Barbara and her family for their faithful service. Barbara is leaving part of her heart in Malawi. While we will miss seeing Barbara and her family on our visits, we are grateful for our partners in Nkhoma. I feel even stronger that this is where God is calling us in ministry. We will let you know Barbara's future plans when she determines them. Thanks also goes to you for your love and support.

This first twelve years has been a wonderful start. Following the principles that have guided our presbytery in the past, we can accomplish more together than we can separately through our common faith in Jesus Christ. May our common efforts to further Christ's ministry in Malawi be abundantly blessed by the Holy Spirit!

Sharing Christ's Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobbi White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Bobbi White
General Presbyter

Attachment – Letter from Dr. Barbara Nagy

Guatemala Microloan Project

MARCH 2016



A joint project of Presbyterian Women from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and Suchitepequez and Sur Occidente Presbyteries

Cycle 2 of the **Guatemala Microloan Project** is underway with 29 returning and 41 new participants. Ellen Dozier, Marilyn Baldrige and Mimi Michael traveled with the Presbytery of Western North Carolina to Guatemala in January to visit with the four microloan groups. What a joy to hear reports of what the women are learning and the benefits they are receiving.

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS



Lidia (a leader of her church in San Felipe): "Women are learning a lot about how to invest and administer money. Here there are rules. It is not easy, but step by step women are now part of a group and learning to work together."

Aura (a new participant from San Felipe, sells products for the home):

"I give thanks to God for the microloans. This help has been very important in my life. We have seen the powerful hand of God because we have not been without food in my house, and my sales are increasing. I hope one day to have much more to be able to help many people, no matter their religion, race, or color because all of us are children of one powerful God. May our Lord God pour many and abundant blessings on all those that make this microloan business possible."

Outreach Attachment 2

Lety (a single mother from Santo Domingo, sells clothing, perfume, cheese door to door):

"I give thanks to God. I feel very comforted by God and by you brothers and sisters. God bless you wherever you go."



Mirna (a new participant from Coatepeque):

"First, I give thanks to God for the existence of this project that is a great help to us women. I also give thanks to everyone from North Carolina for supporting this project. May God bless you. This project has helped me a lot as through it I have been sending my children to school, and my business is growing."



Marilyn, Mimi and Ellen learning about Carmelina's business venture

REFLECTIONS ON MICROLOAN GROUPS

Marilyn Baldrige, PW moderator from Brevard-Davidson River, shared the following observations from her trip:

- The joy of achievement: the "I can do this" moment and the women's pride in saving money
- Women re-investing in themselves and their businesses
- Women partnering and "Paying It Forward" to help other women
- The power of Guatemalan women working with Adehgua. Dina, who said this program is a change from the old cultural model of Guatemalans "holding out our hands for money, eating (using) the money and then

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- coming back for another handout."
- A rise in confidence and self esteem - money given in loans returns in many ways
 - An increase in family well-being - enough money to feed and educate their family
 - "Safety in Numbers" - together we can do this

My experience has made me aware of the need to strengthen our local church's sense of partnership with our Guatemalan neighbors, to expand this from being "just the mission of a few" to a way to make a meaningful contribution with the time God has given me here on earth. To use my resources to make a difference.

NOW ON FACEBOOK

To receive regular updates, like our page: ["Guatemala Microloan Project."](#)

MOTHER'S DAY CARD PROJECT



Individuals and congregations are invited to honor important women on Mother's Day by giving to the **Guatemala Microloan Project**. In exchange for a monetary donation, a card will be made available explaining how the gift in their honor helps Guatemalan women grow in self-esteem, hope and freedom. For further information, instructions, and to order cards contact: *Debby Vial* at [*debby.vial@gmail.com*](mailto:debby.vial@gmail.com) or 502-407-7402.

The Guatemala Microloan Task Force is very grateful for the ongoing prayer and financial support that have enabled this project to develop. Several other

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churches in Guatemala have expressed an interest in hosting a microloan group. With over 30 churches in our two partner presbyteries, there is great potential for growth as resources become available.

CAN YOU MAKE A DONATION TO FUND THIS SUCCESSFUL AND GROWING PROJECT?

*Make checks payable to PW PWNC and designate for Guatemala Microloan Fund:
Becky Lineberger, PW Treasurer
1738 Charles Raper Jonas Hwy
Mt Holly, NC 28120*

Members of the Microloan Task Force are available to provide a program for your group:

Marilyn Baldrige, Jamie Beasley, Ellen Cinq-Mars, Patricia Clark, Ellen Dozier, Buzz Durham, Ben Hill, Margarete Kennerly, Susan Maveety, Barbara McLean, Mimi Michael, and Ginnie Stevens.

For More Information Contact:

*Mimi Michael
828-234-0176 or
mimimichael17@gmail.com*

*Ellen Dozier
828-403-3988 or
ellendozier@hotmail.com*

Guatemala Microloan Project



April 2016

A joint project of Presbyterian Women from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and Suchitepequez and Sur Occidente Presbyteries

Order Mother's Day Cards Today!

A GFJ has been made in your honor to the
GUATEMALA MICROLOAN PROJECT

The Guatemala Microloan project gives women an opportunity to grow in self-reliance, hope, and freedom as well as develop sources of economic income.

Beginning in April 2015, thirty-two women from Suchitepequez and Sur Occidente presbyteries in Guatemala received training and were given \$125 loans to embark on or expand business ventures. The women were given this first month cycle included selling to a lot, grocery stores, raising chickens or pigs, selling and clothing, sewing, preparing and repair.

The project grew to include recovery women in the second cycle. Donations make it possible for this project to continue and expand.

in your honor
HELPING WOMEN FIND HOPE

in your honor
HELPING WOMEN FIND HOPE

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On Mother's Day, it seems particularly fitting to honor significant women in our lives while also providing greater opportunities for less advantaged women and children.

In exchange for a donation to the
Guatemala Microloan Project
you will receive a card to give that explains how the gift enables Guatemalan women to grow in self-esteem, hope, and freedom.

To order cards or for information on how to sponsor a Mother's Day Card Project in your church contact Debby Vial: debby.vial@gmail.com or 502-407-7402.

TO MAKE A DONATION:

*Make checks payable to PW PWNC, designate for Guatemala Microloan Project, and send to:
Sharon Meares, PW Treasurer
1012 10th St Ct NW
Hickory NC 28601*

LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:

[Guatemala Microloan Project](#)