

## **ILAG Programs and Projects 2008 HOLISTIC MINISTRY**

### **Public Health Initiative**

Many systemic health problems exist in the communities that ILAG attends to and access to doctors is limited or not sought. There already are Health Care Promoters in place in nearly every community with various levels of training. Beginning in 2008 we hope to provide continuing education for the Health Care Promoters to slowly improve the lives of all Guatemalans. Katherine Baumgartner is the contact in St. Paul Area Synod for the Health Care Initiative supported by the ILAG and its partner churches.

### **Outhouses**

In one ILAG community there is a project of providing 5 outhouses a year to the families of the church. The project is supported by the partner church. The outhouses are above ground. They have two tanks made of cement blocks and allow the waste to be treated and used as fertilizer. There are limited ground water issues with this system unlike the more common outhouses that are simple pits and frequently fill with water in the rainy season. A simple wood building is placed on top of the tanks with a seat that allows the liquid waste to drain outside rather than collect in the tank. There is hope to continue this project in other ILAG church communities.

### **Wells**

The ILAG was able to help put a well in one of the communities, whose ground water had been contaminated by a palm plantations fertilizer, with the help of their partner church. The community dug the well and we supported them in the purchase of the cement cylinders for the well. There are other communities that could benefit from a well.

### **Eco-projects**

The ILAG projects of bringing trees to ILAG communities to help with re-forestation, or provide fruit trees to members of the church. The ILAG also has projects of gardening to begin to supplement the diets in the rural communities. During planting season, when possible, the ILAG bring a seeds native to the climate of the area of Guatemala for planting by members of the church. This project attempts to teach sustainability in agriculture and agricultural planning. After the family takes from the profit their labor they would give a percentage of the remainder to the local church. The church would be able to invest in a project or another aspect of ministry of the church for the benefit of everyone.

### **Cattle**

The ILAG has cattle projects in several of the ILAG communities. The cattle are owned in common by the church, women's group within the church, etc. In several cases milk, cheese and meat is made available due to this project.

**Handcrafts**

The ILAG, under the Women's Ministry lead by Esther, is promoting native weaving in the ILAG rural churches. It is important so that the indigenous do not lose their culture and also provides some financial support to the families and some independence to the women. The women are able to weave typical bags, and hammocks and are beginning to learn how to weave table runners and placemats. Partner churches support this project when they purchase the textiles.