

Social ministry partner visits LCC mission in Nicaragua

CHINANDEGA, Nicaragua - Robert Granke, executive director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), spent five days in Nicaragua at the end of November visiting LCC's Mission and the congregations, pastors and deaconesses of Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua (ILSN). The invitation provided the agency, a social ministry partner, an on-site view of the projects carried out through LCC's mission centring especially on the Christian Children's Education Program which CLWR has supported.

The program, conducted in all ISLN 23 congregations, provides an average of 25 scholarships in each community to the neediest children. The scholarship includes the required school uniform, shoes, backpack and school supplies. Each child is also enrolled in the tutoring and Christian Education class held five half-days a week when the children are not in school. (Children attend



CLWR executive director Robert Granke visits with children and parents benefiting from the development agency's support of the Children's Education program.

school either during the morning or afternoon.) These classes held in the churches and led by teachers and deaconesses provide tutoring and homework support for the children in mathematics, Spanish and other subjects. Time is also set aside for Christian Education and cultural activities. There are more than 750 children enrolled in the program. CLWR has provided support for about 250 children.

Robert Granke's tour included visits to the communities of El Piloto, Rancheria, Las Marias, Marionelle, Chichigulpa, El Bonete, Israel, Camilo Ortega, and Santa Patricia. In each community Mr. Granke

expressed delight in seeing firsthand how the program has met with success creating in the communities an appreciation for education and in each child, a desire to learn and to do well in school.

In addition to seeing the Christian Education Program, Robert Granke visited the mission centre's medical/mental Clinic, sewing school, the Rancheria Food Program, heard an overview of the "micro loan" program and the mission's plans to begin an eyeglass lab. Continuing discussions during the week explored other opportunities for LCC, ILSN and CLWR to collaborate on social projects in the region.

Partner In Mission



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Home, but not for long

LCC's volunteer missionaries will spend at least part of the Christmas holidays in North America. Rev. Dr. Leonard Harms who serves in Bangkok, Thailand with Lutheran Institute Southeast Asia, is visiting family in Oregon with his wife Carol. Dr. Harms will visit Winnipeg December 15-18 to provide updates on his work for Dr. Leonardo Neitzel, LCC's mission executive. He returns to Thailand December 28.

Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan and his wife Linda left Nicaragua December 8 to spend Christmas at their home in Langley, B.C. Dr. Mayan will return January 14 to provide support to Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua as it prepares for its first regular synodical convention, January 22-23, 2010. President Robert Bugbee and Dr. Neitzel will represent Lutheran Church-Canada at the event.