



**CCIH**  
Christian Connections  
for International Health



# What Is the Theology of Health and How Does that Apply to Global Health?

6 April 2022

# Integration of Faith and Health



**Capacity Building    Networking    Fellowship    Advocacy**



**Inspired by Faith.  
Committed to evidence-based practice.**

# **Christian Connections for International Health**

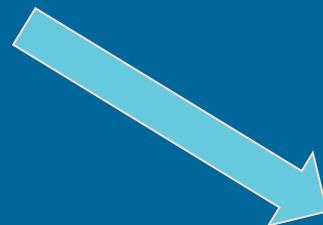
# Our Panel Today



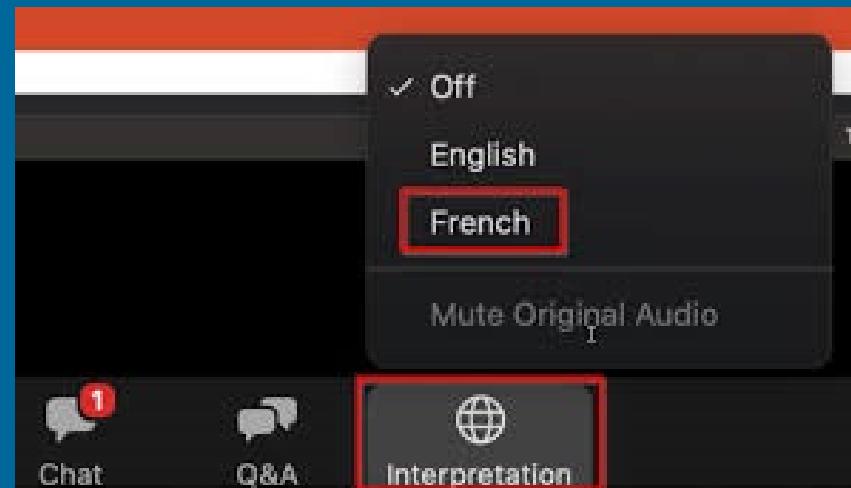
**Amy Hewitt** serves as Grants Coordinator for Grants Acquisitions, and Management at CURE International and on the CCIH Board of Directors. She works closely with program staff in conceptualizing, planning, and submitting proposals and project management including CURE's participation in USAID's Limited Excess Property Program. With more than 17 years of experience working in international development and global health, Amy focuses on long-term relationships, common interests with foundations, and managing and communicating the effectiveness of programs.

# Traduction? / Traducción?

Cliquez en bas de l'écran pour la traduction en français. / Haga clic en la parte inferior de la pantalla para la traducción al español.



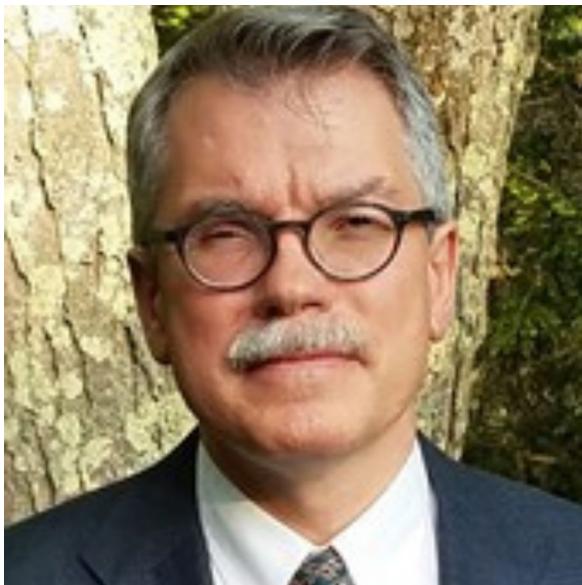
Vous pouvez choisir de couper le son d'origine. / Puede optar por silenciar el sonido original.



