

## **Mission Committee Report to Meeting of PWNC, October 27, 2018**

### **Mission Interpretation Report:**

The Mission Committee would like to encourage as many churches as possible to learn about and financially support at least one Mission Co-Worker. A member of our committee would be willing to come to your church to talk with you about the names and situations of those who are serving around the world who need your support. If you/ your church would like to receive a phone call or a visit, please call or email Ellen Dozier at: email: ellendozier@hotmail.com Phone: 828-862-3995

### **Mission Work Teams Report:**

Two disaster assistance teams were planned for this Fall. The first one, scheduled for September 16-22, to Lumberton, NC was canceled because of flooding from Hurricane Florence in that area. The second disaster assistance trip is scheduled for October 14-20 to Fayetteville, NC and is a “go” as of the writing of this report. Seven men and 2 women are signed up to go with us at this time: Gerri Tolley, Dick Grier, and Dale Sticka from Highlands Presbyterian, Brian Schroeder from First Pres. Gastonia, Chuck Shelton from Morrison Pres. Franklin, Phil and Bobbi Trick from First Pres. Hickory, and Russ Rankin and Bob Abel from Hayesville Pres. It’s great to have some first-timers joining those who have gone on previous trips!

Disaster Assistance trips are planned for every Spring and Fall. It is clear from everything we have seen in recent weeks that there will be needs for our help for years to come. We invite and encourage members from any of our churches to consider going with us.

### **Young Adults in Mission Report:**

YAV money has been sent to Hands & Feet of Asheville (since no YAVs have requested it this year). Mission Committee encourages all our churches to learn more about the Young Adults in Mission (YAV) program/opportunity for young adults in our churches. Go to the PCUSA web site and read all about it. We would like to give some monetary support to any YAV from our presbytery.

### **PWNC Disaster Preparedness Plan Report:**

The Mission Committee thanks Associate Billy Robinson for his good work in communicating with the churches of PWNC about what to do to prepare for Hurricane Florence, which could have come as far inland as our presbytery with winds, rain and flooding. PWNC office was ready to receive phone calls from any churches that were damaged, so that the other churches of our presbytery could be undergirding them with our prayers; and when the time was right, possibly provide some assistance with clean up and repair efforts.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responding to the damage from hurricanes and typhoons around the world and needs our support. But, if your church wants to contribute specifically to the efforts that are underway in the presbyteries of Eastern NC, you may send your check to presbytery office, memo line “Hurricane Florence Relief, Eastern NC”.

**Next mtg.:** December 3, 2018 at 12:30pm at Black Mountain Presbyterian



## PWNC Guatemala Partnership Update

October 2018

The PWNC Guatemala partnership committee continues to work with our brothers and sisters in both of our sister Presbyteries to build healthier and stronger communities. Primary focus areas continue to include: health, women's microloans, strengthening sister church relationships, and education initiatives.

### **Updates from Guatemala:**

Both of our sister presbyteries, Sur Occidente and Suchitepéquez are currently experiencing major transitions in leadership.

1. Sur Occidente- Completed an evaluation of their coordinator, Pastor Natael Lopez, who has been serving in the role since 2014. The majority of churches were not satisfied with his performance and he will be replaced in December 2019, potentially by Pastor Ronald Alvaro (final approval pending). Pastor Alvaro is pastor of Suluda's sister church and has served in leadership at the presbytery's executive level. His wife, Gloria Calderon, is the current chair of Sur's partnership committee and communicates well with the PWNC.
2. Suchitepéquez- Coordinator, Margoth Vela, immigrated to the United States in early September leaving her position vacant. Suchi still has not presented the PWNC's partnership committee with a list of nominees for the coordinator position.

