



MISSION CONNECTIONS

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Summer 2021



A Long-Distance Relationship

Betsey and Eric Moe
*Mission co-workers
serving in Guatemala*

Dear friends,

I never thought Eric and I would be in a long-distance relationship, but here we are. Eric and I aren't living apart from each other; quite the contrary, we spend most of every day together. In fact, we just celebrated our twenty-sixth wedding anniversary on August 5, 2021, and spent a fun, few days in San Diego, letting our hair down with walks on the beach and even surfing lessons.

No, our long-distance relationship is with CEDEPCA, our dear friends and colleagues in Guatemala. In our last letter, we said that we would be moving to Guatemala in September. We were so excited finally to be able to be physically close to the people with whom we minister and work. However, plans have changed, as plans do during a pandemic. COVID numbers are rising rapidly in Guatemala, systems (especially healthcare) are overly stressed, and it is simply not an appropriate time to move. We have set January as a new target date.

To say this was a difficult decision to make would be a gross understatement. We have been ready – in heart, mind, and body – to move to Guatemala for over a year. Each postponement brings heartache and doubt and long conversations of “what now?”

Our response is that we will continue to work remotely with CEDEPCA – putting together Virtual Journeys to Guatemala; arranging online Adult Sunday School classes that unite CEDEPCA staff in Guatemala with church members here in the States; taking classes through CEDEPCA, and learning more and more about the country's

context; meeting on Zoom with mission committees who want to explore the possibility of bringing groups to Guatemala in the future or how to design meaningful virtual connections in the meantime.

We will put on a positive face, but deep down, we feel discouraged – and we need your prayers this fall to stay positive and to trust in the Spirit to keep renewing us with creativity and hope.

The fact is that practicing solidarity *is* possible from a distance. You all show us that truth every day as you stand with us as partners from every part of the United States. Our Guatemalan colleagues at CEDEPCA are following strict protocols of sheltering in place, yet they are still



Betsey and Eric celebrating their 26th Wedding Anniversary

powerfully standing in solidarity with the vulnerable through online classes, phone calls, and workshops. We take heart that from the earliest days of the church, Paul and other missionaries were standing in solidarity with churches and individuals through the unifying Spirit of God.

Someday, face-to-face collaboration will be possible. Until then, we pour ourselves into our precious long-distance relationships with CEDEPCA and with you. Thank you again for partnering with us – financially and in friendship and prayer. May Christ be our hope as we get through this pandemic together!

Grace and peace to you,

Betsey and Eric Moe

Thank you for reading our letter!

Please consider supporting Presbyterian Mission through our ministry. We are grateful for your prayers, personal communication and financial support.

Gifts may be sent to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

On the memo line, please write:

"Moe—E200538" (individual giving)
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Thank you for your faithful support.