# Housekeeping

- Put questions in Q&A Box
- Recording on [www.ccih.org](http://www.ccih.org) > Events > Webinar Recordings

# Our Panel Today



**Dan O'Neill**, M.D. is Managing Editor of the scholarly Christian Journal for Global Health, and founding board member of Health for All Nations. He has been a member of CCIH since 2007 and is a former co-chair of the Integration of Faith and Health Working Group. He practices medicine in Connecticut and serves as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

# Theology of Global Health

Daniel W. O'Neill, MD, MTh

Christian Journal for Global Health

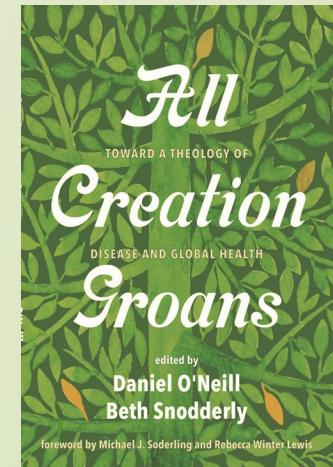
Health for All Nations



CHRISTIAN JOURNAL  
for  
GLOBAL HEALTH



CHRISTIAN GLOBAL HEALTH  
IN PERSPECTIVE





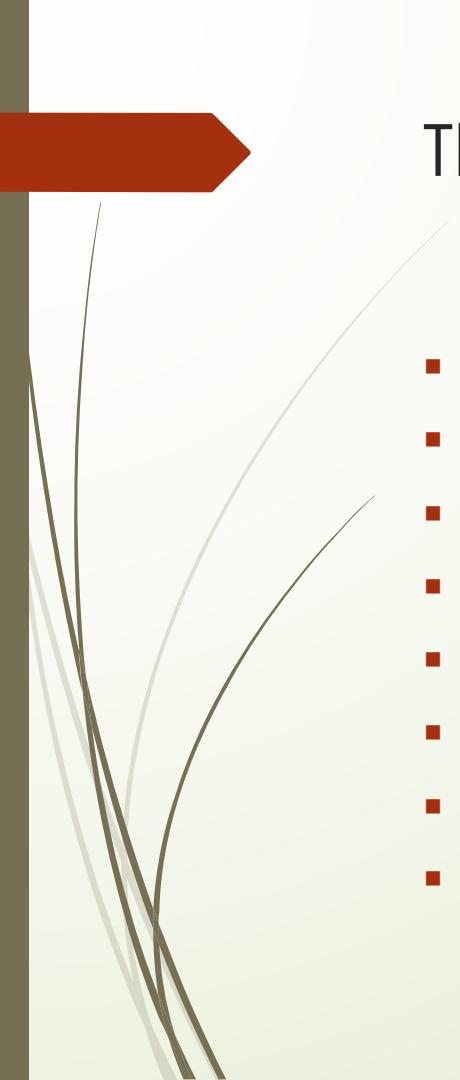
# Global Health

- "**collaborative trans-national research and action for promoting health for all**" Beaglehole, R., & Bonita, R. (2010).  
What is global health?. Global health action, 3.  
<https://doi.org/10.3402/gha.v3i0.5142>)
- "**I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**" Christ, J. (32) John 10:10, NIV.



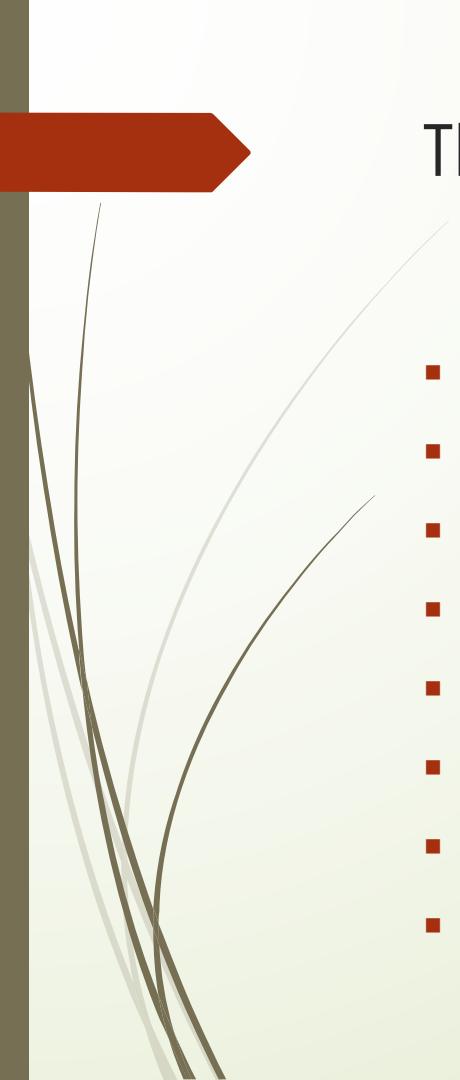
# The Issues

- Pathology
- Corruption
- Depersonalization
- Reductionism
- System Complexity
- Data Overload but Wisdom wanting
- Competing Voices
- Secularization
- Tribalism
- Displacement



