

Moose Lake to Colombia in
January



U.S. and Colombian volunteers in Brisas del Mar, March 2011

The Moose Lake United Methodist Church will sponsor a third team of mission volunteers to the Caribbean coast of Colombia January 15-25. This group also will assist the community of Brisas del Mar, in the Sucre region, as have two previous local teams. The goal this time around is to complete construction of two classrooms to accommodate growing school enrollment, advancing steadily since the end of a paramilitary occupation four years ago.

A previous team helped complete a health clinic in Brisas del Mar, and the schoolroom project was launched by a Moose Lake team that went last March. At that time the foundation trenches were excavated and footing poured. Local volunteers and another mission volunteer team have brought the project nearer completion. It is expected that the January team will apply the finishing touches to make the rooms ready for occupancy as the new school year begins in February.

The two schoolrooms constructed with Methodist support will house two additional teachers at the secondary level. These educators will be salaried by the Colombian government. Their presence will permit local youth to complete their secondary studies without having to leave their families and board in a regional centre.

Funds contributed by former mission volunteers have helped supply building materials, while local Colombian community members have provided the labour to bring the project close to completion. Painting, hardware, and electrical fixtures remain for the U.S. volunteers to install.

Rev. Rick Edwards, pastor of the Moose Lake United Methodists, who will lead the

team in January, says a few more spots are open on the team. Cost will be approximately \$2,000 for ten days, including travel, food and lodgings. “January in the tropics may look very attractive to folks in the Northland,” Edwards laughed. The pastor served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia some years ago and remains fluent in Spanish and keenly aware of the South American country, its problems, and its possibilities.

Persons interested in volunteering or in an educational power-point slide presentation may contact Mr. Edwards at revricked@gmail.com or 218-390-0238.

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