

Canadian Peacemakers nternational

Newsletter

December 2019

Water Tanks and Computers

Plans are being made to send a shipment to Honduras for support of several ongoing CPI projects. A 40-ft. sea can will be purchased and filled with items required in village-building and Computer-Assisted Learning (CAL) projects. About one-half of the sea can will be occupied by 36 1-m³ tanks previously used by Cargill Canada in food production. After the tanks are cleaned and dried, they will be packed with up to 500 computers and peripherals. The remaining space in the sea can will be filled with tools and equipment for CPI's vocational training program for tuk-tuk maintenance and repair in Santa Cruz and other materials yet to be determined.

The tanks are to be used for storing rainwater in a village that is experiencing a water shortage due to a lengthy drought. The computer equipment is intended for use in CPI's main school in Santa Cruz de Yojoa and various satellite schools throughout Honduras. After the sea can is emptied, it will be modified for use as the instructional facility for tuk-tuk vocational training.



Trailer loaded with tanks for transport from Saskatoon to Edmonton

Computers for Honduras

Expansion of CPI's CAL program in Honduras is limited by the number of computers available to students. Therefore, CPI has set the ambitious goal of sending 500 computers to Honduras in the spring of 2020 and is seeking donations of desktops, laptops, and tablets. To help achieve this goal, CPI has formed a partnership with Catholic Social Services and the Edmonton Recycling Association. ERA will facilitate the collection process by ensuring the devices are functional, wiping data from the hard drives, and installing the Windows 10 operating system. Donations can be arranged by contacting Wendy Baergen (wbaergen@hotmail.com).

CAL Video

CPI has received a donation to fund the production of a video documentary about the CAL program in Honduras. In November, the team of videographer Grant Hoeppner and Prof. David Balzer of Canadian Mennonite University visited various schools that have implemented CAL. The documentary will also be subtitled in French and used for promoting the advantages of CAL in sub-Saharan Africa.



Grant Hoeppner and David Balzer interviewing mature students at the Centro de Enseñanza Fraternidad, CPI's main school in Santa Cruz de Yojoa. Two of the women were attending a nursing school in Rio Lindo, near Santa Cruz, when they enrolled in the CAL program to obtain the more basic education required for a career in nursing. They attend every Saturday.

CAL for High School in Honduras

CPI's CAL program currently is limited to the curricula for Grades 7–9. Lengthy negotiations with the Honduran government finally appear to be paying dividends as verbal approval has been given for the program to be expanded to Grades 10-12. After some required documentation is submitted to Honduran officials, CPI and its Honduran affiliate, Asociación Confraternidad Honduras (ACH), should receive the digitized Educatrachos curriculum so it can be incorporated into the CAL program. This is welcome news to many of the satellite schools which are anxious to offer high school to local students.

Satellite School in Santa Barbara

Roger and Maria Palacios operate an orphanage in their home in Santa Barbara and legally adopt the orphans into their family. In 2013, CPI assisted them in establishing a CAL satellite school in their home to provide further education for the adopted children. Roger himself and two of the children, Rudi and Jairo, graduated from Grade 9 in 2014. In 2017, Rudi and Jairo both graduated from Grade 12 in a regular high school, with specializations in quality control and logistics, respectively; now Jairo is continuing his studies at university. The number of students in the Palacios home has now risen to 32 as Roger and Maria also provide education for high-risk children from their village.



The Palacios family with CPI Executive Director Dave Hubert outside the school in Santa Cruz; L to R: Rudi, Jairo, Nancy, Maria, and Roger. The Palacios were so appreciative of the educational opportunities made possible by CAL that they made the 2-½ hour bus trip from Santa Barbara to Santa Cruz at their own expense to be interviewed for the CAL video.

Graduation in CAL Schools

December in 2019 will see 658 students completing a grade of Junior High School at Santa Cruz and 24 satellite schools. This brings the total number of students who have completed at least one grade of Junior High since 2010 to 4,317.

Educafé in Siguatepeque

Educafé is a CAL school that was started by Baptist Medical Dental Mission International in the city of Siguatepeque and is now owned and managed by Christian. The school operates a coffee shop on the premises and packages and sells coffee to raise money. Many of the students avail themselves of the barista training offered by the coffee shop. Of the 85 students who attended Educafé in 2019, 25% could not afford the tuition and studied on scholarships paid by the school. Christian has been requesting CPI/ACH to add High School to the curriculum and was overjoyed to learn that approval from the government has been received for this to go ahead.



CAL students in the Educafé classroom above the coffee shop on the ground floor

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 of \$___ from your bank account (Please attach a void check).
3. Making a donation (one-time or monthly) at www.CanadaHelps.org.

* 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).