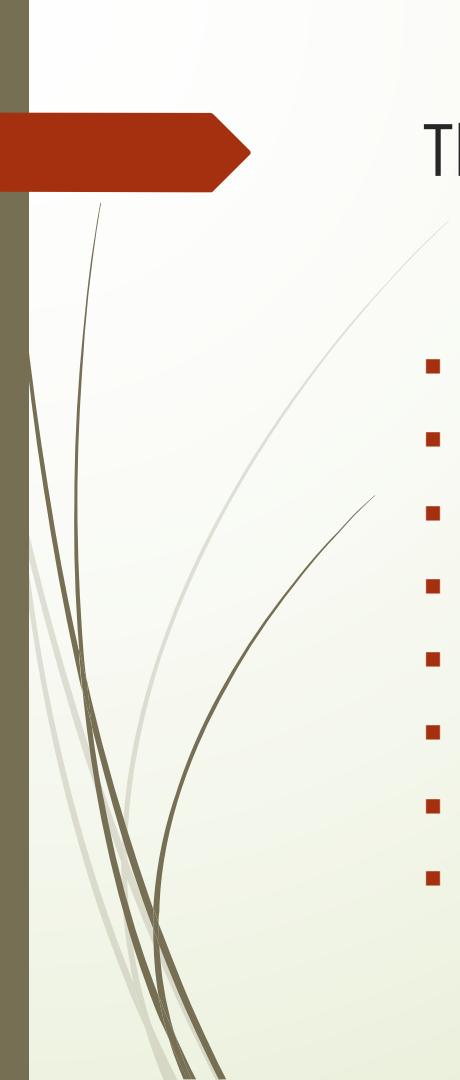
# The Opportunities

- The role of Faith in medicine
- Religion as a social determinant in global health
- Health as the “great global connector” (2014)
- The presence of God’s people globally
- Access to the Divine at the grass roots
- Globalized theological reflection
- Salvation as creation healed
- For the work of transformational development



# The Universal

- One God, one World
- One Humanity *Imago Dei*
- Common ancestry
- Table of Nations (Gen 10)
- All Nations are on the heart of God
- Nature and Science - measurable objectivity
- Ubiquitous suffering
- The Universal Need (health, meaning, love)



# The Particular

- The One True God
- The Woman's seed
- The chosen people
- The holy nation
- The one Son
- The called-out (*eklesia*)
- The sent-forth
- The healed



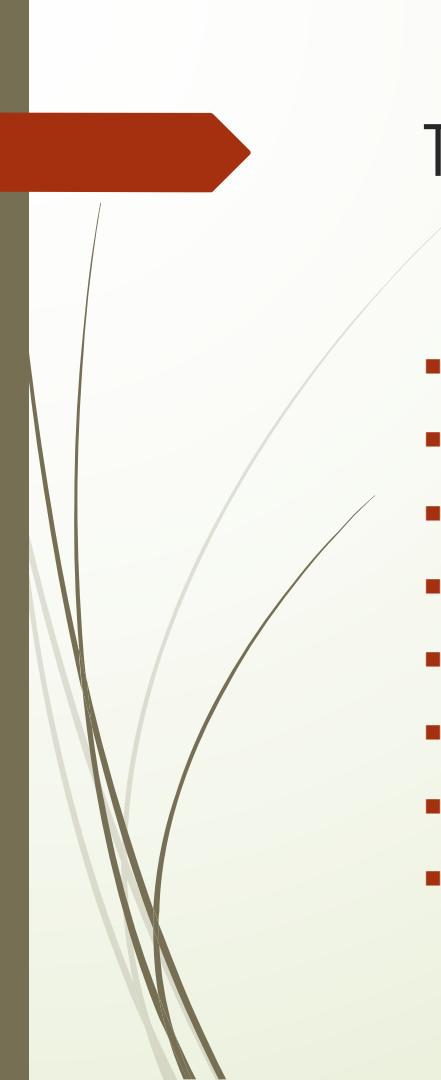
# The Common Ground

- Addressing inequity and poverty
- Pursuing justice
- Global health for all nations
- Following the evidence
- Moving through the Collective
- Human rights & human wrongs
- Effectiveness of results (MEAL)



# The Distinctives

- Human dignity (vs. human rights)
- Humility (service)
- Longsuffering (staying power)
- Self-sacrifice (agape love)
- Power in weakness
- Joyfulness in deprivation
- Care for the most vulnerable (the least of these)
- Hopefulness for wholistic transformation
- Eschatological long view . . .



