

Update

Many people ask me what is going on nowadays with the Iglesia Cristiana Luterana de Honduras (ICLH), and since this is my last newsletter, I want to give you an update.

—Firstly, the person who was to go from ELCA Global Mission after me, **Kayla Aspelagh**, was prevented from doing so by the uncertainty in the country precipitated by the coup.

—**Rolando Ortez**, General Secretary of ICLH for two years, is now a seminary student in Brazil.

—The three students who had been studying theology abroad, **Martín Girón**, **Hernán López** and **Berta Ramírez** are now all ordained. **Martín** and **Hernán** share the leadership of ICLH; **Berta** heads the Development of Communities of Faith department.

—The church continues to be buffeted. Their already-tiny resource base shrinks. They dismissed staff and try to figure out how to share the work amongst those remaining.

—Since the coup, gang violence grows unchecked in the communities where ICLH is active. Church people fear for their safety. The missionary family from Brazil returned home.



—This week, ICLH announced the closure of the San Pedro Sula flagship church, Iglesia del Buen Pastor (above), due to gang war and slaughter in the church precincts.

Jan. 2011

FINAL!!
ISSUE

After Honduras

Janet Alcántara

“Make me know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.” Psalm 25:4

I last wrote to you in June, 2009. I was leaving Honduras but still did not know the next step. I sure didn't expect it would take this long to find it!

--Despite the coup, which complicated and delayed my departure, I did make it out in safety...

--During July and part of August, I visited supporting churches, attended conferences and visited family in Orlando, Florida



Bahía Santa Cruz, Huatulco, México

--Unready to return so soon to the States, I house-sat for my daughter's friend in Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico, for a month and a half. I applied for a job at the local university but found the intense, humid heat provoked health problems. A shame, since Huatulco is an exquisite paradise!

--Both of my daughters were living in Mexico City so I spent another month and a half there.

“The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places.” Isaiah 58:11

--I returned to Seattle, Washington, just before Thanksgiving, 2010, to begin what turned out to be a year of unemployment and secondary homelessness, a rather harrowing experience, albeit blessed with time for volunteering, visiting friends and house-sitting in scenic settings. Living out of a suitcase and having no place of my own got old—but I got to share the lives and homes of kind and fascinating people.



North Shore, Seattle, Washington

“And now I make all things new.” Revelation 21:5

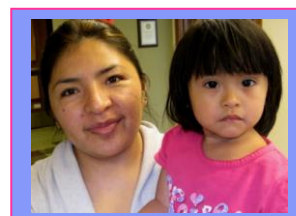
After only 3 job interviews in 9 months, in November I suddenly had four in one week, which led to three second interviews. Three days before Thanksgiving, 2010, I accepted a position with Lutheran Community Services as a Program Manager for their Angle Lake Family Resource Center in SeaTac (working mostly in Spanish with programs for Hispanic families)...on the Christmas and New Year's holidays I moved my things from storage into a 1-bedroom apartment on the NW edge of Burien, a 12-minute drive from work...last Sunday I was accepted as a member at Prince of Peace Lutheran in SeaTac. A new job, new address, new church, lots of new people and an abundance of new things to learn! My e-mail is the same, though.

“I will do more good to you than ever before. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.” Ezequiel 36.11

In faith and service in Christ,

--janet

Deaconess Janet Russell Alcántara,
dcsjanet@hotmail.com



Mom and daughter at my new job in SeaTac, Washington