

ADVOCACY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA

April 27-28, 2008 were designated as Days of Prayer and Action for Colombia, but the Global Mission Partnership Task Group hopes that you will continue to work for the human rights of all Colombians throughout the year.

Consider the following:

- Until this year, 80% of Plan Colombia aid supported Colombia's military and police. Although military aid was reduced it still makes up the majority of US aid to that country.
- This effort is supposed to reduce the drug supply to the US and make Colombia more secure. However thousands of civilians continue to die because of the armed conflict and cocaine is as readily available in the United States as it was before Plan Colombia was put in place.
- The proposed US – Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was recently put on hold, but President Bush continues to push for approval. The policies purportedly aim to increase security, but FTA will only secure an environment favorable to multi-national investment while decreasing the food security for the people of Colombia.

Perhaps you are moved to contact your representatives in Congress to ask for their support in:

1. Ending all military aid to Colombia and directing funds toward development programs for the poor and victims of the violence.
2. Voting no on the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement
3. Co-sponsoring House Resolution 618 on the Plight of Afro-Colombians

Perhaps you are moved to continue lifting up in prayer the people of Colombia, the Presbyterian Church of Colombia, and those in Colombia and the United States who are working for human rights improvements.

Perhaps you are moved to contribute to a Mission Project in Colombia:

ECO# 047871 – Displaced Communities

ECO# 051763 – Colombia Accompaniment Program

ECO# 047861 – Colombia Reformed University School of Theology – Regional Centers (Urabá region)

More information about these projects and others related to Colombia can be found at : www.pcusa.org/give/online/searchAction.do and type Colombia in the search box.

In Christ,

The Rev. Richard Manny (Moderator), Sheboygan

Elder Winnie Drape, Manitowoc

The Rev. Paul Huxtable, Neenah

Elder Marian Seagren Hall, Wausau

The Rev. Ed Slusser, Omro

Elder Gert Walsh, Sheboygan

The Rev. Susan Zencka, Stevens Point

Elder Nancy Barczak, Neenah

Mission Partnership Task Group
Winnebago Presbytery

*Bearing Witness to Jesus Christ ~
Strengthening and Connecting our Congregations*