

June 08, year 2

in Honduras

Janet Alcántara

Ambiance

Street peddlers

Working from home the past weeks, I notice more the street peddlers' frequent calls throughout the day. Besides the tinkling of ice-cream cart bells, **cobblers** announce, "¡Arreglo zapatos!" and what sounds like "ah-ah-ah arreglozapato!" (Greek?) but which means, "I do same-day shoe repair."

Green-grocers in pickup trucks sound their horns and slur the names of their produce over a loud-speaker: "Haypiñapapaya-plátanonaranjatomateagua cate..." with an upward lilt at the end. I listen carefully to all the **drinking-water sellers** ("¡Agua! ¡Hay agua!") for my preferred brand, Agua Azul: "¡A-zooooo-!! Agua-zooo-I."

Scrap metal buyers beg for rags, old batteries and wire as well as other leftover items of re-usable metal. The **housewares vendor** proclaims, "¡Escobas! ¡Recogedores! ¡Trapeadores!" (Brooms! Dust-pans! Mops!)

A **tortilla seller** with a particularly raucous voice screeches piercingly, "¡-TEEE-AS", incidentally illustrating the tendency to elide or omit sounds after yelling them again and again.



Convalescence update

The ankle continues to heal steadily. At home, I limp without crutches, but take one for extra stability when I go out. I still tire quickly—after 6-8 blocks of walking. In physiotherapy, I've progressed from hot packs, laser massage, and hydrotherapy to stretching and flexibility exercises on the Center's equipment. I can also drive a car! Rah!

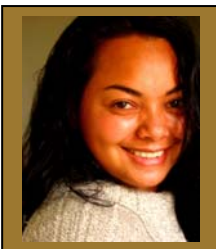
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"We sailed from Philippi...five days later joined them in Troas...then off to Assos..."
—Acts 20:6, 13

June was a month of **travel!** ICLH Program Coordinator **Rubí Flores** (center, seen with Rev. Rafaela Morales) and I represented the Honduran Lutheran Church with presentations at the New England Synod Assembly in Worcester, Mass. The NES is a new ministry partner with the ICLH. For social worker, Spanish-speaking-only **Rubí**, plunging into an English world, wearing an alb, and preaching for the first time was daunting but she responded with admirable bravery.



Immediately after that, I headed for Seattle and converged briefly with other family for daughter Keitlyn's graduation from the University of Washington (Anthropology/Archaeology). The ceremony in Husky Stadium, with 4,100 graduates, took 4 hours! Keitlyn is off to Corsica for a month-long course on archeological mapping and core sampling.



I'd been so involved in the planning of the First National Youth Assembly, I could hardly wait to get back and hear the details of its success! The 85 participants studied leadership from biblical and secular perspectives, critical thinking, and election techniques before selecting 3 candidates to run for the position of departing Youth Director Xiomara Ponce (left).



In faith and service in Christ, --janet

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