



Dear friends,

I want to share a photo with you from my March visit to El Salvador with the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) and various members of the Association Network of Joining Hands in El Salvador (ARUMES).

Valery Nodem, international associate with PHP, third from right, blesses our meal while visiting the Agroecological and Political Advocacy School in Tinteral, Coatepeque Region, El Salvador. Abel Gonzalez, fifth from right, operates the school as a way of encouraging organic production and natural remedies to the people of the region. Gonzales is on the Executive Committee of ARUMES.

During our March visit to El Salvador, also with Rebecca Barnes, coordinator of PHP and second from right, we visited various members of the network. The primary campaign, Bitter Sugar, accompanies sugar cane workers sickened with chronic kidney disease.

Rampant among sugar cane workers, the disease is connected with dangerous pesticides applied on the crops by workers or from the air with helicopters and drones. The workers make an average of \$6 a day working in the fields in scorching heat without breaks for rest or water. The Bitter Sugar campaign is multi-pronged: Informing the public about chronic diseases, advocating for safe pesticide use, and encouraging the public to grow and consume organic produce. Please pray for the sugar cane workers and for the PC(USA) as together we advocate for the health and safety of everyone who makes it possible for us to live abundant lives.

Cindy