

A note from DeeAnn Rich
WGM-Honduras Team Leader

Overholt Overview

August 2019
Larry & Angie
Overholt

“As Honduras Team Leader, it is my privilege to visit and encourage all the ministries of WGM going on around Honduras. Larry’s and Angie’s ministries in the southern part of the country began after Hurricane Mitch devastated the region. From 1999 forward, the Overholt ministry has been transformational – touching forgotten communities with improvements in education, basic health, and economic opportunities.

We have witnessed the many lives touched and transformed through the ministries in the region. Many young people are employed because of their training at the Vocational Education Center. Several congregations and churches have been formed and are growing. These groups are helping many with great needs. Through those relationships, the ministries have been able to help others improve and/or build their homes. You have had a part, both in finances and in time, in impacting these communities.

The latest investment has been to start the Nursing High School. We foresee our graduates affecting the caliber of healthcare in many communities around Honduras. Our goal is to have this school self-supporting within the next two years. In our workplan, we estimate that we need thirty students in each class, which means we urgently need to put on the roof and finish the classrooms started earlier this year.

Would you consider helping finish the classrooms in order to have space for these students?”

DeeAnn Rich

P.S. Your gift to complete the classrooms not only improves the school (making it self-sustaining), but also increases the quality of nursing care in Honduras.

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Construction has been halted temporarily. We hope to finish by graduation day (December 2, 2019).



Angie helps teach some classes in the nursing high school.

We have become stretched on our financial accounts. The vision still exists, but there are multiple areas where we have had to pause our work momentarily:

Top Priority: We need around \$25,000 to finish construction and to ship equipment that has already been donated for our new classrooms (*Acct # 35493*).

- Our ministry account is still very low (*Acct # 07200*).
- We need operational funds to finish the year in the nursing school, including graduation (*Acct # 25643*).

Throughout our careers as missionaries with World Gospel Mission in Honduras, we have promoted lifelong learning. We have seen God at work in transforming lives through education.

- Over 150 students are recipients of the regional scholarship program. For an investment of \$1,000 a year, a student can attend our vocational school or nursing school. Students are preparing for their career choice.
- We continue to participate in planting churches and teaching in the Shalom Church. We helped start a regional Bible Institute and have been involved in discipleship and mentoring programs. The regional church is growing.
- This year, under the leadership of Osman Echeverria, and taking advantage of multiple alliances, the vocational school reached over 600 youth.
- Angie continues as rector of the first nursing high school in the country.
- Two 4-H clubs have been started.

Our most recent focus has been on developing a formal high school nursing education program. Three years ago, we moved out of our house on the property and remodeled it to temporarily accommodate classrooms. We have run out of classroom space so this year we continued to build the needed classrooms for a proper high school. This year has also been focused on scheduling clinical rotations for all three grades. There has been hesitancy in the health care departments because of the introduction of a new level of nursing education. Slowly, we have broken down these barriers to procure permission for these clinical rotations. Angie and our nursing coordinator Margarita Rodriguez have been visiting the Telathon (therapy services), the hospitals, and health departments, to schedule the rotations. We are starting to find alliances within the health care department.

By all accounts, our students are well prepared, providing compassionate care, and making a difference. Students are receiving compliments from patients and supervisors. They are recognized as a new type of nurse. Their gray scrubs with scarlet monograms are unique and are becoming identified in the clinics and hospital. Their patients often greet them at the beginning of a shift, by saying how excited they are when they recognize them coming on the floor. Supervisors report that they are prepared for the tasks they are given. Our first graduation will be on December 2nd.

Another focus, as a strategy to motivate children to stay in school, we have started two new 4-H clubs. Naturally, one of the first things children are learning is how to start a garden. They made their own compost and planted seeds in newspaper pots using the compost that they made. They took them home and now we are getting photos sent to us of the germinating seedlings. Pati Rodriguez, one of the leaders, told us, "The children of the Shalom 4-H club were surprised to see the metamorphosis of the compost. When they added the raw compost materials, they did not want to touch it. After four weeks, they could feel the new soil with no problem."

One of the exciting aspects of wholistic ministry is that others who are not directly involved also take notice of what is happening. Nursing students are coming and asking how they can start a compost project of their own. Our dream is for the WGM Honduras/Shalom Church/IETI Nursing property to be an oasis for learning in a relaxing atmosphere.

Help us to begin praying for the future. We have moved our property maintenance shop area. We would like to build an office in the old shop area. It will be much less expensive than our other construction projects since we already have three walls and the roof.

We are grateful that God allowed us to be with Larry's dad (97 years old) before he passed away on June 4. John (Jack) Overholt will be missed!



Working in Honduras with World Gospel Mission since 1980,
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