

## THE BOLICK REPORT



July 2022

In the Hebrew scriptures *Shalom* is when “every person sits under their own vine, under their own fig tree,” and in one place it says, “**they will drink the water of their own cistern.**” The good life. Enough food and water for all.

But for too many in Central America, they don’t have access to clean, abundant water because of contamination or depletion of freshwater sources and aquifers caused by extractive industries.

These countries receive two to three times as much rain as anywhere in the U.S. Yet, water is trucked in, once a week. Many spend two days out of the week carrying water in from distant sources.

The **Water for All** project, with *RECONPAZ* (*Continental Christian Network for Peace*), equips a remarkable corps of partners in Central America to address ecological damage and water scarcity in their countries.

The purpose of the Rainwater project is to call out the community’s own strengths, creating rainwater harvesting systems that give them a sense of ownership of their water supply, and dignity.

In Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico, we presented workshops about rainwater harvesting, how it works, how to design systems, for representatives from three regions in each country, including indigenous territories.

**These friends and partners are risking their lives,** protesting unregulated industries that are degrading their watersheds. Some have been assassinated, several pastors have been imprisoned on false charges, bullets are fired into leaders’ houses.

In each place, we install the demonstration rainwater systems in the local school, a central location where neighbors can learn how rainwater harvesting works and replicate it in their homes.

In every one of these schools there is no water supplied by a central distribution system. They need water



for the bathrooms, even just to wash hands.



But now there is water for the three schools in Guatemala, and one in the works. And soon there will be water for schools in three communities in Honduras.

I want you to know that this is about more than just setting up metal roofs, gutters, and tanks to collect rainwater. What motivates and nurtures us in the ministry of RECONPAZ with our partners is to testify that “**the earth is the Lord’s.**”

Our work as IM Global Servants, is to equip the people of God to testify to **God’s plan for all creation in word and deed.**

[dwight.bolick@internationalministries.org](mailto:dwight.bolick@internationalministries.org)  
<https://www.internationalministries.org/author/bd-bolick/>