### **Focus areas for our Guatemala Leadership team:**

1. Completion of a "Passport to Partnership" to outline the history, current projects and guidelines of the Guatemala Partnership. Upon approval by the PWNC in early 2019 it will be distributed to ALL PWNC churches, new pastors, mission chairs, etc.
2. Committee work/special projects- The microloan, health, and education projects continue to create positive impact in Guatemala but the PWNC is aware that continued conversations are needed with both Suchi and Sur to make sure long-term goals/processes are agreed upon.
3. **Important Note**

*In the January 2018 Joint partnership meeting, leadership teams agreed that it would be helpful to get all our sister church covenants on the same cycles so that we can better assist those churches who wish to renew/modify/or dissolve church to church covenants. It was determined that all PWNC/Suchitepéquez churches would renew effective January 2019 and all PWNC/Sur Occidente churches would renew effective January 1, 2020.*

**UPDATE!** Due to changes in leadership in our sister presbyteries in Guatemala and concerns voiced by churches in the PWNC regarding 5-year commitments, the partnership committees are revisiting the covenant renewal process guidelines and will present proposed guidelines to the PWNC for approval. We encourage all PWNC churches who have sister churches in Guatemala to use the upcoming months to engage in prayerful and intentional conversations to determine hopes and or intentions of your church to church/scholarship covenants and please communicate

your hopes, concerns, and intentions to PWNC's Guatemala Partnership Coordinator, Marie Palacios.

All PWNC churches should expect to receive calls and emails from our partnership committee to address covenant renewals and other partnership opportunities in the upcoming months!

### **2018-2019 Guatemala Travel Updates**

- ✓ Black Mountain- traveled from July 25- August 1
- ✓ PWNC Microloan Committee- traveled in August
- ✓ PWNC Delegation- scheduled for November 8-15  
*\*Churches participating in the November delegation include: Hayesville, Shelby, Grace Covenant, Saluda, Long Creek, Waldensian, Mount Holly, and Banner Elk.*
- ✓ January 26-February 5, 2019 – Joint Partnership Meeting in Guatemala
- ✓ February 5-14, 2019- Microloan trip to Guatemala\*

### **Upcoming PWNC Delegations**

**Trip Date:** May 16-23, 2019

**Application deadline:** Oct 30, 2019

**Trip Date:** November 7-14, 2019

**Application deadline:** April 1, 2019

Registration forms for trips are posted on the PWNC website under the Guatemala Partnership.

*\*If you are interested in participating in a delegation trip or if your church is planning a trip in the upcoming year, please contact Marie Palacios, PWNC Guatemala Partnership Coordinator: Email: [pwncguatemala@gmail.com](mailto:pwncguatemala@gmail.com) Cell: 828-838-4245*

## Guatemala Microloan Project Update: Fall 2018

### THIS IS WHAT LOVE OF NEIGHBOR LOOKS LIKE

During the 6th cycle, ADEHGUÀ staff who administer the Guatemala Microloan Project interviewed women who have been participants from the beginning and asked them to share their thoughts and feelings about the brothers and sisters of the churches in the US who support this project. Here are some of their comments:



**Rosa Vásquez** (Pictured at left): I wish many blessings for them, these families that support us. We have not seen each other, nor embraced or greeted one another, but this is what love of neighbor looks like; this is what it looks like for them to love us. I am grateful to God. (Las Animas)

**Any Lucrecia Quich:** I think that the people there are working to help us; it would be unfair if I do not work. So that one day they will say: what we did was good. Thank you and may God continue to bless you. Maybe it seems insignificant, but for us it is a great help, for my children, my family. Sometimes the money that our husbands earn is not enough for all the expenses, and we, the women, can make our contribution to improve the lives of our families. (Santo Domingo)

**Thelma Méndez** (pictured at right): Thank God they are doing a good job because they are teaching and educating their children to love their neighbor; they are doing what is pleasing to God; they are making one and several hearts happy. Although we do not know them, we love them and we ask God to bless them. We have a great desire to know them, how they work and organize to do their work. (Coatepeque)



**Marcia Velásquez:** They love their neighbor, because without knowing us, they thought about the importance of teaching women that yes, they are able to succeed in life. I thank you very much. In my prayers I ask God to bless you. You have given us support, for the group it has been important, for my family, my children and I as a woman, to get ahead. (San Felipe)

**Thank you** to all who have supported this project in various ways: through your interest, by hosting or attending gatherings to learn about the project, by praying and serving as prayer partners, by making financial contributions, by purchasing Mother's Day or alternative giving cards, by serving on the microloan task force, or by overseeing special projects. May the women's expressions of thanks be an encouragement to each of you.

