



# ¿Qué Pasa?



## News from the El Paraiso Project

November, 2011

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### Can You Help?

Many of you will not be aware of this because not much news about Honduras reaches us here in Canada, but the natural elements in the form of torrential rains have once again been unkind to that nation. Most of Honduras is affected, but the worst damage is in the southwestern part of the country, including the Deaneries of Yuscaran and Francisco Morazán where some of the pastors we support live. The Deanery of Danlí has escaped the worst damage this time.

The Board of Directors of SAMS Canada has just received an appeal from Bishop Lloyd Allen of the Episcopal Church of Honduras which reads, in part, "Please accept my apologies for not responding with the urgency your e-mail conveyed. However I wanted to be certain and provide you with the necessary and exact information you requested. Yes, we have had more than our share of torrential rains, landslide and flooding this year more than ever before. Not only in southern Honduras which has left a lot of homeless and affected in many different ways.

"Therefore as the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras, due the lack of emergency resources I am requesting assistance from SAMS-CANADA with which to assist the people of Honduras. In the format of this request I am appointing The Rev Canon Consuelo Sanchez who will be responsible for the receiving and disbursement of funds coming from SAMS."

In response to this, The Board of Directors has approved the establishment of a fund to forward to the Episcopal Church of Honduras to be used to

provide food and housing for those who are in need until their crops can be harvested toward the end of next year.

There was continuous torrential rain over a period of 10 days, then lighter rains for a few days. Over 70,000 people have been affected. About 12,000 people had been evacuated from their communities and nearly 9,000 are living in temporary shelters. A significant number of homes, schools, and churches have been damaged or destroyed, as is the case for dozens of roads, highways, and bridges. Crops have been lost, especially the staples corn and beans, and this is at the end of the growing season so there will be no new crops until next autumn. This loss of crops is in the neighbourhood of 90%, which means that 2012 will be a very hungry year for the people in these parts.

From a health standpoint, the flooding poses the threat of disease outbreaks, such as dengue and cholera, along with diarrhea and leptospirosis. The Ministry of Health has mobilized and dispatched contingents of doctors and nurses to municipalities in Choluteca and Valle where the destruction was the worst.

Any funds you can send will be greatly appreciated. Keep in mind, however, that we are not a relief agency and so have no way of sending goods to Honduras. Such goods will need to be bought in Honduras. Please send your gifts to our Relief Fund directly to SAMS Canada at the address at the end of this letter.

In Memory of Rev. Deacon Hilda Lagos de Zuniga  
by Eva Breadner



It is with great sadness that we announce the news that on Fri., Oct. 14 Rev. Deacon Hilda Lagos de Zuniga, of the Church of *La Resurrección*, El Paraiso, Honduras, went to be with our Lord. Rev. Hilda has been sponsored by SAMS Canada and St. James, Orillia, Ont. for many years.

Rev. Hilda has been a pastor in the Episcopal Church of Honduras for over 15 years. She was recruited by SAMS Canada missionary, Rev. Roger Hurtubise, began her studies and took charge of The Church of *San Miguel Arcangel* in *Ojo de Agua*. Hilda loved her work as pastor, and gradually built up the congregation through house groups and the visiting she did with both members of her congregation and non-members. When we missionaries accompanied her to house groups and visitations, it was obvious that she was held in great love and esteem by the residents of the town. She was a 7 day/24 hour pastor, always available when needed. At the same time she was taking 2 courses per year for her Theological Studies certificate. These were offered through the Episcopal Church of Honduras. She was also studying to complete her high school education.

In 2005 Hilda completed her theological studies and was ordained to the diaconate. In 2006 Bishop Allen moved her to the city of *El Paraiso*, to be in charge of the Church of *La Resurrección*, and 3 house churches. One of these groups was a one-hour walk each way. This group of congregations had experienced several changes in their pastors over the previous 3 or 4 years, and so had begun to dwindle in attendance. Through patience, love, visiting and house groups, Rev Hilda had been rebuilding these groups.

Two years ago, Hilda graduated from high school and was eligible for ordination to the priesthood. Unfortunately, at about the same time she became ill with what was later diagnosed as cancer, Although she continued as much as possible with her work, she was unable to complete her preparation. She would have been a wonderful priest.

Hilda will be remembered for her generosity, love, and her dedication to the service of our Lord. Visiting teams and missionaries from Canada and the United States will remember her also for the warm welcome she gave us. We'll miss you, Hilda! Rev. Hilda is survived by her husband and loving companion of over 35 years, Don Hector Zuniga, and her five children (Mauricio, Claudia, Fernando, Gabriela and Patricia) and several grandchildren. Our sincere sympathy goes to them in their loss. Hilda, my sister, I am sure you received a "Well done, good and faithful servant!" when you met our Lord face to face.

Please remember Hilda's family in your prayers for the next few weeks. They are in much need of God's comfort at this time



*¿Que Pasa? (What's Happening?)* is issued to keep our supporters for Honduras informed.  
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