# The Synergy

- Complex adaptive living systems
- Connecting with existing resources (symbiosis)
- Appropriating unforeseen power (dynamos)
- Cooperating with the Covenant Community
- Seeking Interdependent relationships
- Recognizing Messiah's ongoing presence and work
- The Assembly planted and mobilized
- Minding the gaps



# The Discernment

- Careful with alliances (2 Cor 6:14)
- Sheep and wolves (in sheep skin)
- Be wheat but grow among the tares
- Messiah was a friend of “tax collectors and sinners”
- Test the spirits (1 Jn 4)
- Dismantle fortresses (*logismos* – ideas, theories, views) (1 Cor 10:4) through advocacy
- Cooperate with people of good will (NT Wright)
- Find women and med of peace (Mt 10:13)



# Cooperation and Critique

- Working cheerfully “with the grain of good will” with people of all faiths or no faith in the art of “collaboration without compromise and of opposition without dualism.”
  - N.T. Wright 2008
- “Accommodation must always be critical, and resistance must always be humble.”
  - James D. Hunter 2010



# On the Continuum toward a Preferable Future

- *Bethel* – the house of God
- “On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”  
Rev 22:2

# Our Panel Today



**Gabriella Woo, M.D.** is a Nicaraguan physician and public health leader with more than ten years of experience in the on-the-ground work and partnership building necessary to reduce health inequities. Currently serving as the Executive Director of Fundación AMÓS, Salud y Esperanza (AMOS), Gabriella firmly believes that health for all is possible when evidence-based, faith-based, and community-based models are combined to ensure that health services reach the most vulnerable members of our society.

# Our Panel Today



**Christy Lafferty** is a Global Servant with International Ministries (ABCUSA) supporting the ministry of Fundación AMÓS, Salud y Esperanza (AMOS) in Nicaragua. She also serves as Director of Development and Communications with AMOS. Following a strong call to cross-cultural ministry, Christy has served for over 15 years with faith-based and community-based nonprofits. Throughout her 10 years of service with AMOS, she has helped develop the organization's capacity to communicate the impact of its work, build connections, and establish effective partnerships with churches, individuals, organizations, and universities.



# The Integration of Faith and Health

## A Practical Experience

AMOS Health & Hope, Nicaragua

*Gabriella Woo, MD, and Christine Lafferty*

April 6, 2022  
CCIH Faith and Health Webinar

# Faith and Health



“Your faith has made you whole.”  
Mark 5:34

# WHERE DO WE SERVE?



Nicaragua is second  
poorest country in  
the Western  
Hemisphere.

# OUR VISION

A photograph showing a woman with dark hair tied back, wearing an orange top, looking down at a colorful children's book. The book has illustrations of various fruits and vegetables, including a watermelon, a lime, and beans. She is holding a small child in a red dress. In the background, another person is sitting on a chair against a yellow wall.

- Treat – toward health for all people
- Prevent - toward a world where no child dies of a preventable disease
- Strengthen communities - for effective and empowering health care

# OUR MISSION



**Improve the health of impoverished communities  
by working alongside them in health, education, and  
development.**

Serving more than 24,000 people  
in 5 regions of Nicaragua



## AMOS Trains Local Leaders Who Help:

- Improve Access to Health Care
- Improve Access to Medications
- Improve Access to Clean Water
- Strengthen Community Empowerment



# Who We Are: Christian



We have the conviction that God cares for the poor and has a heart of compassion, healing, and justice.

