

February 07

in Honduras

-- Janet Alcántara

"I have sent [them] to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are...[they] will tell you about everything here."-- Colossians 4:7

Starting the end of January, it was a challenge to wedge in the rounds to the communities between the visits from our many guests.

NEW ENGLAND. Bishop Margaret Payne and group came to visit Episcopal projects, were delighted to find Lutherans in Honduras, and now look forward to partnering with ICLH. "Truly, we have much to learn from your church, in its sense of authentic community, its determination to be Christ in the world, and its unswerving dedication to the poor and marginalized," Bishop Payne observed to us.

LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION. ICLH hosted a 4-day *Diakonia* conference so members from all of Central America and Colombia—with the help of staff from Europe and South America-- could consider deeply the meaning of *diakonia* (service) and examine the ways our congregations are expanding the types of Christian service we live out in our communities.

TEXAS. Long-time ICLH partners Pastor Stan and Barbara Sultemeier from Austin, with a team of three women, sponsored a 4-day Liturgical Arts workshop, inviting all of our congregations to send participants. Slated to interpret, I picked up an intestinal infection, so stayed home eating antibiotics instead. Everyone else worked hard on banners and reported a laughter-marked time of learning and spiritual nourishment.

NE MINNESOTA. A week later, Rev. David Mesner and a team of about 40 "Duluth-erans" arrived (sans 62 pieces of luggage...) at the CCD center 1 ½ hours east (near Talanga) to make bricks and cement blocks, offer a dental clinic, and host an ecumenical theological/liturgical workshop. ICLH provided 17 participants. Despite a drippy cold picked up the first day, I interpreted, translated, co-celebrated two services daily, and interacted as the ICLH official representative, as Pastor Armindo was unable to attend. The content of the event was unexpectedly touching, and all of our participants marveled, "I learned *so much!*" Hosts and guests alike hope we can repeat this accompaniment experience on a regular basis.

Ambiance

W. Florac

I continue to meet plants and fruits that I haven't ever seen before. Here are this month's surprises:



Driving the coastal highway between San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba, I kept gasping in delight: the whole countryside was awash in frothy pink—*cherry blossoms?* Turns out they were the delicate blooms of the *Madriada* tree.



Usually *Acacia* trees produce showy scarlet flowers, but a variation that caught my eye in the past weeks puts out Disney-like splashes of an improbable hue of purple.



The *Limón mandarina* is shaped like a lemon with peel the color of a tangerine. It smells like a lemon until you scratch it, when it smells like tangerine. Cut it open, and you'd swear it was a tangerine, but taste it and surprise! It tastes like a lemon (and not like the limes which are more commonly known here).

Not either/or...

More and more people request my newsletter and many want to know how to partner with ICLH. But--ELCA Global Mission reports--folks aren't lining up to support *me*. "We need to support both our missionaries (you) *and* the companion churches," David Lerseth writes to me, "but the missionaries are needed, and we need support for them."



To ask questions or set up support, contact:

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