



CENTRAL  
AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
MISSION  
SOCIETY



*“Connecting and Advancing  
Leaders in Mission and Service  
to Win the Lost for Christ.”*

[About CALMS](#)

[What We Do](#)

[Where We Work](#)

[Get Involved](#)

[News, Information & Stories](#)

[Resources](#)

[Make A Donation](#)

## February 2010

### CALMS' Four Values

In all we do, CALMS seeks to follow four values: 1) Using good **MISSIOLOGY** as we work with partners and our short-term teams; 2) Being **STRATEGIC** as we focus on field needs and helping our partners fulfill their goals; 3) Working in a **RELATIONAL** way as we help our staff, volunteers and short-term groups work as a team and as we work respectfully with our Central American partners; and, 4) Facilitating real **TRANSFORMATION** as we create the conditions that allow the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to do His work of changing lives!”

In the coming months and years, with God's help, we will continue to focus on the above four values as we work with partners in both Central American and the United States to fulfill Christ's Great Commission!

Yours in God's Service,



Rev. B. Steve Hughey

CALMS' Executive Director



*Children in the village of Campanero La Avanzada stand in front of their family home. This home is typical for this village and where most families suffer from malnutrition.*



*Local villagers worked side by side with CALMS' volunteers from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gainesville, GA and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas to finish the construction of a new multi-purpose building that will provide extra class-room space for the local school, a village clinic, and space for small groups and Bible study. Over 30 local volunteers worked with six CALMS' volunteers.*

## **CALMS' New Initiative in Campanero La Avanzada**

In August 2008, CALMS and partner congregations in the United States responded to a devastating mud-slide following torrential rains in the mountains of Guatemala near the Honduran border by bringing food, supplies, prayer and encouragement. The most affected village in the area near the city of La Union was Campanero La Avanzada a village of 663 people where 17 people were killed and dozens of houses were destroyed. Following the disaster, most of the adults lost their livelihoods due to the destruction of crops and soon most of the children in the village were suffering from malnutrition.

CALMS has continued to reach out to these unfortunate people with additional food, vitamins, and most recently by helping the community finish a partially built public building to provide space to alleviate overcrowding of their local school.

The existing village school that serves approximately 350 children in space more appropriate for 60 children will now be able to move two grades to the new building.

Another nearby building will house yet two other grades making for a much better learning environment.

CALMS, working with and local villagers and short-term volunteers from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gainesville, GA and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Houston Texas, finished the new building during the week of January 16, 2010.

The small team of CALMS' volunteers was joined by 30 local volunteers, and on dedication day over 200 people attended to thank God and celebrate.

In addition to the construction work, the volunteers also visited many families in the community, distributed packets of a protein drink, equipped mothers and families in the use and preparation of the protein drink and distributed school supplies and clothes for the children of the community in partnership with community leaders. They also met with the teachers to discuss how CALMS can best partner with the school and how we can best advocate for school improvements.

As Denny Noh, one of the volunteers from Gloria Dei stated, "The people from this village are humble, hard working and very hospitable. They thanked us by preparing lunch for us—even though they barely have enough to feed themselves. During this lunch on the day of the dedication, a village elder stood up to thank us—telling us that we were the first people to work alongside of them to help improve their lives."

### **Campanero La Avanzada Facts and Figures**

- Over 50% of the people live in sub-standard houses.
- Over 50% of the adult men are unemployed.
- There are 343 children living in the village—60% between the ages of one and five years.
- There are 320 adults in the village.
- 275 children are enrolled in the village school.
- 90% of the children are malnourished.
- There are 107 families with a total of 663 people in the village.

CALMS is already working with the village leaders to help improve the diets of the children, provide resources for the school and will be training several villagers in first aid. Our goal is to work with our medical partners in Guatemala and the USA to begin providing regular medical services to this needy community. We also plan to begin working with the community to begin building homes—beginning with those who lost their homes in the 2008 landslide.

Individuals and congregations in the United States who are interested in working with CALMS to help this community are invited to contact us at [calms@calms.org](mailto:calms@calms.org) for more information.



