

**DAY OF PRAYER AND ACTION FOR COLOMBIA
2011**

**Urabá Presbytery
Presbyterian Church of Colombia**



April was the month designated specifically for prayer and action for Colombia. Churches across Colombia and the United States were asked to pray and take action on behalf of our Christian partners who live, work, worship, and serve in a country filled with violence and uncertainty.

120 persons of the Presbytery of Urabá gathered to cry out for peace in their land. Testimonies and experiences of people who work for peace and justice in this sub region of the country were shared. They expressed their love and sense of vocation to the victims of the violence that has struck the people Urabá.

One of the testimonies came from Jorge Avila, who narrated impressive stories of families who underwent the unavoidable displacement by the armed conflict, which forced them to leave their land. The experience is further magnified with

the displaced children population. Offering support and accompanying them to school is a service of five people from the Center for Holistic Development of the Church of Carepa. In addition, Dina Marimón shared stories of the support being provided to the displaced communities who are moving back to Currulao, a

municipality of Turbo. With the support of the Diaconate Committee of the Presbytery of Urabá, the message of hope has gone hand in hand with these initiatives.



Time was spent in communal prayer as those present prayed for the peace of Colombia and especially for all who work to support those who struggle day in and day out, for all the people who are victims of this ominous war, and for those who dream of a peaceful and just Colombia, but above all for those who work to make this dream a reality.

Included in those prayers were the congregations and members of Winnebago Presbytery who maintain our covenantal relationship by lifting up the concerns of our Colombian friends with our own government and offer prayers of support and solidarity. One such action was taken on March 27, 2011:



“We, the undersigned members of First Presbyterian Church of Wausau, Wisconsin, Winnebago Presbytery, and a Christian community of faith, recommit ourselves to lift up our long-suffering brothers and sisters in Colombia and Urabá Presbytery in prayer, and ask our Lord to bestow upon them His blessing of safety, security and liberty; and we call upon the governments of the United States and Colombia to work together with all dispatch and through every legitimate political, legal and diplomatic channel to: secure the protection and safety of human rights defenders and advocates throughout Colombia; dismantle paramilitary and criminal networks and groups that threaten internal Colombian security; achieve reparations and sustainable, safe land returns to victims of violence; secure justice for abuses committed against the people of Colombia by both official governmental and private interests; provide for the basic food, shelter, and safety needs of the people of Colombia who have been displaced by political, social, and environmental forces, whether manmade or natural in origin.”

