

**TO POTENTIAL CANDIDATES
FOR A
LIVING WATERS FOR THE WORLD
MISSION TO GUATEMALA**

The Maury River Mission Community (MRMC) is seeking volunteers to participate in a follow-up mission trip to Santiago, Guatemala. A MRMC team made an initial mission trip to Santiago in May 2009 to install a water purification system and provide sanitation, health and bible instruction at La Iglesia Alianza, an evangelical congregation in Santiago. This trip, planned for December 9-14, 2009, is a follow-up to the initial trip and has two goals.

The first goal is to review the operation of the water purification system to ensure that it is being operated satisfactorily and to review the instructional plans left behind to see if they are being carried out.

The second, and larger, goal of this trip is to pursue a broader vision, described further in the following Vision Statement, establishing a "sister church" relationship with the La Iglesia Alianza and to involve more individuals in the MRMC churches directly in foreign mission work. In addition to the four MRMC members who participated in the May 2009 trip, two additional MRMC members will be selected to participate in the December 2009 trip.

If you are interested in participating in the December trip please complete the accompanying application form and return it no later than Wednesday, October 7th, 2009, to Malcolm Brownlee, MRMC Coordinator. The two additional members of the MRMC team will be selected Friday, October 9th, and subsequently announced.

Although there will be some financial support for participation on this trip, each team member will be expected to contribute \$400.00 toward the cost of this trip, which with support from the Maury River Mission Community will cover in-country travel, lodging, and meals. Each one will also be expected to have a passport, get necessary inoculations, and cover personal incidental expenses.

We want this to be an opportunity for church members from the Maury River Mission Community to establish a long-term relationship with the people of La Iglesia Alianza, and we encourage people to apply for this trip.

A Vision for a Guatemala Mission Program
Sponsored by
Maury River Mission Community

In May 2009, the MRMC sponsored a Living Waters for the World (LWW) team to Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, a city of approximately 60,000 located in a beautiful mountainous area on a volcanic lake. Our partner in Guatemala was a church, La Iglesia Alianza. While MRMC team members assisted in installing the water purification system, other MRMC members taught health, hygiene and Bible classes. Both adult and children church members participated enthusiastically and competently.

Our MRMC team joined in worship services several times during the week, and the pastor told us of their plans for the future, including a children's day-care program, a health clinic, and a recreation area outside of the crowded city. We formed a strong bond with the La Iglesia Alianza congregation, and it was a time of spiritual growth for all.

Upon returning home, we reflected on our experience and discussed the possibility of forming a long-term "sister church" partnership between La Iglesia Alianza and Presbyterian churches in the MRMC. We could see the opportunity to leverage our work with and through the La Iglesia Alianza congregation. For example, we could train La Iglesia members to install LWW systems in other locations in Santiago, and we know of other possibilities already envisioned by the La Iglesia Alianza congregation that we could explore further. They have the enthusiasm and Christian commitment that can inspire others and spread Christian discipleship in the region.

We believe that we could use the base of experience now established to get others in the MRMC churches involved directly in foreign mission work. There are many who may not be able to envision themselves actually participating in a foreign mission, but who may be willing to do so with the guidance and assistance of others. Ultimately, having a sizeable number of MRMC members participate directly in foreign mission activity will strengthen all of our churches and our commitment world-wide mission and helping and reaching out to others less fortunate around the world.

Our team felt that the experience had provided us with an expanded perspective and a deeper commitment to worldwide mission activity. We are confident that a relationship with La Iglesia Alianza would be mutually beneficial, one in which we all give and we all receive. We were enriched spiritually and mentally by our time there, and we are sure that others would be enriched by similar experiences. Like most mission work, we will, no doubt, gain more than we give. We will become stronger, more committed disciples of Christ and more effective in spreading Christian discipleship.

**Maury River Mission Community
Mission Trip to Santiago, Guatemala
December 9th-14th, 2009**

APPLICATION

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

_____ Email _____

Home Church _____

List some of the work you are doing/have done in the church and other volunteer activities

What experience have you had in building relationships with new people _____

What experience have you had in relating to people from other cultures

Your Spanish speaking ability ___ None ___ Minimal ___ Fair ___ Fluent

Do you have a current passport? ___ Yes ___ No

In 50 words or less tell why you want to participate in a mission trip to Guatemala to build relationships with the people of Santiago, Guatemala.

Return before **October 7th** to Malcolm Brownlee, 130 Walkers Creek Road, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473, or via e-mail sarmal@ntelos.net.