

## **RUTH ASSOCIATION - Guatemala**

### 2008 Program Highlights:

- Providing Biblical teaching to the members of the Association through community Educators who use cassettes in the Mam language. Additionally taped New Testament Scriptures in simplified Spanish are being used.
- Micro-loan program is available for members of the Association. Prior to receiving the loans, the applications are reviewed, discussed and approved by the Board. Workshops about financial management and savings are given.
- Widows who live in conditions of extreme poverty receive food baskets once every two months.
- Projects that benefit entire communities are undertaken where Educators live. Some of these projects include the construction of a school kitchen, an additional school classroom, the repair of the community health center and the construction of a retaining wall for a local school.
- Youth groups from different communities are a new focus of the work this year. The youth in these groups are considered the "seedbed for Association's future leadership" . Two of these young people recently came to know Christ through listening to Scripture on tape, as did an older woman who has now given up practicing witchcraft through the grace and help of the Lord

### Challenges:

It has proven challenging to supervise the work without full-time personnel in the Tajumulco area. It has been difficult to continue the preparation of Mam Bible studies. The leadership of the Ruth Association has faced a number of health problems this year and has found the administration work difficult since most women never completed their primary school education and many cannot read or write.