

# St Michael's Guatemala Project – ¡Despedida! 31 years in solidarity with rural Maya of the CPR-Sierra

## Guatemala Team Sendoff & Celebration Saturday, May 18, 3 p.m.

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church  
602 N. Wilmot Rd, Parish Center

Meet and thank 2024 Team members –  
Ophthalmologists Lisa Lane & Jason Levine, and promotora  
& Tucson Samaritan Taylor Leigh, joining Coordinator Ila  
in Guatemala in early June.

Chat with former Team participants.

Free (donations happily accepted) Great refreshments!  
Brief program, Maya textiles, Project exhibits.

Information – Coordinator Ila, [ilaa@mindspring.com](mailto:ilaa@mindspring.com), (520) 623-3063.



Other Ways to help – Donate funds or basic supplies (ask for a list).

Checks: St. Michael's Guatemala Project. Send to St. Michael's,  
602 N. Wilmot Rd, Tucson, AZ 85711.

Online: <https://www.smallangelstucson.org> .



Photo – 2023

Anthropologist  
Victor Braitberg  
and son Mani,  
health leaders  
Pedro Bernal and  
Gustavo Cuyuch.

Not pictured –  
the other half of  
the Braitberg -  
Soltani family, Dr.  
Lisa Soltani and  
son Jacob.

Coordinator Ila is  
behind the  
camera.

## Why Guatemala Project? Why now?

- 🌱 We are the only local project, as best we know, in continuous solidarity with rural indigenous peoples in their country of origin – & certainly the only one in a 31-year collaboration.
- 🌱 Almost all donations are expended in country, except for essentials available for purchase only in the U.S.
- 🌱 Annual team visits allow mutual education, confirm data, and sustain ongoing relationships. We listen and learn, share expertise when asked.
- 🌱 We are working with CPR-Sierra leaders, Cierito Global nonprofit agent, and Senator Kelly's office to seek temporary work visas so CPR farmers can work here, send money home, and return safely. Everyone benefits.
- 🌱 Worldwide inflation and transition to market economies, and what Paul Farmer called “structural violence,” have fueled increased undocumented migration, death, and ruptured family units. We serve in-country.
- 🌱 Rural groups say, “You haven't forgotten us.”

Climate change, observed firsthand in 2014 when the coffee fungus “la roya” devastated production, is industrialized countries' “gift” to developing countries. Please urge U.S. leaders to stay serious about climate policy.



Photo 2023

Hurricanes  
Eta & Iota  
caused  
massive  
landslides.  
Violent  
storms in  
June, 2023,  
added to  
destruction.

Earlier  
drought, then  
floods,  
destroyed  
subsistence  
crops.

“Climate crisis to slash world incomes”

“Climate change will reduce future global income by about 19% in the next 25 years compared to a fictional world that's not warming, with the poorest areas and those least responsible for heating the atmosphere taking the biggest hit, a new study said.” – *AZ Daily Star*, April 20, 2023 .