

MINUTE FOR MISSION

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WALC: Girl Power in Guatemala

—by Julie Rogness, LPGM Executive Director

LPGM is blessed to be in partnership with Community Cloud Forest Conservation (CCFC). Their work in education and conservation is outstanding.

Meet Ida and Trace (*photo at right*). They had been out with others from a recent travel group in search of naranjilla. This prickly fruit is being washed up so that it can soon join other ingredients to become delicious jam. Together we made jam, jelly, pizza, bread, and searched for other herbs and ingredients both to enhance our meals and also to be sold at the local farmer's market. Working together, we gained a deep appreciation for one another.

CCFC is a nonprofit organization striving to alleviate poverty and protect forests through education, reforestation, community development, leadership scholarships, and ecological improvements to agriculture. CCFC believes education, especially for young women, is vital to healthy and sustainable development.

For most young women in the rural villages of Alta Verapaz, education beyond 6th grade is out of reach. CCFC's Women in Agroecology Leadership for Conservation (WALC) 25-day leadership training workshop accepts 160 female students each fall. CCFC has seen the difference this workshop can have in the

lives of young Mayan women. These opportunities change these young women's lives and have a positive impact on their entire village and the region's ecological health.

Rob Cahill, CCFC's executive director, wrote, "This has been a very, very productive fall WALC session. The girls learned and grew a lot. Now, during the second fall session we have 219 WALC participants and peer leaders. Our total campus population is at 145. This is by far the largest group we have ever had. Our team of staff and peer leaders are the only reason this size group is possible. Amazing."

LPGM is proud to support this growing program that serves so many young women. You, too, can support our work and partnership in Guatemala by going to <http://www.lutheranpartners.org> and clicking on DONATE today.

Travel to Guatemala in 2017

Two transformational trips still have openings: April 21 – 30, 2017, Adult Journey OR June 18-28, 2017, Intergenerational Journey. In partnership with the Community Cloud Forest Conservation (CCFC), you will experience and learn from a different culture, work alongside CCFC projects and share the love of Christ. This is a great opportunity for adults and/or families. Accommodations are clean and rustic. More information can be found on our website.



Thrivent Choice Dollars: Use by 3/31!



We're excited to share that in 2016 over 335,000 Thrivent members directed Choice Dollars® to more than 32,000 churches, schools and nonprofits, including LPGM, through Thrivent Choice®. LPGM received \$7,474 in charitable funding in 2016. The Thrivent Choice program helps members of Thrivent Financial make a positive impact in their communities.

2016 Choice Dollars Expire on March 31st

All 2016 Choice Dollars have been made available for members to direct, so there is no reason to wait! Thrivent Choice® dollars have a direct, positive impact on our global ministry, so we hope you'll use any remaining 2016 Choice Dollars today and direct them to LPGM! As a reminder, 2016 Choice Dollars expire on March 31.

Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. Don't lose those Choice Dollars!

Travel to India in July

Experience the sights, sounds and diversity of religions in India. Julie Rogness will lead this trip with an itinerary that includes: interfaith conversations, a visit to Quo Vadis Interfaith Dialogue Center, visits to several temples, mosques, and holy places along the way, and engaging conversations and contemplative time. The cost is ~\$3,700. Please contact Mary Peterson at LPGM, 612.806.0732, to add your name to the list or for more information about the commitment.

Save These Dates! Important Upcoming Events



LPGM's Annual Gathering

Executive Director Julie Rogness will share highlights about LPGM's global ministry, including 2016 financial highlights and 2017 program priorities.

Special guest John Noltner, former LPGM board member and acclaimed photographer and writer, will speak about his current project: A Peace of My Mind: apomm.net.

Light refreshments will be served. Join us!

Date: April 1, 2017, 2 - 4 p.m.
Venue: St. James Lutheran Church
3650 Williams Drive
Burnsville, MN 55337

LPGM's 2nd Annual Legacy Circle Luncheon

We're excited that we have a Legacy Circle of 22 generous individuals who have put LPGM in their will or estate plans. Won't you consider joining the circle? We invite additional members who are interested in contributing to LPGM in perpetuity through a variety of planned giving vehicles. More information can be found on our website under the "Donate" button.

And mark your calendars! We will host our second annual Legacy Circle Luncheon on August 15, 2017 in the LPGM office in Minneapolis. We hope all of our Legacy Circle partners can join us, and those interested in becoming members of the circle are welcome to attend, too. More information will be coming soon, so mark your calendars!





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