

**Flooding in Costa Rica leaves many homeless and without income;
Latin America Mission reaches out to lend a hand**

By Kenneth D. MacHarg
LAM News Service

San Jose, Costa Rica (LAMNS)—A missionary with the Latin America Mission (LAM) is responding to severe flooding along Costa Rica's Atlantic coast that has caused widespread homelessness and loss of income.

"We have 24 families right now who are living on the second floor of the Baptist church in Sixaola," says Lillian Solt, a missionary with the Latin America Mission. "Many of the families have lost their homes," she says.

Solt is responding by providing food and other aid to help area residents rebuild their houses. "Our pastor called and said that he had been eating crackers for days," Solt says. "Please pray for all of these victims."

Solt says that the current flooding is the second episode to hit the region this year. "In 1991 we had a severe earthquake which caused a lot of damage to the river and does not allow the water to get out to the ocean."

Also hard hit have been residents in the northeast region of Costa Rica where flooding has wiped out the income of many. "We have ten families there in a medicinal plant project and this is going to be a sad Christmas for them," Solt reflects. "Now the plants are under a meter of water and they have lost all of their plants. We are going to see how we can help them." Most of those affected are single women, heads of families with four or five children.

"The other way we have been reaching out to people is through medical and dental care to victims and families," Solt says.

Funds for helping the victims of the flooding have been made available through the Latin America Mission and several Baptist denominations. Those wishing to assist may send donations, marked for Costa Rican flood relief, to the Latin America Mission, Box 52-7900, Miami, FL, 33152.

The Latin America Mission currently has approximately 240 missionaries in 15 countries and is seeking to place 300 new missionaries in Latin America in the next three years. The U.S. headquarters can be reached at Latin America Mission, Box 52-7900, Miami Springs, FL 33152, by e-mail at info@lam.org, or by calling 1-800-275-8410. The mission's web site may be found at <http://www.lam.org>. LAM's Canadian office is at 3075 Ridgeway Drive, Unit 14, Mississauga, ON L5L 5M6.

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