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FRIENDLY AVENUE CAMPUS
LAKE BRANDT CAMPUS

May 4, 2011

Dear Friends,

After much thought, discussion and prayer, the Outreach Committee has made a difficult decision about travel to Piedras Negras, Mexico this spring and summer to work with Constructores para Cristo. In the interest of safety, the committee voted earlier today to cancel all 3 trips to Mexico this summer.

Many of you are aware of problems over the last several years with regard to the border towns. In the past, Piedras Negras has not been mentioned as a town with significant problems. However, in the U.S. State Dept.'s most recent travel warning related to travel in Mexico, issued April 22, the following was written:

"The State of Coahuila has also experienced an increase in violent crimes and narcotics-related murders. U.S. government employees are restricted from traveling to the area known as "La Laguna", including the city of Torreon, and the city of Saltillo within the state. **You should defer non-essential travel to this area, as well as to the cities of Piedras Negras and Ciudad Acuña due to frequent incidents of TCO-related violence.**" (The warning can be read in its entirety at the following link:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5440.html#)

This is of particular concern. We want to be faithful to our mission to serve in the world but we feel it must be done so responsibly. This was a difficult decision because the Mexico trips are at the heart and soul of Westminster's outreach ministry. Know that we evaluated the situation from all perspectives.

Westminster will not abandon our neighbors in Mexico. At its meeting, the Outreach committee voted to pay for all supplies and Mexican labor to build the 3 homes that were promised by Westminster. This way, the families for whom we were to build will still have homes and we will be putting money into the economy by employing some of its citizens.

Thank you to all who have worked so hard on this year's Auction. We hope that you will continue to support the effort. It is as important as ever that we raise funds to pay for the building of these homes.

Please join us in praying for the people of Mexico, for the work of Constructores para Cristo and for God to continue to guide each of us as we seek to be faithful to our common calling to serve.

In Christ's Service,


Anne Hendrix & Mark Brainerd
for Westminster's Outreach Committee