

## **Dedication of the 2007 Guatemala Mission Team**

Ron Amberg, Communications

Number 1, August 5, 2007

Spring Valley United Methodist Church

Sunday morning, August 5<sup>th</sup>, the Spring Valley United Methodist Church Aldersgate Sunday school class provided a send-off brunch to honor the 2007 Guatemala Mission Team.



### **Send-off Brunch for 2007 Guatemala Mission Team**

Guatemala Mission Team members in attendance were:

Bekki Beverly  
Kathryn Beverly  
Meghann Beverly  
Susan Hanchey  
Nick Anderson  
Jerry Malone  
Robert Gross  
Elizabeth Gross  
Mark Jacobson  
Tom Purcell  
Ellie Sims (travel agent, stateside support)  
Ron Amberg (communications liaison, stateside support)

The 2007 Guatemala Mission members were uniformly wearing long-sleeve dark blue denim style team shirts with a SPRING VALLEY UMC SALUD Y PAZ insignia.

Robert Gross, as leader of the Guatemala Mission Team, gave a brief report of the 2007 mission objectives: work at the new Cunen site including medical, construction and children's programs. Cunen is a new remote site that is only now being established for Salud y Paz. It is at least an hour-and-a-half away from Chichicastenago. A clinic does not yet exist in Cunen. While our team is there, a temporary medical stand will be used to provide medical services. A new medical building is under construction. Other teams that have been in Cunen this year have put up walls for the building. It is going to up to our Team to do roofing work. ...

Due to the current remoteness of Cunen and a lack of Internet service, our Team may not be able to send daily reports back to Spring Valley while at that location. Alternative communication methods may have to be decided upon after arrival in Cunen. The team will do daily journaling whether or not they will be able to send those reports directly each day.

Dedication of the 2007 SVUMC Guatemala Mission Team took place during both the Common Ground contemporary service and the traditional service at 11 o'clock on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

At each service, they were anointed (prayed for) to be sent forth on behalf of the congregation and the Body of Christ. The congregations also voiced

prayers of support. Rev. Anna Hosemann-Butler did the Dedication at the Common Ground service in Wesley Hall. Rev. Paul Escamilla did the Dedication during the traditional service in the sanctuary.



**DEDICATION OF THE 2007 GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM IN THE SANCTUARY**

Left to right: Rev. Paul Escamilla (Senior Pastor, presiding), Kathryn Beverly, Meghann Beverly, Bekki Beverly, Robert Gross, Mark Jacobson, Judy Kline, Elizabeth Gross, Jerry Malone, Susan Hanchey, Nick Anderson, Tom Purcell

Upon the conclusion of the 11 o'clock worship services, the members of the Guatemala Mission Team gathered on the steps in front of the church for a group photo.



Front Row, left to right: Bekki Beverly, Elizabeth Gross, Nick Anderson  
Second Row: Meghann Beverly, Judy Kline, Susan Hanchey  
Third Row: Kathryn Beverly, Jerry Malone  
Back Row: Tom Purcell, Ron Amberg, Mark Jacobson, Robert Gross

The team then met briefly in Asbury Hall to go over last minute details for the upcoming mission trip.

Robert Gross handed out a 25-item list of "Guatemala 2007 Reminders" ranging from pre-arrival time to be at DFW Airport, driver arrangements to get to the airport, handling of personal expenses while in Guatemala, inventory copies of suitcases with pharmaceuticals, drinking water in Guatemala, the fruit police, money belts, personal appearance, shoes, the market day, cautions when taking photographs, the plan for daily news reports from Guatemala to Dallas and to friends / family, emergency contact phone numbers, names of Salud y Paz personnel—specifically the interpreter and the bus driver, Guatemala weather conditions, and the general Guatemalan culture.

A last minute request from Ken Plunk (Dr. Phil Plunk's brother) is for our team to bring ties for rebar. The amount requested was 10,000. That is more than

what our team would be able to add to existing luggage. However, 7 or 8 large bundles of about 250 ties had been obtained and individually bagged (each weighing 2 to 3 pounds) for various team members to take home, to add to personal luggage. (In the past, regular wire was used, was cut to length, but left sharp points that were unsafe to maneuver around, often resulting in tearing clothes.)

**Traveling Team:** Frank & Jan Andersen (Seattle), Sue Metzler (Seattle), Joan Copeland (Seattle), Bekki Beverly, Kathryn Beverly, Meghann Beverly, Elizabeth & Robert Gross, Susan Hanchey & Nick Anderson, Mark Jacobson, Judy Kline, Jerry Malone, and Tom Purcell

*Date for the 2007 trip:  
Departs Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>; returns Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.*

*Report by Ron Amberg  
Dallas Communications liaison for the Team*