

Pen Pal Partners with our Brothers & Sisters in Honduras

In an effort to deepen awareness to the world wide mission of Community of Christ, and to increase understanding among persons from culturally diverse parts of the church around the world, the Outreach Evangelism Leadership team in the Far West Mission Center is exploring and creating a partnership with the Central America Mission Center. Through such an exchange of ministry, members and friends of the church in both mission centers can gain appreciation for the joys and challenges of sharing the gospel in our two parts of the world.

There seems to be a number of reasons why the church in Honduras might be the Central America partner in this plan. There are a number of medical professionals in the Far West Mission Center who might find an expression of mission through participation in the Health Ministries Association (HMA). There are frequently teams organized and supported by HMA who work in preventative medicine and in medical training in Honduras. The connection generated by a partnership between the mission centers could be the catalyst for initiating and for enriching the medical mission.

The church in Honduras is well established and led by very capable ministers. There is an enthusiasm about sharing the gospel and inviting people to join with the church in Honduras that is contagious. There is more desire and excitement to plant new churches in Honduras, and other parts of Central America emanating from Honduras, than there are funds and personnel to make it happen.

The purpose of this partnership, however, would not be as a fund-raising mechanism for the church in Honduras. Rather it **would provide for the church in Honduras the prayer and moral support, and a human face** to those in the developed world who give their World Church Mission tithes in support of planting efforts in Honduras. At the same time it will generate excitement and energy for mission for the church in FWMC by placing a human face on the ministries supported by their generous giving of World Church Mission tithes.

There are a number of ways that the partnership can be lived out. Children in each mission center could become pen pals, and in the efforts to read each other's languages expand their own views of the world. Adults could connect with new friends. Pastors could exchange photographs and testimonies of people involved in ministry in their congregations and communities. Cooks could exchange recipes. The personal contact possibilities are many.

There is already a significant Hispanic population in the boundaries of Far West MC. The exposure to the lives of Honduran brothers and sisters through the partnership could act as a stimulus for broader understanding and cooperation between Anglo and Hispanic members of the communities the church is called to serve in the Far West MC. And if in the future an Hispanic ministry of Community of Christ in Far West Mission Center might begin, Geri Macias, Hispanic Ministries Director for the church and a colleague of Terry is prepared to share training concerning diversity awareness for the Anglo congregation. She also presents a program entitled *Pentecost Journey* which educates Anglo congregation from the point of view of Hispanics about what it is like to be in the US as a Hispanic, and how Anglo congregations can prepare to reach out to their Hispanic neighbors.

We are sure that you will be greatly blessed by participating in this project. Just go to our website, www.farwestmc.org and download the form and return it to the Mission Center office, 5124 Faraon St. St. Joseph, MO 64506 or email to stevecalloway@farwestmc.org

Vaya Con Dios, Go with God,

The Outreach Evangelism Commission & Terry Shelton Central Am Mission Center