

Honduras Partnership

August 14, 2022

The Honduras Partnership has been successful for over two decades and it still has active programs, but it faces problems that result from the political uncertainty in Honduras. These problems have gone unaddressed in the past year and more due largely to Covid. Some Maine Conference pastors' perceptions of potential violence to volunteers has limited our ability to recruit teams. For these and other reasons I believe we need to refine goals and expectations. I want to talk. I feel that there is interest in what we few are doing. The need persists and I believe it is economical for us to work in Central America where U.S. corporations and others are culpable, and where the benefits can be so valuable.

Perhaps others would hear the call. Maybe our partners and support team that has kept us safe in Honduras would be glad to keep us occupied (request new projects). They know that we are preoccupied with serving the poor. CEVER vocational school, which the Maine UCC Conference has helped financially survives in spite of Covid and financial problems at our partners, the Evangelical and Reformed Church of Honduras. Much of the Conference money has gone there in recent years.

The Honduras Partnership motto has been "Amigos para Siempre", Friends Forever. My slogan for presentations has been "Working for a better Honduras."

My wife Craigen and I have been supporting education, beyond the village six grades school for youngsters in a small and uniquely poor village in the mountains of Honduras. With much financial support we provide transportation, fees, required clothing, materials, etc. The El Junco Scholarship Fund is affiliated with the Maine UCC Living Water Association. Seven students are working on finishing their academics and two boys and three girls have completed basis academics and are in vocational schools. A recent academic graduate has just registered for nursing school. We need all the help we can get with this program.

The last Conference supported project that I did was in 2019 when I supervised a Honduran mason and two helpers to build a fence around a medical clinic that had been built by the Greenwich Connecticut UCC years ago. I hope the fence keeps the cows off the veranda and other intruders out. I designed the project with the help of the local pastor, working with CEVER on some iron work for the front. This is not my favorite model for a project, but it could help keep a valuable relationship going for better times and for a stronger Honduras.

So many of us Maine UCC folk young and old have benefitted from the Honduras Partnership.