

Mission News 2019

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Rev. Dori Hjalmarson, Mission Co-worker in Honduras

Our mission co-worker in Honduras, the Rev. Dori Hjalmarson, is half way through her first term in Honduras. She will be visiting our Presbytery in September.

Dori will attend the Presbytery meeting on Tuesday evening, September 24, at Central Church, Chambersburg. Dori will present a workshop at the Refresh event on Saturday morning, September 28, at the Mechanicsburg Church. Watch for news of a Mission Advocacy Committee sponsored event planned for Thursday, September 26, place to be determined.

Our Presbytery is one of Dori's sponsoring organizations. If your church is interested in being part of this sponsorship, please contact the presbytery office (717-737-6821).

February Visit to Our Honduran Partners

From February 11-18, 2019, eight participants from the Presbytery of Carlisle continued our partnership with the Presbytery of Honduras by traveling to Honduras to help build another

house. These participants were Vicki Lantz, Brianna Lantz, Julie Rhen, Doug Beltzner, David Hoover, Kathy Wells, Tony Lorenz, and Kim Wadlington. Churches represented were



Rev. Dori Hjalmarson helps with a construction project

Second, Carlisle; Upper West Conococheague (Mercersburg); Monaghan (Dillsburg); First (Carlisle), and Middle Spring (Shippensburg).

Planning at Red Viva

Our February 2019 trip started a little differently than other trips. The first two days the team spent in discussion with representatives of the Presbytery of Honduras examining our partnership, which has been in place since 2006. This process was led by an organization called **Red Viva**, which specializes in inter-cultural partnerships. We looked at strengths of the partnership, as well as, challenges to the partnership, especially considering what both partners bring to and contribute to our relationship.



Partnership planning at Red Viva

Guaimaca Construction

After that, our team was off to Guaimaca to do some construction! As always, two masons had begun the work on the house, so most of the foundation was in place, and some of the walls had been started. This year we helped build a home for a couple named Castulo and Juana, who are members of the Josue 1:9 church in Puente, Jalan. Also, their adult daughter, Abby, and her two children will live with them too. The house was in the country, which was very different from our usual building experiences within the city of Tegucigalpa.

Our mission co-worker in Honduras, the Rev. Dori Hjalmarson, was able to be with us for the entire week! This was an extra bonus for us. Dori has been in Honduras for more than a year now, and she already has very close relationships with many of the members of the churches in Honduras.

Our work this time included lots of digging! We dug the trench for the foundation for the very back wall. Then, because the house was being built on a hillside (but not as steep a hillside as in Tegucigalpa!), we had to level the floor inside the home. Thankfully, we had lots of help with this project!! As a result of the work with Red Viva on Monday and Tuesday, Herbert Rivas, a leader of the Tierra Prometida church in Tegucigalpa, joined us on Thursday bringing five other workers from his church with him! We could not have leveled that floor in one day without their help. This deeper idea of partnership was directly responsible for their involvement that day.

On Friday afternoon we returned to Tegucigalpa and stayed at the retreat center, Villa Gracia,

which Tim and Gloria Wheeler built and, which they are selling to the Presbyterian Women of Honduras, for them to own and manage. The Presbyterian Women have already proven themselves to be very capable managers. They have had a steady stream of groups using Villa Gracia, including a nice balance of Presbyterian groups in Honduras, Presbyterian groups from the United States, and non-Presbyterian groups from Honduras. They have even had one NGO from the United States, which found the retreat center to have favorable rates and to provide excellent food and other services.

On Sunday, we worshipped with the congregation of Peña de Horeb in Tegucigalpa. After church a fund raising dinner featuring grill pork to raise money for a youth retreat at Villa Gracia the following week was held. We decided to take part, buying our meals there, and taking them to Dori's home to enjoy!

A small presbytery team returned to Red Viva May 20-24 to continue the work there.

