

Canadian Peacemakers nternational

Newsletter

December 2021



Despite Covid-19, 2021 was another successful year for CPI's 26 Computer-Assisted Learning (CAL) schools in Honduras. A total of 691 students graduated from one of Grades 7 - 9, bringing the total to 5,534 since 2010. These are the students who graduated in the village of La Barca, about 20 km north of CPI's main school in Santa Cruz de Yojoa.

Computers for Honduras

An emergency shipment of computer hardware was sent to Honduras in January to replace the equipment lost in CPI's schools during the flooding caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in November, 2020. Two one-cubic-metre tanks were packed with 46 desktops and laptops, assorted peripherals, and donated clothing and quilts, which were used as padding. A total of 670 kg, including the tanks, was shipped by truck to Montreal and loaded onto a train to Miami. Then the tanks were transported by ship to Puerto Cortés, Honduras, and delivered to CPI's main school in the town

of Santa Cruz de Yojoa. There, the tanks were unpacked and the contents distributed as required. Subsequently, the empty tanks were installed in the village of Plan Grande to store rainwater.

These computers were the first sent by CPI to Honduras as freight; previously, all others had been carried in their luggage by visitors, most of whom were members of CPI's Learning Tours.



The shipment was picked up at a warehouse in San Pedro Sula, inland from Puerto Cortés.

Preparing a Container Shipment for Honduras

Bicycles, sewing machines, computers, tools, and other items are being collected for use in CPI's computer-assisted learning and vocational training programs in Honduras. They will be shipped to the town of Santa Cruz de Yojoa in a 40-ft. container, which itself will be converted into an instructional facility for the repair of moto-taxis, motorcycles, and bicycles. A course in sewing instruction will also be offered in the existing CPI school.



Due to the generosity of individual, institutional, and corporate donors, the inventory of items includes, to date:

- 100+ computers
- moto-taxi repair tools and equipment
- 2 motorcycles (175 cc and 450 cc)



100+ bicycles, most needing servicing
welding equipment
100+ quilts
28 sewing machines
40 kg of sewing supplies
3 cu. m. of clothing and shoes
office equipment

All of the sewing machines and bicycles will be inspected and serviced before being shipped.

Thank you to all of our donors; in particular, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, The King's University, Rosebud Community Enhancement Society, Tofield Community Church Sewing Club, Country Register (Alberta).

For more information or to donate items, please contact Harold at cpi.resdev20@gmail.com



Taking Computer-Assisted Learning to Sub-Saharan Africa

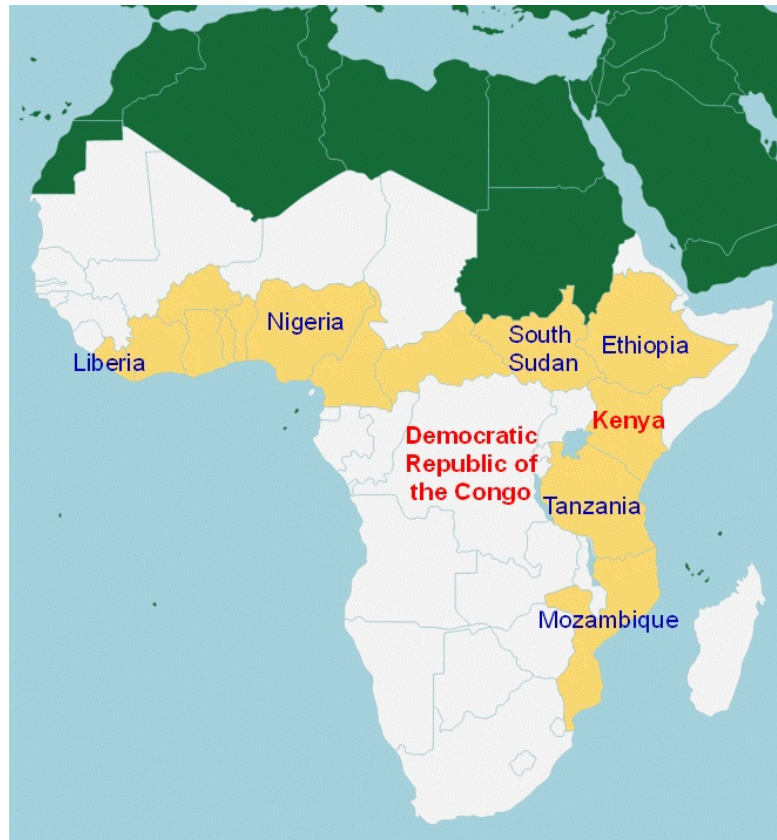
In 2015, the United Nations set 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030. One of them, Goal #4, aims to provide a quality education for all, including, as stated in one of the more specific targets, providing every child on Earth with an elementary school education (i.e., up to Grade 9). CPI believes that Computer-Assisted Learning (CAL) is the ideal means for achieving this target because it is cheap and effective, as experience in Honduras has shown.

According to the U.N., Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA, the 46 nations that lie fully or partially south of the Sahara Desert) has the highest proportion of uneducated young people in the world; over 1/5 of children between the ages of 6 and 11 and 1/3 of those between 12 and 14 do not attend school. The link between lack of education and poverty is well established; thus, the need to bring education to the impoverished people of SSA to improve their standard of living is evident.

