

PRAYER AND ACTION FOR COLOMBIA

PRAYER OF HOPE FOR PEACE IN COLOMBIA

O God, how long will those who make war govern our countries?
O God, how long will those who steal, kill and destroy have so much power?
O God, how long will security be like a long night of terror?
O God, how long will the search for justice be dangerous in our world?

O God, listen to us, who are in prayer in Colombia and the United States.
O Holy Spirit, bring us together in common action for peace in Colombia and in the world;

O Jesus, help us work together for the good news of peace,
That as your churches we might accompany and give protection to those who suffer.

We want to be a sign of solidarity and celebrate together the hope of your kingdom.

--**Milton Mejia**, Chicago, January 2008

The Rev. Milton Mejia, his wife the Rev. Adelaida Jimenez, and their two sons fled Colombia in August 2006 following numerous death threats because of their work in the area of human rights and justice. Milton and Adelaida are currently attending McCormick Seminary with assistance from Presbyterians across the United States.



The Rev. Milton Mejia (Center) with the Rev. Mara Rivera and members of First Presbyterian Church, Winneconne

PRESBYTERIAN PEACE FELLOWSHIP ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAM IN COLOMBIA

On Sunday Gert, German, Adriano and I piled into a car for the four hour drive to Church in Sincelejo. Adriano shared information about the history of the region, about the conflict there and about the richness of the land. It was easy to see why the path was prized and we all felt sadness that its wealth had made it a place of violence. Farms, hills and lush forest were spotted with check points and soldiers. Still, there was nothing to stop us from reaching our destination, although the potholes tried very hard. We found ourselves at a very young and very energized church. The songs were ones of adoration and praise and the sermon encouraged us to Cry Out injustice to God. With many kisses and much appreciation flowing from both visitors and congregation we said goodbye and were back on the road.

--**Elizabeth Jernigan**

As we have attended the various churches we have seen the gospel moving forward in a powerful way, not only because of the dedicated pastors but also the dedication and wholehearted participation of the congregations. Under constant threat of violence and having to tread the narrow path of political uncertainty, these people are doing a work of such magnitude for both this life and the next that the results will most certainly be eternal. Anything we, as accompaniers, can do to make their work easier and safer, though small by comparison, will help to spread the Good News and alleviate unimaginable suffering. The friendships made here will continue through eternity.

--**Susan McNut**



Gert Walsh, an Elder from First Presbyterian Church in Sheboygan, served as an accompanier in Barranquilla, Colombia with Elizabeth Jernigan and Susan McNut during the month of February 2007.

Additional accompaniment reports can be viewed at

<http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/colombia/reports.php>