

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



July 2008



MEET TEAM GUATEMALA

PASTOR TROY

Our Mission Team for our trip to Guatemala has been meeting regularly and preparing for our July 18-25 excursion. It has been quite a process for us thus far – as this is our first go at this as a church.

Hugo Gomez, Central American regional coordinator flew in this winter to speak to our congregation about the mission opportunities in Guatemala. He gave a evening training session to our Mission/Outreach ministry team and then spoke at a congregational dinner two days following.

We have also received training from Face to Face International, a short-term mission training organization that has also organized our travel arrangements. Dr. Don Orvis flew in from Phoenix to speak to us about the details and minutia of short term mission abroad.

We have been meeting weekly, preparing from a manual provided to us through Face to Face. Our fundraising has virtually reached its goal of \$13,000 through the generosity of the congregation and events such as our own Golf Tournament. Thank you to the congregation for its support each step of the way.

One last thing to do is to put together our ministry bags (see inside – page 3) to bring to the villagers of La Gomera. I visited La Gomera with the board of LifeWind International last year – many of you have seen the pictures of this village. Hugo will have our team doing a number of things: helping the village put a roof on a new church building, working with a dental clinic, working with children and families. It is a relief to finally know where we are going and what we are doing. Yet we have been reminded again and again that we go at *their invitation* and their culture is much different than our carefully planned daily schedules and dependence upon our watches. The three top points of our mission training consisted of: 1) be flexible, 2) be flexible, 3) also, be flexible.

Our team is very much representative of the make-up of our congregation – males and females, young and almost young. Here is our team:

Dan Adams
Dick Nelson
Laura Alcantor
Samantha Alcantor
Andy Schmidt
Jennifer Schmidt
Pastor Troy Onsager

Keep all of these people and the team as a whole in your prayers. Also keep Hugo Gomez and his LifeWind staff and trainers on the ground in Guatemala in your prayers – as they are our liaisons to the village and our transportation! Finally, pray for the people of the village of La Gomera – a village trying to support itself, trying to learn more about medical and health information, and coming to know a loving God through the ministry of LifeWind. Pray for them – pray for us: Pray!

We look forward to telling you about our trip when we return. You will hear from our team on Sunday, July 27th. Thank you for your prayers and your support.