

Hope Rising from the SOUTH

Join us in this unique opportunity to experience a renewing retreat in the context of truly revolutionary change. Come rest, reflect and renew our commitment to peace and justice in the lovely Andes Mountains of Venezuela

SOAW Retreat-Immersion experience: Hope Rising from the South: Venezuela , July 13-23, 2009

Come and experience the social and economic changes underway in Venezuela while deepening your commitment to social change. This retreat will combine an immersion experience in the beautiful and exciting setting of the Venezuelan Andes AND a daily rhythm of individual and group reflection on our own life and work.

Venezuela's Bolivarian revolution has captured the world's imagination with its sweeping economic, political and social changes. It has also sparked a sea change in Latin America, as many other countries begin the reshape their destinies through new constitutions and new leaders.

Behind all these changes are everyday people: children of farmers studying medicine in their own communities, women creating cooperatives, youth teaching their elders to read and write, neighbors building houses for one another. It is all very unique, very imperfect, and very experimental. Some things work, some things don't. But almost everything is *changing*.

As we in the U.S. search for change and for hope in our own lives and in our country, this is an opportune time to connect to those in the South who are creating change and hope.

The immersion/retreat will mostly take place in the state of Lara, in the foothills of the Andes mountains. Along with a few days in Caracas.

Retreat leaders: Rev. Mike Clark is the pastor of St. John's United Methodist Church in Watertown, MA., and was formerly the Co-Director of the Riverside Church Disarmament Program and the Executive Director of Witness for Peace. Lisa Sullivan is the SOAW Latin America coordinator. She has lived in Latin America since 1977, working for 21 years as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Venezuela and Bolivia. She raised her 3 children in the state of Lara, Venezuela.

Retreat fee: \$1,300 that covers all in-country transportation, lodging, and meals. Airfare between the US and Venezuela each participant's responsibility.

