

History: One of the most enduring mission efforts undertaken by Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, this mission is now in its 20th year. Within a few years of the initial conversations, an official partnership was established with the Peten Q'eqchi Presbytery of Guatemala (PQP).

About the Peten: The Peten is the northern, most rural third of Guatemala. It is rich with Mayan archaeological sites, but poor economically, populated by indigenous Maya Q'eqchi communities who have been living off the land as farmers for many generations. The region has a 90% illiteracy rate and has among the worst health



outcomes and lowest life expectancies in Latin America. When this partnership was founded in 2001, the Peten was specifically chosen as where mission efforts could have the most impact. The rural communities of the Peten are underserved by other mission outreach to Guatemala due to



the remote locations, the poverty, and the language challenges. The mission model this partnership aspires to is a reciprocal, authentic, and relational model, oriented around listening.



The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee (PCUSA)

in partnership with

Peten Q'eqchi Presbytery of Guatemala

Building relationships with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ since 2001

The Guatemala-Peten Partnership Task Force



tinyurl.com/GPTaskForce

The Guatemala-Peten Partnership Task Force (GPPTF) works boldly with our Guatemalan partners on mutually agreed upon goals, initiatives, and operating principles. Through direct communication (with the assistance of the mission workers and the National Church) we visit regularly and act accordingly as we seek to serve the Lord and empower each other to be disciples of Christ. Mission values include accountability, transparency, reciprocity, flexibility, and serving with compassion, dignity, and integrity.

This partnership supports eight churches in the Peten region of Guatemala with:

- Leadership development
- Theological education
- Literacy / childhood education
- Ministry with women
- Medical or other support through mission trips
- Evangelism / faith formation
- Disaster assistance

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Supporting this mission partnership with your resources or your time helps to build the work of Christ in rural Guatemala, changing lives and strengthening communities.

Your Prayers

Add our Guatemalan brothers and sisters to your prayers. We know they also pray for us. They need continual prayers for guidance, protection, health, employment, food, shelter, healthy crops, clean water, medical aide, and education. Your prayers bring comfort and love to the underserved people of the Peten. Also pray about your church's involvement in this ministry. Are you being called to serve?

Your Service

Go to Guatemala! Experience first-hand our partners in Christ! The GPCC organizes at least one annual mission trip to The Peten, Guatemala. The March 2020 trip (with a medical focus)



marked 19 years of continuous trips. To date, 36 PMT churches and 113 individuals have participated in this life-enriching experience. The focus of each trip is relationship driven and grounded in our Covenant. We would love to have you join us! Visit tinyurl.com/GPTaskForce for past mission reports, photos, links, and contact info.

Your Gifts

Add the Guatemala-Peten Partnership to your annual mission outreach budget. Donations can be made through the website tinyurl.com/GPTaskForce (or visit for further options.) General donations will be used for the greatest need, or you may designate your gift to one of the funds listed here:

BASICO SCHOLARSHIPS

Our largest funding need - Our PQP partners have told us that public school is free at the grade school level, yet the country's spending on education is one of the lowest in the world and schools in the Peten are sparsely located. For Basico (our equivalent of middle school) fees for books, uniforms (required), transportation, and school supplies are prohibitive for most families,

causing children to drop out and join their parents working the fields. The average education level among adults in the Peten is 3rd grade (equivalent), and our partners are like parents here at home — they want better for their children. Supporting Basico education will strengthen the church communities we serve over time. Since 2017, with the support of many generous Presbyterians, we have funded Basico for 8 villages with scholarships — between 21 and 28 students every year. To sponsor one child, the average annual cost is 2,200 Quetzals (\$285 at the current exchange rate).

PASTOR SUPPORT

We provide small monthly stipends for each church's part-time Pastor and several church workers, as well as occasional additional support for specific projects or needs. We also provide additional funding for one pastor leader serving as our main liaison. Monthly pledges of \$20 (\$240 annual) or in any amount will help sustain the current level of support.

MISSION TRIPS

Mission participants contribute or fundraise for their airfare, travel, and lodging costs, and GPCC fundraises for supplies, equipment, and translator needs.

Please visit the website for more information, contact (email) links, additional funding needs, and the opportunity to serve on the Guatemala-Peten Partnership Task Force which meets monthly.

WEBSITE: PresbyteryMiddleTennessee.org and click on Mission, or visit tinyurl.com/GPTaskForce

Are you being called to serve?