



Education
that *transforms*

October 2022 Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

Greetings to you from Guatemala.

This newsletter focuses on our Intercultural Encounters program and re-connecting with you!

Look at the Calendar Corner and see how all of CEDEPCA continues to empower those they touch and teach. And...consider adding a trip with your church or group to the calendar for 2023 or take the opportunity to join Nacoochee Presbyterian Church on their trip from November 9 - 18, 2022

In Christ,

The CEDEPCA Staff

P.S - We love our visiting groups! Take a look at our photos and album links below to see who has already come this year.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **“Let’s Re-Connect!”** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

“Projects are GREAT, but friendships are incredible!”
 This statement was made by a traveler from Atlanta who came on a CEDEPCA-led Intercultural Encounters trip in August. Another person in the same group wrote that the best part of the trip was *“seeing our old friends and sharing a meal with them. We had time to reflect on the past and rejoice in the now.”*



We at CEDEPCA agree. While it is a blessing to roll up your sleeves and work side-by-side on a project with people from North America and Guatemala, the friendships are what Intercultural Encounters are all about. The pandemic has destabilized systems in Guatemala that were already vulnerable or broken and has created new levels of crisis in areas such as education, food security, and health. But one truth remains the same: people in Guatemala long to know that

they are not alone in their struggle – that they have friends who think about them and are praying for them.

In August, we at CEDEPCA were grateful to host two Intercultural Encounters groups: a group of twelve adults and youth from Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church from Spokane, Washington and a group of four people from Greater Atlanta. [Read on ...](#)

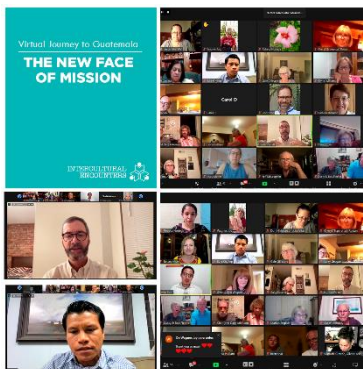


Journeying through A New Concept of Mission

On August 24, CEDEPCA was delighted to host the third Virtual Journey of the year. This time, seventy-six participants joined authors Hunter Farrell and Bala Khylllep to talk about their new book, *Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Guide for Companionship, Cultural Humility, and Co-Development*.

The Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, currently the Director of the World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, has been a long-time friend of CEDEPCA and visited Guatemala earlier in August to lead in-person classes for CEDEPCA’s Biblical and Theological Education program. He approaches conversations about congregational mission and short-term mission trips with both passion and humility. Farrell's own experiences, including his missteps, become a vehicle for reflecting on Christianity’s colonial history as well as the importance of remaining in relationship and solidarity with our siblings in Christ all over the world.

Mary Mattie from Washington state said, “After reading *Freeing Congregational Mission* my work experience with missions has been incredibly challenged. I'm thinking so differently about what we do and how we educate the congregation and other stakeholders about mission. On [my most recent trip to Guatemala] I've learned so much about living out and sharing our faith as fellow travelers. I’m listening and looking at things through a different lens.”



If you missed the last Virtual Journey or if you would like to recommend it to others, watch it [HERE](#).

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~ ~ ~ Nacoochee Presbyterian Invites You to Guatemala !! ~ ~ ~

Interested in a trip to Guatemala?
Join Nacoochee Presbyterian Church on their journey to Guatemala!!

November 9th - 18th, 2022!!

For more information, contact Dottie [HERE](#) as soon as possible.

~ ~ ~

Thank you for Visiting

[Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church - Spokane, WA](#)

[Greater Atlanta Presbytery/Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church - Atlanta, GA](#)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Calendar Corner ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our work here in Guatemala.



October

Monthly Virtual Campaign: Healthier, Stronger and Happier
(Disaster Ministry)

- 2 World Habitat Day
- 3-13 Intensive Course on Contextual Reading of the Bible in Coban/Guatemala City
(Biblical and Theological Education)
- 10 World Mental Health Day
- 13 International Day for Disaster Reduction
- 18-25 Delegation from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Madison, WI (IE)

- 20 Revolution Day (Guatemala)
- 21 World Energy Saving Day
- 28 Commemoration of the Protestant Reformation (Biblical-Theological Education)

November

- 1 All Saint's Day
- 2 Launching November 25th Campaign (Women's Ministry)
- 9-18 Delegation from Nacoochee Presbyterian Church (IE)
- 10-11 Seminary on Contextual Bible Studies
- 10-12 End of courses and graduations in Coban, Xela and Guatemala City
- 15 Advent
- 25 Commemoration:
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

December

- 5-14 CEDEPCA's programs work on 2022 Reports and Monitoring/2023 Planning
- 13 Christmas celebration with CEDEPCA Staff
- 16 CEDEPCA office closes for vacations (end of the year)
- 18 International Migrants Day
- 20 International Human Solidarity Day

January 2023

- 5 Start of CEDEPCA's activities (return from vacations)

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