

International Mission Committee:

We recently discovered a great source of current information on El Salvador, Tim's El Salvador Blog (<http://luterano.blogspot.com>). This month we decided to share a couple key points that you should be aware of...

From Tim's blog on November 3:

In advance of tomorrow's US presidential election, some opinion polls have asked people in El Salvador and the rest of Latin America who they would prefer be elected president, John McCain or Barack Obama.

The El Salvador Gringo points to Gallup polling showing a preference for Obama:

El Salvador has a pretty good feeling that whoever gets elected next year is going to have an impact on their country. In fact, 43% think that either Obama or McCain taking office will make a difference in El Salvador. Which do they prefer?

Despite the fact that they prefer Obama over McCain, the difference between the two candidates [in El Salvador] is one of the narrowest in all South American countries. Only 24% prefer Obama, while 14% would vote for McCain if they could. The other 63% are undecided.

From Tim's blog on November 6:

The website Just the Facts has collected the public statements of Barack Obama about his Latin America policy. With the US focused on a financial crisis and two wars, it is doubtful that implementing these policies will occupy a very high position on Obama's list of tasks to accomplish at the beginning of his administration.

For a sense of current US aid policy towards El Salvador, you should also review the Just the Facts compilation of excerpts from official descriptions of aid to El Salvador, which describes current projects including cultural exchanges, law enforcement collaboration on gangs and drugs, and implementation of the "Enduring Friendship maritime security program," among other things.

Our friend, Bill Fischer, has been on a two week adventure to El Salvador this month. Stay tuned next month for an update on his travels with our friends in El Salvador. The update will include status of the El Tablon Cerna school building, a new economic development opportunity with the University of Central America and the 9th grade graduation in El Tablon Centro.

The next Heartland delegation trip to El Salvador is planned for February 20-27. For more information, or to say "Si! Sign me up!" please contact Eddie Ellis at 515 554-4727, elliesseddie@mchsi.com, or Trisha Vanderwilt at 515 250-7668, trishavw@gmail.com. Registration deadline is December 15.