

## LIVING WATER Is Brought to Retalteco, Peten, Guatemala

“The water won’t cook the beans” said Chepe Rojas, the *Secretario* of the *Presbiterio del Peten* (PdP) of the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala (IENPG). This was a tragedy for the 211 families in the village of Retalteco in the far northwestern corner of Guatemala in the Department of Peten. The villagers had discovered that their new well didn’t meet a fundamental need for living water in their corn and bean culture.

In 2007, the leaders of the PdP turned to their Mission Partner, the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (PMT), and appealed for help for Retalteco. Using rural water supply expertise, resources and relationships developed during the six year partnership, the PMT Water Team responded. Because chemical water treatment to remove ground water hardness, the cause of the problem, was not sustainable; the Team was able to identify an alternative surface supply using Living Waters for the World’s (LWW) field and laboratory testing capability.



Since 2005, the PMT Water Team had worked with the Franklin (TN) Rotary at Breakfast Club and their international partner, the Tikal-Peten Rotary Club in Flores, Peten, Guatemala on rural water supply projects. These inter-connected international partners, both Presbyterian and Rotarian came together to help the subsistence farmers in Retalteco.



The people prayed, God answered, and Guatemalans and North Americans responded, “Here I am”; using Guatemalan labor, coordination and leadership; PMT planning and expertise; and the proceeds from a Rotary golf tournament. In 2008, the community’s impoundment was enlarged and a new high-head pump was purchased and installed to pump the softer surface water to the community’s treatment, distribution storage tank.

Who but God brings together an indigenous, unpaid presbytery executive/subsistence farmer in Retalteco, a retired automobile engineer in Columbia, TN, a ladino tour company operator in Flores, Peten and a businesswoman in Franklin, TN, folks from 4 different PMT churches, to perform a miracle by changing the very nature of the water in a rural village in Guatemala? Bringing Living Water that will cook the beans.