

Greetings Friends,

Hoping and praying that all is well with each of you, your families and your respective church families. Advent blessings upon you all as we await the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus.

November

1) Joel was able to meet with the Board President and then Board of Directors of CTM Guatemala to consult with them on an extended discernment/planning process around the future of CTM Guatemala. A decision was made to engage a four month discernment process beginning in January and concluding in April. That process in Guatemala will be facilitated by a very good friend of mine and long-time colleague, Ivan Monzón. This time of discernment and planning will produce a three-year strategic plan that will make up the recommendation that the Board of Directors will then put before the General Assembly of the organization in May (founding members of CTM Guatemala of which Marilyn and I are part as well as many from our core Guatemala City network). There is significant wind in the sails right now to get CTM Guatemala back on the track to become a fully accredited [Local Leadership Foundation](#) serving Guatemala City. Please pray for this extremely important discernment and planning process over the next four months.

2) Three professional baseball players connected to [UPI](#) came to Guatemala for three days of clinics and ministry. Different ball players have come 5 years in a row during the months of November/December and that has created a rich set of relationships with young people and their families in the little leagues and baseball federation of Guatemala. The fruit of these trips has been nothing sort of miraculous and seeds were planted for some potential plans next year to deepen the impact of the work in Guatemala with the partnership with UPI.

3) Joel then had the opportunity to spend time with great friends from [Global Faith Network](#) who came down to spend three days of interaction with select ministry leaders from the grassroots network of Guatemalan ministry leaders that we as a family have served here in Guatemala City. The time we had from November 13 - 15 dedicated to fellowship, mentoring, discussing sustainable funding practices was very fruitful.

4) On November 16, Joel had the chance to be in Managua, Nicaragua visiting with our UTC Training Hub partner — The Nehemiah Center for Community Transformation. The Nehemiah Center celebrated its 20th anniversary. I spent the weekend there engaging and encouraging our Nicaraguan friends before speaking to the Nehemiah Center team on Monday morning. We were able to officially sign an MOU with the Nicaraguan team making Managua our 14th city of the expanding [Urban Training Collaborative](#).

On A Personal Note: Thanksgiving for us this year was one that brought great challenges and some sadness. Marilyn's grandfather, Confesor Adames, passed away in Puerto Rico the Tuesday before Thanksgiving and just 3 days short of his 99th birthday. We had been able to secure very economical flights for Marilyn, Sofia and I to fly to Puerto Rico to support Marilyn's mother who had been his chief caretaker especially the past 3-4 months of his rapidly declining health. We arrived just two days prior to his passing and thus Marilyn was able to spend some precious moments with her grandfather just before his entrance into the Lord's presence. We celebrate his life of 99 years and the incredible legacy he left in Puerto Rico and on his entire family and community. Marilyn's mother flew back to Florida with us and is staying two weeks with us for a much needed and deserved time of rest and respite.

December

Joel will be in Dallas 3 days this week planning with the Mission Innovation Team and other targeted leaders of Resonate Global Mission. For those of you not part of the Christian Reformed Church, [Resonate Global Mission](#) is the mission agency of the Christian Reformed Church in North America and Joel has had the privilege of serving the agency as a member of the Mission Innovation Team. For the past 4 months, Resonate has been engaged in an extensive planning/evaluation process to give direction for the future of the mission agency. There has been 6 Working Groups organized around core strategic outcomes that the agency has been committed to live into. Joel has been able to serve as a co-facilitator for one of those Working Groups. The next three days (Dec. 9-11) will be crucial as the tracks for many years of future ministry for the Christian Reformed Church and a myriad of partner organizations, etc. will be laid out during this time together in Dallas. Your prayers are deeply appreciated.

Finally, the ground work is being laid out for an outstanding opportunity for young adults this coming Summer. The attached flyer has all the details and the application deadline is being extended to January 20th. Please be in prayer for this exciting pilot Central American vision trip which hopefully will become an annual vision trip pending the evaluation from the pilot year. At this point, Joel hopes to be present in the traveling portion of the trip but regardless of whether it works for him to physically go, both Joel and Marilyn will be instrumental in the planning of the details for the trip once participants have been secured. Please help us promote this opportunity with young people from your churches and/or their friends who might be interested in embarking on this incredible missional formation opportunity.

Thanks once again for your ongoing prayers and financial support. Please extend our greetings and gratitude for your respective missions committees (teams) and congregations.

Peace,

Joel & Marilyn Van Dyke

CENTRAL AMERICA ENCOUNTER VISION TRIP



WHAT?

An amazing opportunity for North American young adults to participate in spiritual and missional formation through engagement with the culture and history of 3 Central American countries. Come check out contextualized, holistic mission in the Central American region for two weeks!

WE WILL:

- Visit grassroots ministries doing inspiring work in all three countries
- Visit important cultural and historic sites in order to help us understand these unique places and their relevance for contemporary Central America
- Meet local Christians who are committed to the places where they live and serve
- Reflect on where we see God present and at work
- Explore the breathtaking beauty of this region (think volcanoes, lakes and more!)

WHO?

Upper level and graduating high school students and entry level college students (roughly ages 17-20) who are interested in Latin America, Latino communities in North America and/or global service in the future. We will prioritize applications from those with at least two years of high school or college Spanish.

WHAT WE HOPE YOU'LL TAKE AWAY:

- Experience the history and culture of three Central American nations and engage in theological and missiological reflection.
- Exposure to exemplary grassroots organizations practicing holistic mission in a cross-cultural setting.
- Explore a calling to full-time mission both at home and abroad and missional living in general.

YOUR GUIDES

Joel Van Dyke and Rachel Beveridge will provide overall oversight for the Vision Trip. Joel lived in Guatemala City for 15 years and traveled extensively throughout Central America during those years. Rachel currently lives in Guatemala City and in the past has also lived in Costa Rica and El Salvador. Both Joel and Rachel are career missionaries with Resonate Global Mission.

DETAILS

Length:

15 days

Opportunity Type

Vision Trip

Cost:

\$1,665 USD plus airfare from North America to Central America.

LOCATION

Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala

That's right! Three countries in 15 days!!

DATES

Friday June 20, 2020 —
Friday, July 3, 2020

Apply by:

Friday, December 20, 2019

APPLICATION

Please write Gillian Bruce (gbruce@crcna.org), Group Coordinator for Volunteer Ministries at Resonate Global Mission, to request an application.



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