

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

## Holy Trinity UMC Team of Prior Lake, MN Works Two Weeks at El Paraiso, March 25 through April 5, 2008

The 2008 mission trip of two weeks, sponsored by Holy Trinity UMC in Prior Lake, MN from March 24 to April 7, included construction on the El Paraiso church building, children's Bible school, and a community needs assessment with volunteer training. Contingents from Delano UMC (MN) and First UMC (Oak Ridge, TN) also participated on this trip.

During the first week and aided by translators Alejandro and Carlos, eleven members split forces to conduct a children's Bible school that drew about 100 children through the week while the majority of the team worked construction on the church building. The construction activity included preparation and pouring of cement on the second level and the hard pick-and-shovel work on a hillside area in preparation for the construction of a retaining wall.

During the second week the remaining team of seven, including two second week arrivals, worked construction (form prep, and mixing, pouring and finishing concrete) during the day and conducting community meetings and training related to the Community Needs Assessment Process during the evenings.

Translator, Rigo, joined the team during the second week. Team leader, Deanna Hawkins, noted that highlights of the trip included joy over the progress being made at El Paraiso, the inclusion of a greater number of youth as part of the team, and the great interest in the Community Needs Assessment. Additionally, the week-long local Coffee Festival provided some wonderful local color. Finally, Deanna commented on the good fortune of having mission-experienced Bill Henry from Oak Ridge along as part of the team.



Recreation time with parachute at the Children's Bible School



Mixing and Pouring Concrete during Week 2 Construction



Community Health Needs Assessment Meetings



Construction on the Church Building during Week 1



Traditional Dancers at the Café Festival in El Paraiso

Team members included Deanna Hawkins, Haley Hawkins, Brenda Harder, Bill Henry, Lee Johnson, Alden Keiski, Jon Krieg, Dave Lewis, Dorothy Nicholas, Jasmine Norris-Marsh, Marissa Oram, Laura Thompson, and Tabbi Upperman.



Worship with the El Paraiso Congregation and Celebration of Alejandro's Birthday