

In God's Name, Serving the indigenous poor in Peru

First Presbyterian Church in Burlington was invited to join a team from Alamance Presbyterian Church in Greensboro to go to Peru in the summer of 2001. We worked with the local Presbyterian school, building for them to host a new Kindergarten program in Moyobamba, Peru, San Martin. The next year 18 adults paid their own way to travel and work in Peru. Since those early years we have been privileged to be part of a partnership with Presbyterians in Peru.

The larger church in Moyobamba is missional, most concerned about reaching out to the indigenous in areas of their need. Medical clinics have been hosted in over 15 small Presbyterian churches in the area, offered in cooperation with Presbyterians in Peru and from Salem Presbytery.

Due to the economic crisis in the states fewer teams traveled in 2009 but the energy is back for 2010. A team combining several churches, FPC Burlington, Bethany Pres., Graham, a church in Virginia and one in Texas will travel to build a Sunday School classroom with Calzada Presbyterian Church June 6-16, 2010.

FPC High Point was eager to return, gathering 10 team members, then adding one from FPC Winston-Salem and one from Thomasville First. FPC Burlington joined in with six members, a team leader/pastor and a translator- who is a member of the Church of Reconciliation in New Hope Presbytery. The goal of this team (scheduled for July 30-Aug 8, 2010) is to work together to serve the indigenous poor by offering a medical clinic and doing construction that is sorely needed.

It is exciting to see Presbyterians live out our 'connectionalism' even across the Americas!

Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Genie Martin

This connection with Peru and churches in this Presbytery has somehow not connected with Salem Presbytery, yet. If interested, attend the annual Peru Network meeting (next one scheduled for Oct 7-9 at Sharon Presbyterian Church in Charlotte- Thurs. p.m. through Sat. a.m.). Sherron George, PCUSA missionary in Brazil- a native of Mebane, N.C. will be the keynote.