



## Sunday Discussions of “Everything Good about God Is True”

9:00 & 11:15

Sunday, June 1: Please have read the Introduction and Section One “A Few Words about the Creator and Us: Grounded, Gathered, Hurting, Healed” pages 1 to 66.

Sunday, June 8: Please have read Section Two “A Few Words about the Spirit and Us: Inspired, Storied, Compelled, Revealed” pages 67 to 98.

Sunday, June 15: Please have read Section Three “A Few Words about Jesus and Us: Grateful, Generous, Renewed, Fed” pages 99 to 142.

Sunday, June 22 Please have read Section Four “A Few Words about the Good News and Us: Humble, Just, Kind, Led” along with the Epilogue, pages 143 to 176.

Sunday, June 29 Bruce Reyes-Chow will lead a discussion of the entire book. This will be a good opportunity to get responses Phil was not able to provide.



Assemble  
Weekend Food Bags  
After Worship  
June 15



Outside Doors Pointed



## REVISITING OUR PARTNERSHIP, UNIDOS GUATEMALA

### How it all started

In the fall of 2011, Social Justice and Mission began to explore the possibility of entering into a healthy and intentional, international outreach partnership. A partnership that could help us develop a meaningful sense of discipleship, share resources, and positively impact our communities and members on each side of this type of a partnership bridge.





The first measure of this intentionality came with a requirement for potential short-term mission team members to meet no less than four times prior to their commissioning and departure. It also included a commitment to follow the trip with a final gathering to debrief the experience and preparing for a presentation of a summary report to the congregation.

In between those pre-trip meetings there was reading material with relevant scripture and current discourse on healthy outreach and relational mission. There was also reflective writing to build familiarity with cross-cultural differences, exercises to reveal some of our blind spots, and plenty of conversation and jokes to help the group bond prior to departure. In this dedicated and intentional space the team was beginning to learn through practice and experience what relational mission looked and felt like.

The curriculum that teams would soon be utilizing for each subsequent visit, "Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions," was based off the call to action book, "When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor... and Yourself." The contents of this book on healthy short-term mission work were immediately recognized as proficiently sound and critical for the intentionality we were pursuing... but the theological vernacular of the PCA (Presbyterian Church in America) authors was a bit more righteous than the PCUSA diction our members were accustomed to. So in the beginning of teams' work, a fair amount of time was spent on the theological interpretations and distinctions between PCUSA and our siblings in the PCA. This proved an unexpected but valuable exploration into the theological and discipleship development of our trip participants.

Following four months of study, preparations, Skype calls, and fundraising, on March 17, 2012, during Lent, the congregation sent a commissioned team of five, Austin Ashenbrenner, Danny Struble, Seara Weir, Teresa Cooper and Chandra Cooper, down to Antigua, Guatemala on a weeklong pilot trip to discern whether this might be a valuable and viable partnership for cross-cultural ministry and outreach. What a view-expanding and trajectory-setting trip!

In the years that followed, another important guiding work in mission was published by two PCUSA theological academicians, "Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Vision for Companionship, Cultural Humility, and Co-Development," by Hunter Farrell, former director of Presbyterian World Mission, and his Pittsburg seminarian colleague, the Rev. Bala Khylllep. Their work recognizes the intentionality introduced in "When Helping Hurts" and expands upon it in perspective and scope from the authors' extensive backgrounds and their work with our denomination's global network.

*To be continued.*

Next month: [The Bridging Connection...](#)

