

# International Mission Committee : 2008 Accomplishments

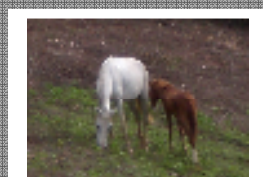
**President:**  
Eddie Ellis

**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
Trisha Vander Wilt

**Committee Members:**  
Bill Fischer  
Scott Valentine  
Mark Davis  
Kathy Mahler  
Robert Finney

**Meeting Time:**  
3rd Monday of the month at 12:00pm

**Location:**  
Fire Creek Grill:  
800 S 50th St  
West Des Moines



## Building Great Relationships

- We maintained a trusting and open relationship with the Pastoral Team
- We developed a good working relationship with the principal and School board in El Tablon Centro which has led to the completion of grades 7 – 9
- With the success of the school, we have built great relationships with other non-governmental organizations to receive funding to build new bathrooms, a kitchen, and two classrooms at the school to accommodate the additional grade levels in El Tablon Centro
- One delegation traveled to El Salvador in July 2008 with 5 delegates. The delegation...
  - Met with Dean Brackley from the University of Central America on economic development in El Salvador
  - Invested time with the Pastoral Team in solidarity
  - Met with Seeds of Learning to view a school site similar to what we will build
  - Created building plans and budgets for the school in El Tablon Cerna
  - Met with the directiva in El Tablon Cerna to review their progress of their residents' projects. These include: new stoves, bathrooms, homes, and agriculture projects
  - Stayed overnight with families in El Tablon Cerna
  - Met at school in El Tablon Centro to get student and teacher funding status

## Education

- We provided funding for two teachers (8 & 9) in El Tablon Centro \$7,700
- We provided funding for two college students \$3,325
- We are building a school (K – 3) in El Tablon Cerna with the majority of the funding being provided by memorials for Trina Fischer and Ruby Hartsook
- We are providing funding for the following school items in El Tablon Cerna
  - Land transfer, school furnishings, school materials, teacher salary

## Congregation Awareness & Education

- We wrote newsletter articles on current projects and topics in El Salvador
- We “Shared the Experience” during the church service after each trip
- We hosted the refreshment table for the month of April
- We participated in two sessions of the Faith Forum hour to educate the congregation on the background of El Salvador, Companeros, and our projects at Heartland
- We communicated to the congregation announcements for the delegation trips
- We created delegation packets for people traveling on the delegation
- We created and distributed the highlights of the delegation in the trip report
- We created a trip theme framework for the delegations to discuss while in El Salvador to use during reflection time

## Community Development

- We provided funding for First Aid kit materials \$325
- We began building a relationship in July 2008 with a group of professors at the Business School at the University of Central America. In November 2008, they agreed to partner in an economic development project in El Tablon Cerna which will begin in March 2009.

## Companeros Partnership & Highlights

- We had two members join the Companeros Board that attend meetings monthly
- We began creating summaries of the Companeros meeting to keep Heartland aware
- We created common documents for delegation training
- Companeros hired a new mission co-worker, Kathy Mahler
- Companeros held their Annual Fundraising Dinner
- Companeros attended several Latino Festivals and the Peace Fair
- Companeros hired a new coffee coordinator, KtMarie Scarcello
- Companeros partnered with the Pastoral Team and Rotary International to begin the Slow Sand Water Filter project providing clean drinking water to communities in El Salvador

## Administration & Financial

- Developed, approved, and managed 2008 budget
- Created annual planning document to keep the committee work effort focused on our goals
- Created financial reports to be transparent with our funds