# AMOS's History of Serving God and neighbor for more than 50 years...



Following in the footsteps  
of American Baptist  
missionary, medical doctor  
and public health pioneer,

**Dr. Gustavo Parajon**

# Drs. Laura and David Parajón



Co-founders of  
AMOS Health & Hope

Served in Nicaragua  
for 19 years (2001-  
2020)





A  
M inistry  
O f  
S haring  
Health & Hope



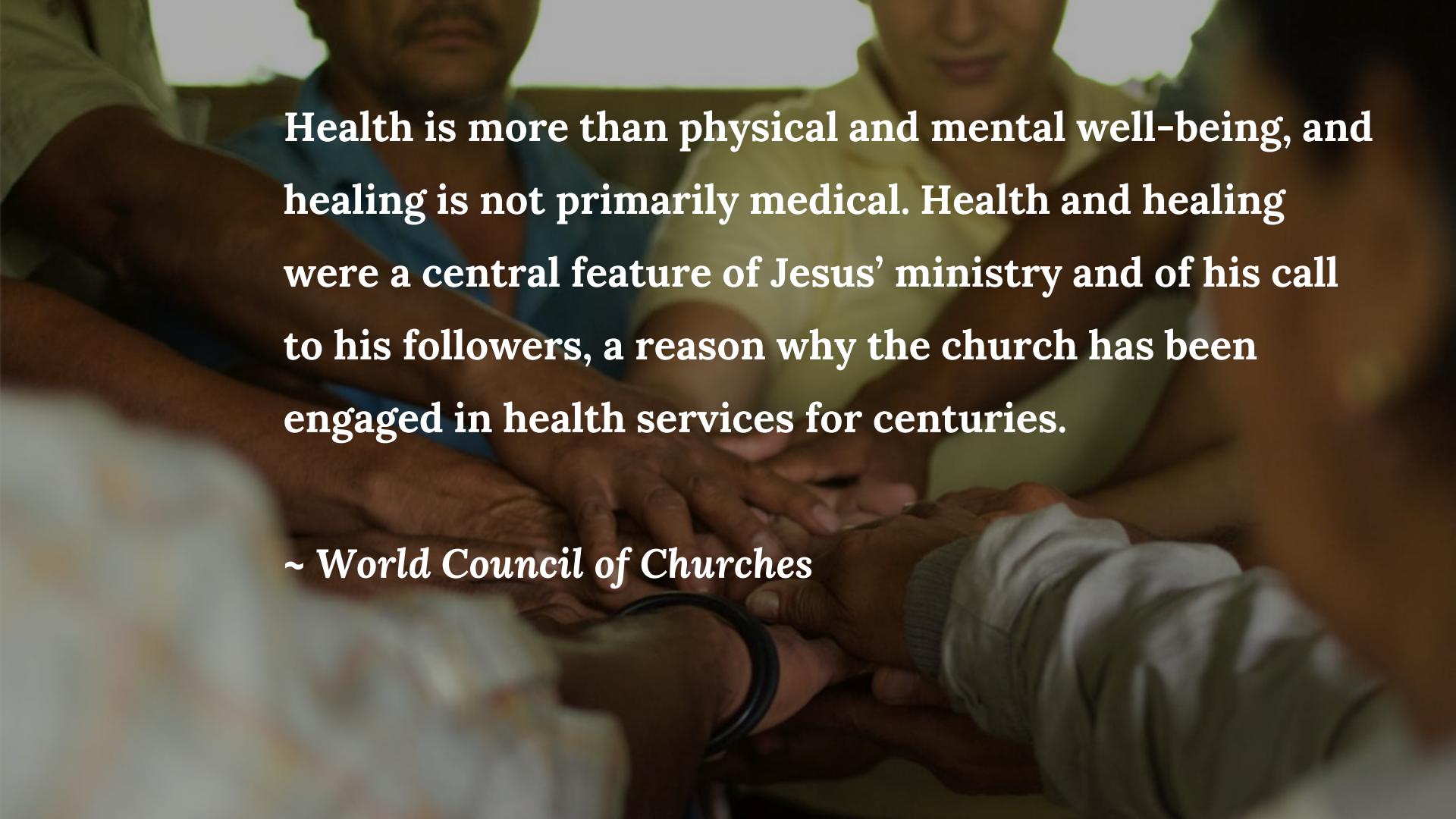
# Also, the Prophet Amos...

