

Watching Christ at work in Costa Rica

At the national convention held in July 2009, the women of LWML—Canada approved, as one of their mission grants, \$35,000 to support the mission outreach work being done in Costa Rica.

In March 2006 Reverend Pedro Quintero was the first missionary sent to Costa Rica. While there he started two mission congregations and God blessed his ministry with a new worker—Pastor Edmundo Retana. Pastor Retana was ordained in 2009 and it has been his desire to continue the outreach work in Costa Rica.

Working together, Pastor Quintero and Pastor Retana developed mission churches in Cartago and Casa Cuba. They held weekly services, Bible studies for the children



Opening procession



Confirmands received during worship.

of the area, and offered weekly pastoral care to the communities. MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short-Term) visited with them a few times offering programs in child evangelism as well as eyeglass clinics. In 2010 Pastor Quintero accepted a call to Nicaragua and is serving as a pastor in the Iglesia Luterana Sinodo De Nicaragua. As a result Pastor Retana decided to focus his ministry in Cartago, located about 25km east of San José with a population of approximately 156,600. The

first church service was held there in 2009 and the congregation continues to see the rewards of their ministry there.

Of the mission Pastor Retana says, “Our mission is still young. We work with children, youth, women and their families from a poor neighbourhood in Cartago. Every week we meet to learn more about the Lord through His liberating Word. Children have a space each week dedicated to them. This is our Bible school in which they hear the Word of God, pray, play and share in an atmosphere of joy and faith.” He notes that the children whom they reach carry the gospel of our Lord to others with great faith, joy and Christian love.

On June 11 the church held a festival to celebrate Pentecost. Reverend Luiz Turcios, president of Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua, travelled from Chinandega, Nicaragua, to attend. During the celebration he installed Betty Retana (Pastor Retana’s wife) as Costa Rica’s first deaconess. They also celebrated the rite of confirmation with three new members receiving the Lord’s Supper. Forty-five people attended the service. Pastor Retana described the celebration as “wonderful and intense...filled with the love of Jesus and the meaning of community.”

In closing Pastor Edmundo says, “I thank God for the privilege of communicating the Gospel of grace and salvation in my country.”

Roberta Nixon, Christian Mission Committee



Receiving communion.