

I wanted to update you on what mission programs the women of South Alabama are up to. March 18 will be our Spring Gathering and along with the music and bible study, we will be doing several mission oriented programs.

First, a theme being used in several areas is learning about Fair Trade. We will be serving coffee from Equal Exchange and selling it as well with all profits going to Mission Haven.

Second, our main speaker will be a women who started a Fair Trade certified company in Africa and she will be conducting a workshop teaching our ladies how to make jewelry using the beads made in Africa.

Third, there is going to be a workshop about Fair Trade and encouraging the ladies to put on Alternative Gift Fairs in their own churches.

Fourth, the CT has taken an idea from Churchwide and will put up a "Mission Walk". A hallway will be turned into an area displaying what the individual churches have been doing for mission in their own communities so that we can all share and exchange ideas.

The biggest event will be the commissioning of the first two women who will be going to the Yucatan on a mission trip as a result of funds made available through our new PW Memorial Mission Scholarship Fund.

The monies for the scholarship fund have come from congregations, individuals and PW groups. We plan to help at least two women a year (more if we raise enough money) who would otherwise not be able to go on such missions.

Our first two recipients are Lisa and Aubry Bell, members of Geneva Presbyterian Church in Geneva, Alabama. Yes, they are Mother and Daughter. They have never been able to participate in this annual trip but the help they will get from the scholarship fund is making it possible. In exchange for this assistance, they agree that for six months after their return, they will make themselves available to the contributors to speak to the groups. Giving back for what they receive.

We are all very excited about all these programs and look forward to continuing and expanding on them.

Just wanted to keep you posted on what is happening down here.

Blessing,
Judy Persons
VM Missions for PW of South Alabama