**To read other reflections from women in the microloan project,** be sure to visit our "**Guatemala Microloan Project**" Facebook page.

## GIVING THANKS FOR THE LIFE OF JULIO ROCA



In June, the Microloan Task Force was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of Julio Roca of ADEHGUÁ. Julio believed that change for his beloved country of Guatemala could best come by strengthening and empowering women. He was key in establishing the microloan project and worked with wisdom, dedication and passion. We were inspired by and are deeply grateful for his life, example, and partnership. He will be greatly missed, but the women who have benefited from this project remain part of his legacy. We are grateful that, though grieved to lose their coworker, Mildre Castillo and Flor de Maria Quiñonez are very capable and determined to carry on. Please keep them in your prayers.

## MICROLOAN TRIP TO GUATEMALA

**February 4-11, 2019** - We are organizing a trip to Guatemala in February 2019 to visit the microloan groups, and would like to include Presbyterian Women who are interested in seeing the project firsthand and who are willing to return and share what they experience. If you want to learn more, contact Mimi Michael at [mimimichael17@gmail.com](mailto:mimimichael17@gmail.com) or 828-234-0176.

**Travel Expenses** - Travel to oversee the microloan project is important. Anyone who would like to help with expenses or sponsor individuals traveling can send donations to our PW Treasurer (see contact info below) and designate gifts for the "Guatemala Microloan Travel Fund."

## IMPORTANT WAYS YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

- \* Individuals or groups can **serve as a Prayer Partner** to a microloan participant. Contact Sue Barrett at [suebar@comporium.net](mailto:suebar@comporium.net) or 828-553-3621 for more information.
- \* We are grateful for all who have made this project possible, and welcome new supporters as well. **Send Donations** to PW Treasurer *Sharon Meares, 1012 10th ST CT NW, Hickory, NC 28601*. Checks should be payable to PW PWNC and designated for the Guatemala Microloan Project.
- \* **Invite** someone from the Guatemala Microloan Task Force to speak to your group about the microloan project. Contact Susan Maveety at 828-768-5475 or [maveety@charter.net](mailto:maveety@charter.net) to arrange.

### **Guatemala Microloan Project Task Force Members:**

Marilyn Baldrige, Jamie Beasely, Ellen Dozier, Mary Louise Forsythe, Terri Hendrix, Ben Hill, Tina Joyner, Bethany Mannon, Susan Maveety, Mimi Michael, Sandra Teubner

## Presbytery of WNC Delegation to Malawi

### May 17- 31 and June 14-28, 2019

#### WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY AND EXPERIENCE:

This year, we are exploring two dates for our annual trip to Malawi. If there is sufficient interest, we will schedule both trips. Otherwise, we will schedule the trip with the most interest. Please indicate which trip suits you best, or if you could join us for either trip. There may be a need to adjust by one or two days depending on ticket availability and other factors. Teams are generally 10-12 people. The target dates at this time are May 17-31, 2019 and June 14-28, 2019. The June date may work best for those whose availability is dependent upon school calendars. The Ebenezer students are still in school on both dates, so we will get to meet them.

If you are interested in going, please submit your application for consideration by **November 29, 2018**. If you have questions or would like to discuss the trip further, please contact Billy Robinson or Bobbi White by November 23, 2018.

#### Contact information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### Check one of the following:

- I am submitting my application for consideration.
- I am interested in the trip and have some questions.

#### Check all that apply:

- I am interested in joining the team for the May 17- 31, 2019 trip.
- I am interested in joining the team for the June 14- 28, 2019 trip.
- I am interested in joining the team and can attend either date, but my preference is: \_\_\_\_\_.