*Pastor Steve Sohns, pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Spring, Texas is a member of the CALMS' Missionary Support Team for Belize. Pastor Sohns is shown in the above picture commissioning Peg Wolfram while Rev. Steve Hughey, CALMS' Executive Director looks on.*

## **Peg Wolfram begins ministry with CALMS in Belize**

After a beautiful commissioning service at CALMS' partner congregation, Resurrection Lutheran Church in Spring, Texas on January 10, long-term volunteer, Peg Wolfram left the next day to begin her ministry in Belize.

Peg had been preparing for some time to transition from her previous ministry in Cambodia where she worked with national congregations and workers equipping people for ministry. She will be working with CALMS' partners Jimmi and Sandra-Lee Jones who are planting a new church in Lord's Bank, a suburb of Belize City. She will be assisting in the start-up and management of a new children's ministry, coordinating training events, establishing a women's ministry and coordinating community outreach. In addition, she will serve as CALMS' volunteer coordinator in Belize facilitating short-term mission teams.

“With a great servant-heart and over 10 years of cross-cultural experience in a variety of mission settings, Peg is uniquely gifted to work as part of this special team and to equip others to serve the Lord,” stated Rev. Steve Hughey, CALMS' executive director.

“With Peg on board and our new partnership with Lord's Bank Community Church and their leaders, the Joneses,” he added, “we can now plan more strategic short-term mission projects for volunteers and short-term teams.”



*Medical team members who served at “Santa Cruz” Clinic in January 2010 included Dr. Sarah Matthias (pediatrician), Dr. Mike Frith (dentist), Julie Frith (dental hygienist), Jeff Dybdahl (nurse), Rev. Miguel Torneire (CALMS’ missionary-at-large), Jan Karsten (nurse) and Rev. Dar Karsten (pastor and mission consultant).*

## **CALMS’ Medical Team Ministers in Guatemala**

A CALMS’ team of seven people served over 230 patients (medical and dental) during the week of January 16-23 at “Santa Cruz” Clinic in partnership with Dr. Elry Orozco, the clinic’s director and his congregation, “Castillo Fuerte” Lutheran Church in Guatemala City.

The team which included a dentist, dental hygienist, a pediatrician, two pastors and two nurses improved the clinic pharmacy, served patients, shared the Gospel with patients and made some needed repairs to the clinic building. In addition, they helped members of “Castillo Fuerte” in their weekly outreach to children of the Lake Amatitlan area—a community with many very poor people.

Dr. Orozco and his wife Liz, see patients at the clinic two times a week and he also operates a clinic out his home in Guatemala City three days a week. Visiting medical teams like this one provide specialty care for patients identified by Dr Elry during his regular practice.



*IELPA President Milton Castillo (wearing hat) meets with LINC Houston Leaders and CALMS leaders at a consultation in Houston in January. Three of the LINC pastors, several of whom are shown in the picture with Castillo, are originally from Panama and are now serving Spanish speaking people in the Houston area.*

## **Panama Leader Visits CALMS' Partner Congregations**

Milton Castillo, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Panama (IELPA), visited CALMS' offices and partner congregations in Texas, Florida, Missouri and Wisconsin during three weeks in January, 2010.

Castillo, who has served as president for the past three years, works closely with CALMS to design strategic short-term projects for American volunteers. He provides on-going counsel to the IELPA congregations and their leaders and is currently working with CALMS on ways to help church workers and congregations become more self-sufficient and capable of supporting their own ministries and begin new work.

In a recent message to CALMS upon returning, Castillo said about his trip:

“I want to thank you for your support for the ministry in Panama and especially for this trip through which the Lord has taught me many things. I believe that everywhere I went in United States the Lord taught me important lessons for the benefit of the ministry in Panama and for the ministry of CALMS. This trip really encouraged me as I help provide leadership for God's work in Central America.”

## **You Can Help a Child!**

If you are interested in being involved in CALMS' Sponsor-A-Child program which helps children from struggling families get a good education and grow in their Christian faith, contact Mrs. Grace Hughey at [sponsorachild@calms.org](mailto:sponsorachild@calms.org) or phone 314-402-5209.

## **Pray for Us...**

Pray for the family of Deaconess Renate Gibbs who fell asleep in Jesus on January 21, 2010. Renate served as CALMS' Sponsor-A-Child Coordinator in Panama for several years and love people—especially children!

Thank God for the way He used volunteers from various teams to meet human needs and introduce people to Jesus during January in Guatemala!

Ask God to be with Peg Wolfram as she serves with CALMS in Belize as a member of a newly formed missionary team for that country.