

2005 Guatemala Mission Team Daily News

Ron Amberg, Communications

Number 3, August 14, 2005

Spring Valley United Methodist Church

Two of the Spring Valley Guatemala Mission Team tell about the events they experienced on Sunday.



DAY TWO, SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2005 **SPRING VALLEY GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM**

Market and Church

Ted Butler:

Buenos Tardes - Good evening from Guatemala,

We have had a wonderful day. This was our free day to enjoy before we begin the real work at the medical clinic.



Don Barnes addressing the congregation at Daniel's church.

We left at 9 A.M. and went into the ChiChi market. (The largest market in Guatemala).

Everyone shopped all morning and visited the sights.

There are two main churches in the center of town. Both are Catholic and very run down with little to offer other than the faith of the dedicated religious in ChiChi.

We witnessed a procession from the church carrying a relic of some significance to the Mayan people.

The churches had very little furniture and the people will not allow any renovation on the art in the sanctuary.

This evening we went to church with our interpreter, who we hired, that lives in ChiChi.

His church only had 24 members in last year's service and nearly 100 this year.

Their service was nearly two hours long.

Afterwards, we returned to our hotel, ate and Don Barnes had a service along with communion.

Tomorrow we start at 6 A.M.

- Ted Butler



Tom Purcell took pictures of the church families after the service. Each family was given a print.

Ginny Bitting:



Don Barnes administered communion to the team. Betty Reichel is standing in the center. Identifying those of our team in blue shirts, the first five seated left to right: Jan Andersen, Frank Andersen, Lucy Hemming, Leona Wynne, and Jerry Malone. On the far side of the room seated left to right: Ginny Bitting, Elizabeth Gross, Bekki Beverly, Terry Baughn, Robert Gross, Carol Baughn, Stephen Beverly, George Sikes, and Phyllis Sikes.

Hola dear friends at SVUMC,

It's so good to be back in Guatemala!!

I'm so thankful I didn't have to miss out on this delightful experience due to recent knee surgery.

I have an amazing team to support and assist.

Today has been an extraordinary Sunday. We started our day with a visit to the huge, bustling market in ChiChi.

We bartered, bought, ate lunch, and returned to the hotel in time to get ready for church.



The team ready to get on the bus headed to the market.

Left to right: Frank Andersen, Jan Andersen, Tom Purcell, Terry Baughn, Stephen Beverly, Ted Butler, Nancy Purcell, Bekki Beverly, Leona Wynne, Peg Gilbert, Ginny Bitting, Robert Gross, Elizabeth Gross, Betty Reichel, Don Barnes (with Jacklyn, daughter of bus driver), Lucy Hemming, Jerry Malone, Phyllis Sikes, Carol Baughn, George Sikes, Heidie (wife of bus driver), and Adolfo (bus driver in doorway of the bus).

We boarded our famous chicken bus at 3:45 p.m. to attend services at the Iglesia Metodista. Daniel, our interpreter for the third year, invited us much to our delight.

We were so amazed at the progress that had been made on that little church. There is a brand new beautiful floor in the sanctuary and a noticeable increase in membership.

They have a pastor who is trilingual, so language was no problem.

We sang many, many songs together from the little Spanish hymnal, and it was wonderful. Jo Martens would be proud of her Spanish students who sang loud and clear with pretty good pronunciation.

This church time and the sharing of smiles, handshakes and God's love are always extremely moving and meaningful.

We have completed our evening with a very special communion service presided over by our Rev. Don Barnes. It was totally meaningful and the team felt the love and bonding that comes with the presence of the Holy Spirit working in us. There are really no words to describe the depth of this mission experience, but I pray that you can experience for yourself someday such a trip

We are eager to start our mission work at the clinic in the morning. It will be so good to get back there and get busy.



Religious procession at Santo Tomas Church, ChiChi

- Ginny Bitting