



March 30, 2008

Presented by Marni Monty, FUMC Missions Work Area
To the FUMC Congregation

Last year for Faith Promise weekend in April, the Reverend Larry Cochran spoke to us about the work of Go International and planting churches throughout the world to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In response to that inspiring weekend, you pledged \$40,000 to Faith Promise. It was an extraordinary gift.

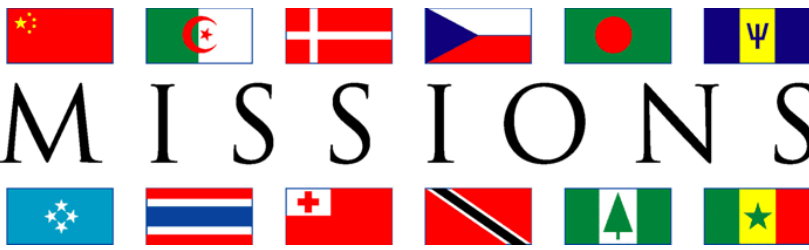
Under the leadership of Gerald Stanford, the Missions work area carefully and prayerfully considered what to do with this gift. After several months of consideration we all came to the same conclusion: we wanted to build a church. So we contacted Larry Cochran and asked him how to get started. GO InterNational uses short-term mission teams and long-term partnerships to impact the world for God's kingdom.

This morning I'm pleased to announce that we have contributed \$12,000 toward the building of a new church in Trujillo, Honduras and on April 17th Larry and a team from Go International with volunteers from a church in Tennessee will raise the walls of that new church. We hope to have pictures of the new building when they return on the 25th.

- My **first prayer request** this morning is for this new church plant and for the safety of the team that is traveling to Trujillo to construct it.

But we still had more money from your Faith promise pledge so we decided that we needed to build another church. Once again we contacted Go International and this morning I'm also pleased to announce that we have pledged \$12,000.00 toward the building of another new church, this time near Monterrey, Mexico. Here, Pastor José Padilla is establishing a new Methodist church in Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, which is next to Monterrey. (See Mission News on the web site.)

Pastor Padilla began with only 7 church members and is now averaging between 60 and 70 each week. They are currently meeting in a store front but have purchased a small plot of land and have their building plans already drawn. In July of this year, with the help of a team led by Go International, they will raise the walls of their new church with the funds that our church is providing.



- My **second prayer request** this morning is for this new church near Monterrey. Please pray for this new church plant, Pastor Padilla and for the team that will travel there to build and evangelize.

But the Guadalupe church needs more than just money for building supplies. They also need some of our sweat. So we are looking for 10 people [from our congregation] to go with the Go International team to help raise the walls in July.

- So **prayer request number 3**: please ask God if you should be part of this team this summer. I believe that this will be a life changing and faith affirming trip for all of those that can go.

You'll hear more about the details in the weeks to come. We don't know the cost yet but we will have partial scholarships available. Please begin praying and considering this now.

And finally, Faith Promise weekend will once again be the last weekend of April this year, the 25th through the 27th. And, once again Pastor Dave has arranged for a wonderful speaker. Dr. Bill Ury will be here from Madison, Mississippi. He was raised in Taiwan as the son of Methodist missionaries and has taught Systematic and Historical theology at Wesley Biblical Seminary for 15 years.

In addition we will have Dr Phil Thornton from Go International. Dr Thornton served for 26 years as Professor of Missions at Asbury College and is a missionary in Colombia, South America planting new churches and teaching. He now serves on the staff of Go International as Vice President of Field Ministries and is coming to give us an update on the two churches we are helping to build.

Skip Bayles, Morgan Stephens and a representative of the Methodist Children's home in San Antonio will also be here. This promises to be an exciting and full weekend.

- **Prayer request number 4**: Please pray for all of those that are traveling here that weekend to speak to us and share their mission experiences. Please pray for our church that God will open our hearts to hear what he would have us do throughout the world to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your amazing gift last year and thank you for your prayers.

Marni