CPI is introducing CAL to SSA in the French-speaking Democratic Republic of the Congo and in English-speaking Kenya. It is hoped that demonstrating the utility of CAL in these countries will facilitate its spread in throughout the rest of SSA.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

The impetus for establishing a CAL program in the DRC was provided by a designated donation of nearly \$30,000 from the Westside Community Church in Morden, Manitoba. About 60 computers have been collected in Manitoba and shipped to the city of Kikwit in the southwest of the country. Here, Hervé Kimbau, a university graduate in information technology, has serviced the computers and is developing a CAL platform. The educational content on the platform will include: the mandatory curricular materials specific to the DRC, a library (with a component of peace literature) which is currently being assembled, the Wikipedia encyclopedia, dictionaries, an atlas, and a touch-typing program.



Sub-Saharan Africa: the regions in white and yellow

The leaders of the program in the DRC are Theo and Gloria Fumana, currently residing in Edmonton. They are waiting for pandemic conditions to change sufficiently so that they can safely return to Africa.

To help promote the use of CAL in the DRC, a handbook describing the CAL program in Honduras has been translated into French and will be made available on the CPI web site.

Kenya

In 2020, CPI Executive Director Dave Hubert joined with several other leaders to form a network called Peace Africa. This group is exploring the possibility of the Mennonite Church in Africa playing the role of peacemaker in the conflicts between Christians and Muslims along the so-called Arc of Confrontation (the countries in yellow in the map above), which runs from Liberia in West Africa, east through Nigeria to Ethiopia, and south through Kenya to Mozambique. Patrick Obonde, a co-chair of Peace Africa, quickly recognized the potential benefits of using CAL as an educational tool to meet the long-term goals of the network. He is a native Kenyan with extensive experience as

a teacher and consultant in Africa and has been engaged by CPI to introduce a CAL program in his country. A video interview of Patrick (with subtitles in Swahili) will soon be available on the CPI web site. The first school will be established in Bondo, a town near Lake Victoria. Bondo has a significant Kenya Mennonite Church presence and is well situated for future expansion of the school program into Tanzania and Uganda.

2021 CPI Annual General Meeting

The 2021 AGM was held online on September 19. The Board of Directors welcomed two new members, retired teacher Michelle Lacoursiere and information technology professional Zaher Zhra, who were elected to the Board along with five incumbents whose terms were expiring. The Board also reluctantly bade farewell to Reuben Friesen, a Director since 2007. Reuben spearheaded the development of the CAL platform and its implementation in Honduras.

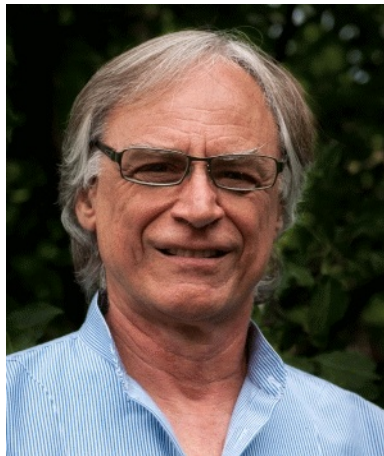
Also noteworthy was the approval of a new set of by-laws to replace the original ones dating back to 1997. The Annual Report for 2020 is available on the CPI web site:

https://www.canadianpeacemakers.org/_files/ugd/a4a011_5dbfb1ac1984481fa8b6768d4d565669.pdf

Changes in CPI Leadership



Dave Hubert, one of the founding members of CPI in 1997 and Executive Director since 2002, is now the Director of CPI Africa.



Ron Dyck, who joined the Board of Directors in 2018, has resigned from the Board to take the position of Interim Executive Director.



Suzanne Gross, a Director since 2010 will leave the Board on January 1, 2022 to become the Director of CPI Honduras

Program Goals for 2022

The major goals of CPI and its Honduran partner, Asociación Confraternidad Honduras for 2022 in Honduras and Sub-Saharan Africa are to:

1. Establish three new satellite schools in Honduras, which would bring the total to 29.
2. Graduate at least 1,000 students from one of Grades 7-9.
3. Complete negotiations with the Honduras Ministry of Education to approve CAL for Grades 10-12 and begin the implementation of this new program.
4. Send a sea can filled with computers, bicycles, sewing machines, tools, and other equipment and supplies to Honduras for use in vocational training programs.
5. Establish CAL schools in Kikwit, DRC and Bondo, Kenya.

Donations

The financial support of individual donors is essential for ensuring the success of CPI's programs in Honduras and Sub-Saharan Africa. Tax receipts will be issued for gifts over \$10 (CRA Charitable # 868063090RR0001. Donations can be made by:

1. Sending a cheque payable to: Canadian Peacemakers International
P.O. Box 42123 Millbourne
Edmonton, AB
Canada T6K 4C4
2. Making automatic monthly withdrawals from your bank account (send a void check to the above address).
3. Making an E-transfer to cpi.office.donations@gmail.com.
4. Donating at <https://atbcares.benevity.org/community/cause/124-868063090RR0001> (possible matching gift).
5. Donating at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/association-of-canadian-peacemakers-international-canada/> (monthly giving can also be arranged here).

Note: The Board, Executive Director, and Regional Directors serve in volunteer capacities and receive no remuneration.