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 to partner with the Church in  
 making disciples of the Indigenous  
 Peoples of the Americas

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< Areas of Ministry >

- ~ **Educating** of Missions  
 In local churches
- ~ **Evangelizing** the Lost
- ~ **Edifying** the Believers
- ~ **Equipping** Church Leaders
- ~ **Educating** Students  
 In the Warner School in Peru  
 & Vo-tech training in Guatemala

**Celebrating a New Beginning**

The early Roman calendar designated March 1 as the New Year. The calendar had just ten months, beginning with March. The celebration in March was due to spring time when that which seemed to be dead came alive again. Because of the leap year error in the Julian calendar, the date of Easter changes each year. It’s interesting that the Mayan calendar with 13 months is more accurate, not needing a leap year to correct itself. The Gregorian calendar reform also (in effect) restored January 1 as New Year's Day. Although most Catholic countries adopted the Gregorian calendar almost immediately, it was only gradually adopted among Protestant countries. The British, for example, did not adopt the reformed calendar until 1752. Until then, the British Empire – and its American colonies – still celebrated the New Year on March 25. Today we celebrate January 1 as the beginning of a New Year.

Every culture has its distinct way of celebrating the New Year, but most have one thing in common: “it’s a new beginning”. In the South we eat black-eyed peas seasoned with ham bone, cabbage and cornbread. This tradition is said to go back to the Civil War for after the Union Soldiers went through the South there was nothing left to eat. The peas and cabbage are supposed to bring one good luck and fortune in the New Year. After all these years, it has not worked for me, but I loved the taste, therefore will continue to eat them. Some cultures cook breads or cakes that are round indicating the year has made full circle, a new year has started. In Ecuador we observed as families built miniature houses with a full sized man that represented the old year. At midnight the man and house would be burned down signifying the old year was gone, giving birth (new beginning) to a new year.

More important than celebrating the beginning of a New Year is the beginning of a new life in Christ, the old person has died to sin and self and has been born again. That’s why PiM exists; to partner with you and those in Latin America to share the Good News of the Christ Child. He was born in a Cradle to go to the Cross that everyone could have a New Beginning in life.

**Will you join us in this mission?**

*Karvin*

## Coming Events

**February 2**

Missions Convention  
Cypress St Church  
West Monroe, LA

**February 27 – March 6**

Guatemala Work Camp

**March 8 – 11**

Seminary/Preaching Trip  
Guatemala

**March 18**

Missions Convention  
Liberty Grove Church  
West Monroe, LA

### Promote PiM in Your Church

You can help promote our ministry by placing our contact information in your newsletters, website and bulletins. This is especially significant if your church is one of our partners. Let Karvin know if we can help.

Partners in Missions, Inc.  
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### PiM is Now a Registered Charity with AmazonSmile

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**Prayer Request** for PiM Board Member **Kathi Sellers** who started chemo treatments in January following her surgery in November 2017. Kathi is a valuable teacher and preacher in our seminaries in Guatemala. Pray that she'll have a complete healing with a quick and easy recovery.

