

## 2011 Groups

- 1/15 Covington UMC
- 1/15 Northway Christian
- 1/22 Tarrytown UMC
- 1/29 Peachtree Road UMC
- 1/29 Alpharetta First UMC
- 2/5 Hamilton Mill UMC
- 2/12 Conyers First UMC
- 2/12 Mountain Park UMC
- 2/19 GACS
- 2/19 Newnan First UMC
- 2/26 Decatur First UMC
- 3/5 Mayo Rehab
- 3/5 Smoke Rise Baptist
- 3/12 Wilderness
- 3/12 St. James UMC-Tampa
- 3/19 Willing Team (NEW)



Fall 2010

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### Mini Farm Project in La Laguna

What began in the Pech village of La Laguna as “feeding a village for day” has become “teaching the village to feed themselves for a lifetime.”

When the mission team from Greater Atlanta Christian School, under the leadership of Kristy Shelton and Derek Wilson, teachers at the school, arrived in the indigenous (Pech Indian) village earlier this year, they met residents who had not eaten meat in several months, subsisting primarily on yucca.

After praying about the wretched nutritional conditions in La Laguna, the team, 21 students and three chaperones decided to fast one lunchtime. When the HOI lunch truck arrived with the noon meal, the teens began to serve plates for the men, women and children. They soon realized that though the Ranch kitchen had sent food for 24 North Americans, there were 88 hungry villagers lined up to eat; the team began to pray again. In a modern day fish and loaves story, not only did

the food for 24 feed everyone in the village there was food leftover to send home to two families.

Recognizing that they needed to “teach the village to fish,” the team collected several hundred dollars to send to HOI’s community development program, led by Ivan Varela, to help the community.

In the following weeks, the HOI Directors integrated the Agriculture, Community Development and Nutrition programs to develop a plan for sustainable food production in the community of La Laguna.



Using funds donated by the team members, seeds were purchased and Blas Romero, HOI’s nutritionist, taught the community how to garden.

The agriculture staff worked with the women and bought chicks to start an egg and chicken co-operative. The agriculture staff also

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### Making a Difference Through Medicine



In the Agalta Valley of northwest Honduras, there is a medical clinic that serves the needs of 41 villages and about 30,000 Hondurans who would other-

wise have no source of medical care. The clinic is part of the ministry of Honduras Outreach. In this area there are many people with recurrent seizures or epilepsy. **The incidence rate of epilepsy there is far greater than in the United States. The reasons are many, but the most common cause is a parasite that occurs in pigs. The pigs in these areas are not**

**kept in pens but roam freely. In these conditions, people are infected with the parasite that eventually causes**



**seizures. Education on how to control this problem is underway, but in the meantime the situation results in a high incidence of seizures.**

Most of the seizures can be controlled with anticonvulsants that have been used for many years. These medicines are relatively inexpensive compared to newer, more costly drugs now available....But when *(Continued on page 3)*

## Mayo Rehabilitation Team– Dr. Michael Priebe



People with disabilities living in Honduras, as in most developing countries, face huge challenges. Not only do they have to contend with limited financial resources, but they are also unable to work and often not allowed to fully participate in their society. When I first visited Olancho with my group from Walnut Hill UMC in May 1999, the year following Hurricane Mitch, I met

Eugenio in his mother's home in El Aguacate. He was lying in bed, naked except for a baby blanket over his middle. He had been shot in January and was paralyzed from the chest down. He had received medical care, but no rehabilitation following his injury. He had no wheelchair, so his family put him in a plastic chair and carried him outside when it got too hot in the house. He was totally cared for by his family, in the way a baby is cared for, because he was completely helpless. I was surprised by the degree of his helplessness because I could not imagine a health system in which a person with paraplegia would receive no rehabilitation before going home—especially a 20 year old, otherwise healthy, man.

Since I was aware of Eugenio's predicament before my trip, I had collected some rehab material, including a wheelchair donated by one of my colleagues, Lance Goetz, MD, who would travel with me on subsequent HOI trips. The first day I worked with Eugenio, I taught his wife how to do "range of motion" and stretching exercises for his legs. I also taught him to



roll over in bed by himself. When I first asked him to roll over, he said, "I can't. I'm paralyzed." My translator reported to me, "He can't. He's paralyzed," to which I replied, "I know he's paralyzed, ask him to roll over." This went back and forth with increasing exasperation for everyone involved until I realized that he did not even know how to roll over in bed—one of the most basic skills taught to people in rehabilitation. I took a step back and said, "Ok, I'll teach you how to do it. Start by grabbing your right thigh with your hand." To this he replied, "I can't. I'm paralyzed." I took his hand and placed it on his thigh. The expression in his eyes was one of amazement, as if to say,

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**"I could not imagine a health system in which a person with paraplegia would receive no rehabilitation"**

**-Dr. Michael Priebe**



## 2011 Scholarships For Honduran Students



The biggest obstacle a child faces in obtaining an education in Honduras is cost. As unbelievable as it sounds, it is true! Even if a child is fortunate enough to live in a village that has a school, if the child does not have funds for a uniform and supplies, he or she cannot attend ....

In light of this reality, HOI offers a *scholarship program* that provides Hon-

duran students the opportunity to pursue an education even if

their local village does not have a school. Our program has two sponsorship options: the first is the "Room and Board" sponsorship. With this program, you are able to assist a middle or high school student with expenses for room, board and school supplies, enabling a student to live with a family in another village and attend school. Our "Tuition Only" sponsorship enables a student to attend school in his or her local village school.

