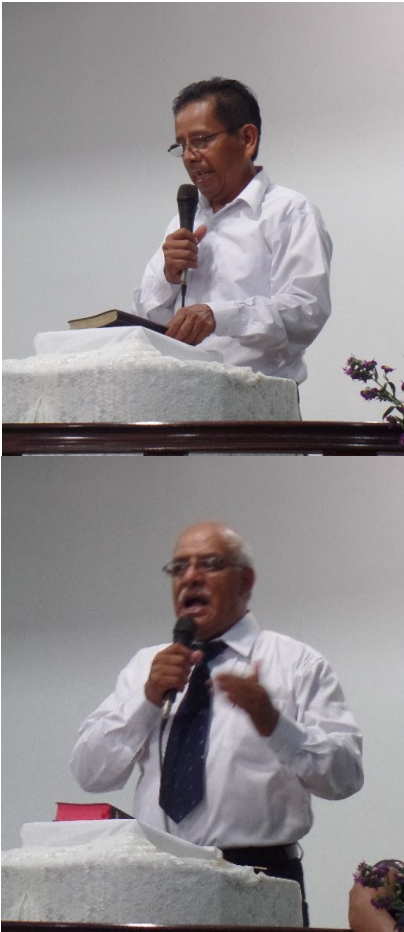


WORSHIP IN MALACATAN, GUATEMALA

By Chuck Moore, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Worthington



The Minnesota Valleys Presbytery (MVP) group along with members of the Occidente International Committee bounced in a van up steep, cobblestone, narrow roads. We headed for the Presbyterian church in Malacatan located in an out-of-the-way place in what appeared to be a rain forest. We were an hour late for the worship service to dedicate the manse to which MVP donated \$4,000. With our lateness and with hot and steamy weather, somewhere between 200-250 waited to worship.

The pastor Juan Alfonso Yoc expressed an appreciation of MVP and the contribution toward the building expenses. The MVP group brought greetings from Minnesota and presented the wall hanging for the new manse.

As expected, music played an important part of the service. Traditional hymns such as “Holy, Holy, Holy,” “The Church’s One Foundation,” and “Onward Christian Soldiers” were selected. Two guitarists played three or four praise songs, two of which were “Holy Is the Lord” and “O, My Soul.” At the end of the service, a large youth choir presented four selections including “The Little Brown Church in the Wildwood.”

The sermon, titled “Mission and Cooperation,” was based on Acts 11: 19-30. In this passage,

Barnabas served as a missionary from Jerusalem to Antioch. Pastor Eulalio Alvarez, the moderator of San Marcos Presbytery, compared the MVP delegation as missionaries from Minnesota to Malacatan to that of Barnabas. He said that MVP brought to the Malacatan church the hand of hope. Those in Guatemala were grateful for the missionaries from Minnesota, and eventually, Occidente Presbytery will send missionaries to Minnesota.

All appreciated the two-hour service, including a lizard or salamander crawling up the back wall of the sanctuary.

Pictures by Mark Ford. Top to bottom: Pastor Juan Alfonso Yoc, Pastor Eulalio Alvarez, Guitar Duo, Presentation.

Our travelers from Minnesota Valleys this year were Chuck Moore, Mark Ford, Edith Alvarez, Elaine Boyd and Le Roy Ennenga