Stood with the  
poor and the vulnerable

Spoke out against  
injustice

Highlighted inequities  
in society





**Health is more than physical and mental well-being, and healing is not primarily medical. Health and healing were a central feature of Jesus' ministry and of his call to his followers, a reason why the church has been engaged in health services for centuries.**

*~ World Council of Churches*

## Context in Nicaragua:

Poverty is concentrated in rural areas where families still do not have their basic needs met:

- Clean water
- Education
- Adequate food
- Shelter
- **Health care**



# AMOS's response is:

Community-based



Health care FOR the community  
and BY the community

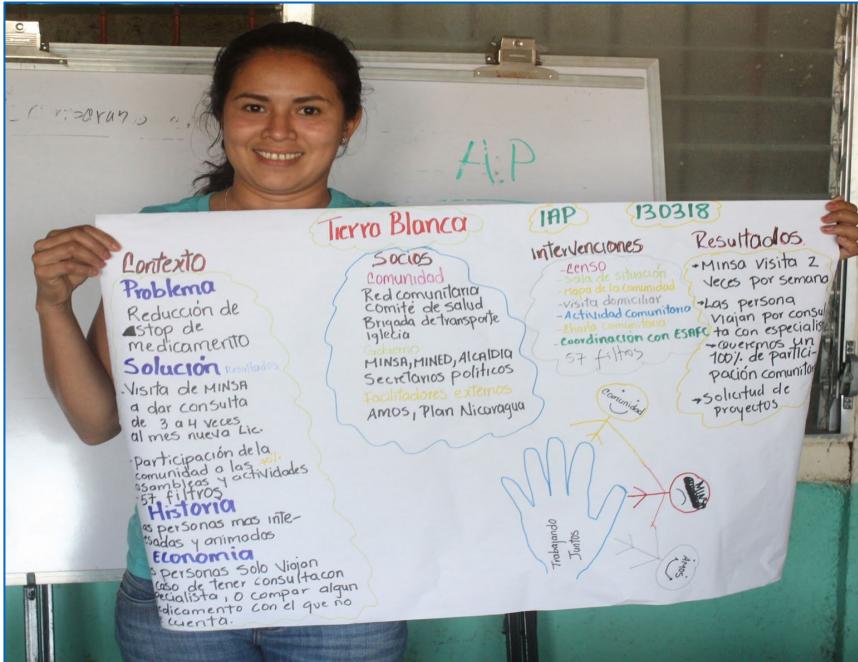
Census-based



Everyone counts!

# AMOS's response is:

Evidence-based



Proven methodologies, ongoing monitoring and evaluation



Partnership-based



3-way partnership: local communities, MINSA, and AMOS/ our partners

# 3-way partnership



Communities



Ministry of  
Health

AMOS &  
NGOs



Working alongside communities  
towards their empowerment



# Faith with feet

Luke 5:17-39

Walking alongside communities sometimes means a path with challenges along the way...



but it is where we are needed.

# Faith in Action



“What inspires me is my love for my community, for my family, for my people, for my neighbor.”

**Norlan Flores,**  
**Health Promoter in training**



# Faith in Action



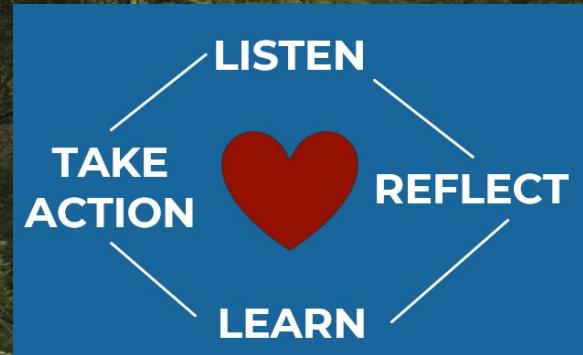
“I feel good doing this job, I feel confident. I know that I still have more to learn, but I feel that I am achieving my goals.”

***Norlan Flores,  
Health Promoter in training***



# Lessons learned

- Build trusting relationships
- Listen well
- Trust your partners
- Learn and be willing to be transformed
- Replicate your model/replace yourself
- Love your neighbor



# Blessings from the AMOS team in Nicaragua!



Learn more about our ministry: **AMOS**  
Health & Hope

- Follow us on Facebook: [@amoshealth](https://www.facebook.com/amoshealth)
- Follow us on Instagram: [@amos.nicaragua](https://www.instagram.com/amos.nicaragua)
- Visit our website: [www.amoshealth.org](http://www.amoshealth.org)

**Muchas Gracias  
Thank you!**



Thank you  
Muchas gracias

