

# March 08 / year 2 in Honduras

Janet Alcántara

*“There are varieties of gifts...of services...of activities... It is the same God that activates them...for the common good.”*

*--1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

The nice thing about working in the Lutheran Church in Honduras is that there are so many needs that I have a chance to use *all* of my different skills and abilities at some time or other—no specialization here! For example, March alone looked like this: *(Photos courtesy of Robert Grindahl)*



In faith and service in Christ, --janet

## Liturgist

I participated along with Pastor-President Armindo Schmechel in two baptisms in one of “my” communities. The very tactile and visual aspects of liturgy are particularly enriching for worshippers with limited reading skills. Providing guitar music really livens up the singing!

## Medical Interpreter

A medical team from Michigan annually trains our *promotoras* (health care volunteers). This year included a 2-day medical clinic where doctors daily attended over 40 patients each. Reminiscence for me: working again as a Medical Interpreter!

## Chauffeur

The team from Michigan let loose gasps of alarm from the back of the 15-passenger van on the first day I drove them to the rhythms of Honduran traffic, but by the end of the week they stopped singing *Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me*—at least not loudly enough for me to hear.

## Theologian/teacher

In the annual 2-day training of the *promotoras* (volunteer preventive health volunteers that serve in their own communities), I presented an interactive lecture on the Theology of Presence—the model for our own ministry of presence to the sick and dying.

## Writer/actress

Role plays helped *promotoras* apply what they learned about confronting death and dying. I wrote the roles, and ended up acting when one woman took ill. Through their treatment of the dramatized situations, the *promotoras* proved their solid growth and maturation over the past several years.

Deaconess Janet Russell Alcántara/Iglesia Cristiana Luterana de Honduras/ dcsjanet@hotmail.com

## Ambiance

And now for something completely different. . .



*Tintagel, Cornish coast*

My eldest daughter, Wendy, and I planned for a long time to travel together in Britain. We set the date for summer, 2006—then I ended up coming to Honduras, instead.

Wendy's paternal grandmother left her some money when she died, and Wendy decided there was no better way to honour her grandmother's wanderlust than to use those funds for a trip.

So vacation this year took me far from Honduras.

Wendy and I wandered the Cornish coast, explored Bath, Oxford, the Lake District, and then headed north to Edinburgh, Scotland, planning to spend the final two days in London. But in Edinburgh, the trip crashed to a halt when I **broke my right ankle** (see *attached bulletin*).

*Oxford*



Janet Alcántara,  
I.C.L.H., Apdo. 2861,  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras, C.A.