



# CoCo Program *Update*

## Companion Communities' Support for Peace in El Salvador

January 1992-May 1993

*President*

Design and construction of a school in San Rafael, Cuscatlan with support from Indiana University in Bloomington. Three groups from Bloomington visited San Rafael, in which some helped work on the school, a playground and plant coconut trees.

Re-construction of a bombed-out school in Consolacion, Cuscatlan with support from DePauw University's Winter Term in Mission program. Forty-five students, professors and professionals from DePauw and Greencastle, Indiana helped work on the project.

Salary support for community teachers in Talpetates, Usulután; El Sitio, Cuscatlan; and Santa Marta / Valle Nuevo, Cabanas. The Topeka Alliance on Central America in Kansas; a group in New Hampshire; and the Ulster County Reading Council in New Paltz, New York provided this support.

Support for the purchase of land in El Sitio, Cuscatlan and Valle Nuevo, Cabanas. The Toledo Area Committee on Central America (TACCA) in Ohio and the South North Partners ministry of Reba Place Church in Evanston, Illinois have been principal supporters of these two projects, with active involvement of the St. James Catholic Church in Detroit, Dumbarton United Methodist Church in Washington, DC and the Church of the Brethren Latin America / Caribbean Office.

Funding, technical training and marketing support was generated for women's dairy, deli and embroidery projects in Valle Nuevo and Santa Marta, Cabanas through creative efforts of the Takoma Park - Santa Marta Companion Cities Project and the New Paltz - Valle Nuevo Companion Community Project.

A 22-foot grain truck was donated to Valle Nuevo, Cabanas, through support from St James Catholic Church in Detroit, Michigan; the Coalition for Sanctuary in Kent, Ohio; and various churches and groups in Morgantown, West Virginia who also gave the truck a beautiful paint job; many other contributors to the National Caravan to Build the New El Salvador helped finance the trip to El Salvador, which carried an estimated \$30,000 in supplies to benefit approximately 10 Salvadoran rural and urban communities.

Priority medical supply purchases, equipment and technical assistance were provided to communities in Cabanas and Cuscatlan through support from Takoma Park; Dumbarton United Methodist Church; DePauw University; Hutterian Brethren; Plow Creek Farm in Tiskilwa, Illinois; Temple Emmanu-El in Detroit; and Reba Place Church.

Political support to preserve the El Espino coffee cooperative, a vital ecological area outside of San Salvador, was generated through two U.S. visits of cooperative representatives. Participants and supporters of these visits included the State University of New York in Stony Brook, New York; the Long Island Planning Board; New England Coffee Boycott group in Massachusetts; the Washington Office on Latin America; Neighbor to Neighbor; the Environmental Defense Fund; Sierra Club; and various Congressional offices and committees.

Technical studies for potable water, irrigation, small industries and the production and commercialization of organic agriculture were done with cooperation from two California-based organizations, APSNICA and Lifewater International; and Jubilee House Community located in North Carolina.

In activities related to these projects, over 100 North Americans visited Salvadoran communities in delegations or work brigades, and Salvadoran visited homes, schools, churches and community centers in 15 states.