

Maya of the CPR-Sierra

The peoples of the CPR-Sierra [*Comunidades de Población en Resistencia de la Sierra*] are primarily Ixil and Quiché Maya subsistence farmers who fled into the remote mountains of the Ixil area, northern Quiché Department, to escape army massacres and scorched-earth campaigns during Guatemala's 36-year internal conflict. Although the area was culturally home, few held clear title to the land. Under terms of the December, 1996, Peace Accords, many were resettled to areas far from their *santas montañas* (holy mountains), where they had to begin anew, with much hardship, but where they own the land. Others returned to small settlements near their communities of origin. A remnant remains in the mountain fastnesses to which they fled.

The CPR now number around 1700 families (approximately 8,300 people), divided among 22 small communities and major resettlement locations, scattered from the Pacific coastal plain to the mountains of Quiché.

St. Michael's Guatemala Project – in partnership with the CPR-Sierra

St Michael's Guatemala Project is an ongoing, non-sectarian informal partnership with the CPR-Sierra that continues a relationship begun in 1993. Focus areas include community health and health education, advocacy, arts and culture, mutual learning, and commitment to indigenous self-determination.

Presently the project makes monthly incentive payments (through CPR structures) to 25 to 30 Maya health workers who serve their isolated home communities as volunteers. It also helps with transportation for patients who can't be treated in their communities and helps purchase medicines and low-tech medical supplies as funds permit. Teams visit annually to maintain the relationship and work alongside community health promoters.

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St Michael's Guatemala Project



20 years in solidarity with the Maya
of the CPR-Sierra



Health support
Mutual learning
Arts & culture
**Respect for indigenous
self-determination**

**St. Michael & All Angels
Episcopal Church, Tucson AZ**

Images: crosses to dead, 1993; mural, war years; Gaspar, waiting treatment; child's drawing 2011; Team visit 2012.

