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## A Transition



by **Leanne Geisterfer**  
Latin America Team Leader  
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Dear Partners in Ministry,

I work with a really great team of people in Latin America. So, each time someone leaves, it feels like a limb is being cut off, with resulting pain. However, new limbs are also grafted in, and our team continues to grow with new distinctions.

At the end of January, Irene Zepeda de Murrillo retired from her position at World Renew after 22 years of service. I have appreciated Irene because of her strong faith and passion to live out that faith in concrete ways, especially by serving the poor.

Irene joined the Christian Reformed Church of Honduras when she was a university student. Upon graduating, she worked for the Ministry of Governance and Justice for thirteen years, leaving that position when the church asked her to serve as the director of its fledgling diaconal ministry. She felt much more passion for this work of service and it became a calling. In 1995, she was invited to work for World Renew and has been there since.

## Honduran elections

At the end of November, Honduras held elections for all levels of government. Unfortunately, the presidential race was very close and there were suspicions of fraud in the process, so supporters of the second-place candidate took to the streets until the government imposed a curfew and authorized the military to enforce order. After a recount and close scrutiny, a commission of the Organization of American States determined there were too many anomalies and the vote was too close to have confidence in the outcome declared by the electoral tribunal. They recommended a run-off election. The Honduran congress, however, decided to accept the results of the electoral tribunal declaring that

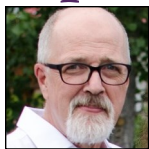
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The new limb for our “team tree” is already being grafted in. Juan Carlos Cárcamo, from El Salvador, arrived for orientation in early January and spent the entire month traveling with Irene to meet World Renew staff and visit our partner organizations.

**Please pray for Irene**, that she is blessed in her new endeavors and finds meaningful ways to continue serving in the next phase of her life. **Also pray for Juan Carlos**, that he is able to quickly understand the strategies and objectives of World Renew’s work in Honduras and begin to contribute to analysis and capacity building with our partners.

# Open your ears and eyes.



by Caspar Geisterfer  
Church Consultant  
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I have a motto that guides me and those with whom I work: "Open your ears and listen to God; open your eyes and see where God is working." We can see that God is working in Honduras and we are listening to His call for us.

For almost 10 years, Impact Clubs have ministered to at-risk youth in Honduras. We were listening to God's call to help the young people of Honduras struggling with the burdens of poverty and violence. We have seen the fruits of His work with our own eyes. Now we see God giving our work with young people an additional opportunity. The mayor of Mangulile has asked the Impact Club director, Ashley Rodriguez, if the mentors from the Impact Clubs could expand their roles, taking a larger role in the lives of the young people (and senior citizens) of Mangulile and surrounding villages. Ashley and I recently signed an agreement of understanding with the mayor. God's work through Impact Clubs will soon extend to benevolent activities for senior citizens, tutoring of elementary school students, and many other community service projects.

When I began the Youth Impact program, I dreamt of the church's young people impacting their community. I dreamt of the church's youth being perceived as model citizens, precursors of God's kingdom, and I dreamt of the community asking the church for more. The roman-



tic in me likes to think of this program as a dream come true; more realistically, it is a sign of God's work coming to fruition through young people. And, it is definitely a story of listening and looking.

If we remain deaf and blind to where God is working, we might have more leisure time, but God has given Ashley and me new opportunities. It is my job to support Ashley as she guides the mentors and works with the mayor and municipality. She will have to learn new skills, and in turn provide opportunities for the mentors to learn and use new skills. Together, Ashley, the mentors, and I are working with God to have a Kingdom impact.

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the incumbent, Juan Orlando Hernandez, would continue as president for another term. Although the demonstrations took a recess for a few weeks around Christmas, there have been marches and demonstrations again in the new year, with more intense activity during the time leading up to and following the inauguration on 27 January.

Out of fear, many believers withdraw from the situation and "leave it in God's hands." We would like to encourage them to recognize that, over the centuries, God has called his people to ACT on the side of justice, promoting the signs of His kingdom. It's difficult to respond to that call when the personal consequences could be costly. Please pray with us that God's people will respond to his call, that justice will be a reality for the people of Honduras, and that the rule of law will be respected, from the constitution to the regulations of daily life.

## More Prayers

- Praise God for generous contributions to the reconstruction of roofs on 950 homes in Haiti after the destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. The program also built a latrine base for each family. A little more than one year after the storm, the reconstruction project was completed; a livelihoods project will continue until March 2019.
- We're thankful we were able to be in the Midwest for a little more than a week around Christmas, spending most of the time with Leanne's parents, Earl and Helene. It was a quiet time of celebration, allowing us to disconnect and slow down our pace. In addition to Christmas, we were able to celebrate Earl and Helene's 66th wedding anniversary. Praise God for his faithfulness in this relationship!
- Ashley Rodriguez underwent knee surgery in January to correct an injury resulting from a motorcycle accident. Praise God that the surgery seems to have gone well; she is recuperating and getting used to crutches. Please pray with us that she recovers full mobility and can keep up with the demands of the Youth Impact program.

