

Guatemala Immersion

Unión Victoria Learning Tour

April 10-19, 2015



We've been taught 'God helps those who help themselves.' But what if the way we 'help ourselves' actually makes things harder for others?

The globalization of economies and cultures creates both danger and opportunity at home and abroad. For some of us, the issues feel academic. To those on the edge of economic survival they are anything but.

Our learning tour will give participants the chance to live with and learn from those who experience globalization from the bottom up.

The conventional western models of development were part of what sparked and fueled thirty years of Guatemalan civil war. Out of desperation, the indigenous people of Guatemala's hill country came together to survive and resist the forces dividing their people.

After the war, the challenge turned to building a just and sustainable future in Unión Victoria, a village designed from scratch on an old coffee plantation up in the hills.



Unión Victoria, seen from one of the pastures above the village.

Ninety families, with support from the government, the church, and non-governmental partners have built homes, schools, and health clinics. Together they maintain and operate their coffee cooperative, hydro-power system, bridge, roads, botanical nursery and community center. Families earn income from both private and collective economic pursuits.



But it's not utopia. Climate change, deforestation, poor access to increasingly volatile markets, and limited capital keep the people of Unión Victoria living on the edge. They know short-term solutions can create longer term problems so they continue seeking new knowledge and methods.



Our small delegation will give you the chance to build friendships with warm, open, courageous, and determined people.



You will join them in their study and practice of building sustainable community.



You will return home with a deeper understanding of how your lifestyle and our public policies affect those living on the edge.

And if you are willing, you will have enlarged the circle of your concern, commitment and creativity with new partners and a common pursuit.



Cost: \$700 plus about \$700 in airfare.

Register your interest with:

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