#### GOALS OF THE TRIP:

- Broaden our understanding of our brothers and sisters in another part of the world and bring us closer to each other;
- To learn their stories and share ours;
- Take Christ's love there and bring it back;
- Provide opportunity for the Malawians and for us to learn from the strengths of our faith in each culture, and to help us come more into balance, moving closer to the abundant life;
- Demonstrate the interconnectedness between local congregations, Presbytery, the denomination, and our international church partners;
- Create awareness of larger issues in the world;
- Raise support for the ministries related to our presbytery in Malawi. (Nkhoma Hospital, the mobile health unit, the rural villages, Ebenezer School, the seminarians, and more).

**Experiences from the last trip include seeing/doing the following:**

- Celebrating in seeing old friends and developing relationships with new friends. Hosting dinner for others and receiving the gift of hospitality from our Malawian friends. Sharing worship together;
- Traveling with the mobile health unit where people, including more than a hundred women with babies on their back, walk to have their babies weighed on a scale hung from a tree branch. Seeing a clinician giving vaccinations, people being tested for Malaria and medicines given;
- Visiting a village health clinic being constructed in areas where it is too far to walk to the hospital, where vaccinations, medicine, well-baby care, and tests for Malaria and HIV are being provided;
- Experiencing the education provided to about 350 students at Ebenezer School, seeing students in assembly and classrooms, and helping out at the school;
- Visiting a prison where Nkhoma Synod ministers;
- Repairing, updating, and painting at rural health clinics. Thanks to Building HOPE, these clinics will soon have electricity and, in the future, running water;
- Learning about how the hospital and its outreach (rural health clinics, village clinics, the mobile health unit, etc.) are improving the health of the people; Supporting the hospital in various ways including murals done by the team;
- Experiencing a Malawian wildlife safari;
- Repairing and painting classrooms at the seminary, helping with student housing, meeting the seminarian students and their wives, presenting Study Bibles to graduates, and receiving gifts.

The cost will be \$3,000, excluding personal preparation expenses (passport, immunizations, medicines, etc.). These funds include project money used in Malawi. Limited financial aid is available. However, there is a hope and tradition of home congregations either financially supporting team members or facilitating fundraising for team members. A deposit of \$1,500 must be sent with the application and received no later than **November 29, 2018**. Make the check payable to "PWNC." If we are not able to accept your application, the \$1,500 will be returned. Once plane reservations are made, deposits become non-refundable. The final payment of \$1,500 is due **March 23, 2019**.

## **Application**

**This application, the \$1,500 deposit, and a letter of endorsement from your Pastor (or Clerk of Session, if there is no Pastor) must be in the Presbytery office at the address below by November 29, 2018.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on your passport: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport number: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Trip Date: May \_\_\_\_\_ June \_\_\_\_\_ Preference, if both \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions briefly on a separate sheet of paper:

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

All participants must make certain commitments before, during and after their mission experience. **Please consider and initial these below and sign your pledge to pursue them.** If accepted, 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 our involvement in this mission trip.
2. **I will pray** regularly for mission team participants and their churches (including myself and my own), those with whom we will be interacting in Malawi, and that we will all be sensitive to God's leading.
3. **I will attend** the following meetings: *Orientation for first-time participants only; Overnight retreat; Conference calls, Packing evening (day before flight at Southminster PC in Gastonia and spend the night near airport), and Reunion/Debriefing.*
4. **I will study the orientation booklet** in preparation for the trip. (This will be given to first time participants in February.)
5. **I will abide by the guidelines for the team.** I understand these exist for the well-being of the group and our relationship with Malawians.
6. **I will keep a record of my experience and prepare to share my experience** with others in my church and in other congregations or groups within the Presbytery.

**I pledge myself to do the above.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail forms and deposit check to:** (Must be received by **November 29, 2018**)

Malawi Mission Team  
 Presbytery of Western North Carolina  
 114 Silver Creek Rd.  
 Morganton, NC 28655