

Presbytery of Carlisle

May 2018 Mission News

Continuing our Honduran Partnership - by Kathy Wells



Seven participants from the Presbytery of Carlisle traveled to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, April 9-16, 2018, continuing the partnership with the **Presbytery of Honduras** that began in 2006. The participants were **Rev. Doug Beltzner**, **Cletus Benjamin** and **Sherry Hershey** (Big Spring), David Hoover (Christian Life Assembly), **Rev. Tony Lorenz**, **Kathy Wells** (Monaghan) and **Rev. Kim Wadlington**.

For most of the week, our work focused on a home in the Nueva Suyapa neighborhood of Tegucigalpa. Three Presbyterian churches are located in that city. Members from each church participate on a Mission Committee that makes decisions about which families are most in need of either new homes, or improvements to their existing homes. We worked with a family from Iglesia Tierra Prometida (Promised Land).

Many homes in Tegucigalpa are built into mountain sides. Tegucigalpa is a mountainous city, so finding flat land for building homes is almost impossible. The concrete block home we built replaced a fragile wooden home. The homeowners are Ana and Wilfredo, whose family consists of four children, Jenifer, Bryan, Diyanna, and Stefany. Bryan worked with us every day. Wilfredo worked when he was not at his job.

Money was sent in advance, so masons Jorge and Victor, had already begun construction. They would continue after we left. There is never enough time to complete the work.





The Mujeres Presbiterianas in Honduras have done a wonderful job in their two months as administrators. The retreat center was clean and welcoming, with new mattresses, sheets, pillows, and towels. In fact, the Presbyterian Women worked together one day to make the new sheets and pillows. The food was wonderful, as always. One of our work days was spent in painting the outside trim of Villa Gracia. In addition to hosting us for the week, they have already hosted Presbytery meetings, educational events for the Presbytery of Honduras, and at least two retreats for church groups of other denominations in Honduras. They are off to a great start!

If your congregation is interested in being a part of this partnership, there are many ways to be involved. Many churches in the Presbytery are already giving money in support of our new mission co-worker in Honduras, **Rev. Dori Hjalmarson**. Her presence there will be a huge support to the Presbytery of Honduras. Each year mission trips goes to Honduras, and new participants are always welcome. Giving money in support of the purchase of Villa Gracia, or in support of the continuing education seminars for pastors and lay workers in the church in Honduras is also a way to be involved. Inquiries about our partnership in Honduras may be directed to: Rev. Kim Wadlington, Pastor, Middle Spring Presbyterian Church.



Rev. Dori Hjalmarson
Mission Coworker Honduras

Learn more about Rev. Hjalmarson at the link below.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnection/dori-hjalmarson/>

To say the least working on the side of a mountain made construction challenging. Fortunately, trucks were able to deliver concrete blocks and other supplies to the road just above the home. Then these supplies had to be passed down the hill to the work area! Getting a good footing was a challenge, and we could only pass partially loaded buckets of sand and gravel. At one point, blocks did come down.

By the end of the week, the new walls were fairly high and surrounded the wooden shell of the previously existing home. We are eagerly anticipating pictures of the completed home with its new roof.

In addition to the Honduras Presbytery Partnership Housing Building Project, our team was able to help with some projects at the **Villa Gracia Retreat Center**. The owners, newly retired mission co-workers **Tim and Gloria Wheeler**, are in the process of selling the property to the Presbyterian Women of Honduras, who are its administrators. The organization was granted \$100,000 from the Birthday Offering of the national Presbyterian Women of the U.S. to aid in purchasing the center. **David Gill** of Ferncliff Camp, Presbytery of Arkansas, is doing fund-raising to help complete the payment for the purchase.