

## **ILAG Programs and Projects 2008 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

The ILAG seeks to identify and train leaders in each of the church communities that are part of the ILAG. Guatemala is a country with 24 languages and cultures. By training local leaders to be Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Sacrament, Pastors, etc., the Gospel will be communicated to the people clearly and as true gift and the holistic development of the communities that the ILAG promotes will be received in a helpful manner.

### **National Council Meetings and Leadership Retreats**

The ILAG holds three or four National Council Meetings and two or three Leadership Retreats each year. Two leaders are identified in each of the ILAG communities to attend these classes to be prepared as Ministers and Pastors in their communities. The meetings begin with individual church reports and planning and conclude with three days of theological, organizational, biblical or community development classes. There exists the possibility that visiting pastors or scholars from churches in the United States can attend these meetings as visiting teachers.

### **Women's Leadership Retreats**

In 2007 we held three women's retreats in Guatemala City. Women traveled up to a day and a half to attend. It was an opportunity to strengthen our faith, our relationship as sisters in Christ, our health and self esteem. The women received classes about the Bible, weaving, making candles, embroidery, sewing, basic health care and had time to laugh with one another. This is a ministry that we hope to continue and is limited by the amount of support received from outside of the ILAG. Groups may come down and lead and sponsor a women's retreat under the direction of Esther as part of their delegation visit to the ILAG.

### **Seminary and Guest House**

Thanks to St. Paul Area Synod congregations the Guest House located on the Lutheran Center property was blessed on March 2008. The Guest House will be used for National Council Meetings and other leadership retreats as well as for delegations from partner congregations while they visit the ILAG in Guatemala City.

We have begun construction on the second phase of the project, the second floor, which will be the seminary classrooms and a chapel for the ILAG. This project is enabling the ILAG to deepen our relationship with partner churches and enabling the ILAG to enrich their educational program on every level. It provides a foundation for growth of all the ministries that have been commended into our hands as brothers and sisters in Christ.

There are opportunities to support the construction progress, as the Guest House was supported, with donations and also to come to help build desks, chairs, divisions, altar area and other furniture for the seminary, guest house and chapel area.

**Youth and Children's Ministry**

The ILAG seeks to train leaders in each of the ILAG churches to teach the children of their church. The ILAG is developing didactic material for children, first communion, confirmation and youth programs. Currently the Pastoral Team is responsible for all biblical formation in every community but they are working to identify members in each community and provide them with resources to teach. Delegations are frequently asked to teach classes while visiting the ILAG communities and also help by bringing down craft materials for use with the children.

**Bibles**

The ILAG hopes to be able to provide bibles to every church and every family in their native languages. Many of the churches have one bible that has been given by the Pastoral Team. We also hope to have a hymnal and catechism provided for every church. It is vital to be able to place the Word of God in the hands of our brothers and sisters.