

Newsletter

December 2020



Flood waters in the village of Los Bananos.

Hurricanes Batter Honduras

Honduras was devastated by two hurricanes in November, first by Eta early in the month, and then by Iota two weeks later. They were the two worst storms to hit the nation since Hurricane Mitch wreaked its path of destruction in 1998. Particularly affected was the Sula Valley in the northwestern part of the country. This region is home to approximately 3 million people and is the economic heartland of Honduras, generating about 2/3 of its annual GDP. One million people have lost their sources of income and damage is estimated at more than \$10 billion. Before the storms, forecasts of higher precipitation during the rainy season, following years of drought, had led to

optimism for a good harvest. Now large areas of flooding have wiped out crops such as bananas, beans, corn, and sugar cane.



The eye of Hurricane Eta passed over the town of Santa Cruz de Yojoa

The staff at CPI's main school in Santa Cruz de Yojoa have informed us that Los Bananos, a village in the Sula Valley and the site of a CPI satellite school, was severely damaged. Flooding destroyed a large number of houses and displaced many of the 536 residents. The school, which had an enrolment of 32 students, was also lost along with all of its computer equipment.

The people of Los Bananos are in desperate need of clothing, food, and shelter. The Santa Cruz school staff collected clothing and food from local sources to send to the stricken community for immediate relief. A GoFundMe campaign initiated by CPI Board member Phil Gaudet raised over \$11,000 for aid to Los Bananos.

The combination of the ongoing pandemic and the hurricanes has resulted in severe economic hardships for many Hondurans. As a result, some of the students enrolled in CPI's CAL programs are not returning to school to help support their families. On a larger scale, an increasing number of people see that migrating to the United States is their only hope for a better life and are making the dangerous trek northward.



CAL Video

A video about Computer-Assisted Learning in Honduras featuring footage shot in 2019 (December 2019 newsletter) has been completed by Grant Hoepfner Media of Winnipeg MB. The 24-minute production has been uploaded to YouTube and can be viewed at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/RP6IGv9P4Rg>.

A shorter (7 min) version can be seen at:

<https://youtu.be/RmzrM2g4UM4>.



Pandemic Halts Discussions with UNICEF

Meetings of CPI Executive Director Dave Hubert and Asociación Confraternidad Honduras (ACH) Board and staff members with the Honduran Vice-Minister of Education, Javier Menocal, late in 2019 were followed by discussions with officials of UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund). Indications were that UNICEF would recommend CAL as a preferred educational program for all of Central America. However, since the Covid-19 pandemic was declared there has been no further communication with UNICEF.



From left to right: Manuel Tabora (ACH), Dave Hubert (CPI), Yeni Lopez Tovar (ACH), Javier Menocal, Jose Vasques (ACH), Carlos Lopez (Exec. Ass.)

2020 CPI Annual General Meeting

The 2020 AGM, which was postponed from its usual date in June because of the pandemic, was finally held on September 20. Thirty-three attendees connected online, via Zoom, to the meeting. The highlight was the first public screening of the video "Computer Assisted Learning in Honduras". In addition, two new members, Olga Ochoa and Phil Gaudet, were elected to the Board of Directors. The Annual Report for 2019 is available on the CPI web site:

<https://www.canadianpeacemakers.org/>

Donations* are gratefully accepted and may be made by:

1. Sending a cheque payable to: Canadian Peacemakers International
P.O. Box 42123 Millbourne
Edmonton, AB
Canada T6K 4C4
2. Making an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account (Please attach a void check).
3. Donating at <https://atbcares.benevity.org> (no fees and possible matching gift).
4. Donating at <https://www.canadahelps.org> (monthly can be arranged here).

* Unless otherwise designated, all donations will be used in Honduras. The Board and the Executive Director serve in volunteer capacities and receive no remuneration. Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$10 (CRA Charitable # 868063090RR0001).