Alternatively, the *Culuco education program* connects sponsors with students in the HOI-run schools in the village of Culuco, adjacent to the Ranch. These schools provide education for students living near the Ranch. Being a sponsor in either of these programs, *scholarship or Culuco education*, is a rewarding way to stay connected to the work we are doing in the Agalta Valley.

Each sponsor receives the name of their student and generally gets a picture and at least one letter from the student. If you travel with a work team to the Ranch during their school year, you will also be able to meet the student in person!

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### Irrigation “Demonstration” Systems at Ranch

The good news is that the Ranch was booked solid during the summer months! We had two mission teams traveling every week in June and July. We even had three groups at the Ranch simultaneously in August! The bad news is that from September through the end of the year, the Ranch will host only two teams.

But, do not mistakenly believe that a lack of North American groups at the Ranch means that work does not continue! On the contrary, on September 14 more than 40 people came to the Ranch to install various irrigation systems that were donated to HOI.

Making up the work crew were students from Gualaco High



School and students from the Agricultural University in Catacamas, teachers, farmers and technicians from PRORENA GTZ (a German NGO) and IDE (International Development Enterprises). Drip irrigation systems of 100, 200 and 500 square meters were installed as well as 200 square meters of a “sprinkling” irrigation system.

Although there was not enough time to install everything in one day, four interns from the Gualaco High School will work with the Agricultural staff to install the remaining parts of the system. The system will serve two purposes— as a teaching prototype to demonstrate the benefits of irrigation, and on a practical level, it will irrigate the corn that will become feed for the Ranch pigs!

### Medicine (Continued from page 1)



there are not sufficient funds to buy *all* the medical supplies needed, the clinic doctor must chose to purchase medication for treating more life-threatening illnesses. With no money left over, medicine needed for long-term problems such as seizures is not available.

Several years ago, members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrews became aware of this problem and donated money to purchase medicine. Other friends in the parish became aware of the need and began donating money as well.... As a result, arrangements have been made for HOI to purchase the medicine wholesale in Honduras to stock the Honduras Outreach clinic at Rancho el Paraiso.

Since 2008, the members and friends of Holy Trinity Parish have contributed enough to purchase sufficient medicines for the main clinic and the outlying clinics for a full year. Because of this, many people in the Agalta Valley will not suffer from seizures this year. They will go about their daily lives without the fear of seizures. They will go to school, plant corn, and tend to their families and children without seizures. On behalf of Honduras Outreach, and on my own behalf, I offer sincere and heartfelt thanks.

**-Dr. Russell Wallace -Holy Trinity Parish**  
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### Scholarships (Continued from page 2)



Providing the opportunity for education to a Honduran child will change his or her life. It creates a sense of hope, determination and a path to success for the future. Consider the following profile that one of the agriculture employees at the ranch recently wrote as part of his employee profile.

“In 1998 I had the opportunity to do my high-school internship at HOI. The following year, I was hired to work for HOI as a member of the agriculture team. Later in 2001, I was awarded a scholarship to attend college opening a door of opportunities for me. Attending college has allowed me to grow professionally and has provided me with knowledge to help my people improve their quality of life. Since 2007 I was rehired to become coordinator of the agriculture extension program at HOI. I like it a lot working for HOI because it is a prestigious organization and it supports people on improving their quality of life. My goal is to continue helping others with what I do. Personally I want to continue growing as a professional and reach a truly integrated development that may allow me to reach all my dreams.”

**-Nelson Zelaya, Ranch Agriculture Extensionist**

**HOI currently needs sponsors for the 2011 school year, which begins in February. Please pray about how you can be a part of Honduras' future through this education program. If you would like additional information, please contact Melanie Toven at [mtoven@hoi.org](mailto:mtoven@hoi.org)**

HOI now has the ability to accept appreciated shares of mutual funds, Vanguard funds, and other type "A" stocks. All gifts will be used to help support the HOI ministry. For additional information, please contact Emily

Grossman at: [egrossman@hoi.org](mailto:egrossman@hoi.org)



2011 Mission Team Manual will be sent electronically to all teams on the 2011 calendar in the coming days. Special thanks to Mike Leone from Mountain Park UMC in Stone Mountain, GA for assistance with packaging the materials.

### Golf Tournament and Fundraiser



On Monday August 23, the humidity finally dropped in North Georgia and we had a beautiful day for HOI's Golf

Tournament and Fundraiser. Twenty foursomes came out to play, with several golfers arriving early at Smoke Rise Country Club to hit practice shots before the 10 am tee time.



Rev. Tim Adcox, Minister of Missions at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, opened the event with prayer. Then HOI's Executive Director, Laurie Willing, briefly welcomed and thanked everyone for devoting a day to raising much needed funds for HOI. Since the proceeds are supporting HOI's

medical program in Honduras, Dr. Stephen Wilks talked about the changes in the health of the Honduran family in the past 20 years. He told what he had seen first hand in his early years- women who had received no medical care giving birth in less than ideal conditions. Now most women in the HOI area of influence not only receive pre-natal care, many also receive ultra-sound tests- thanks to the five ultra sound machines that belong to the ranch clinics.

At the conclusion of the tournament, winning trophies were presented during a short reception on the veranda overlooking the ninth hole. "Team Snow" won first place: Steve Kerr, Andy Alexander, Ron Bell and Major Snow. Another



prize, a set of Mizuno irons, was given to one lucky winner- Dennis Goode-now. The irons

were donated by a friend of Laurie Willing's in order to boost receipts at the fundraiser- which they did! Over \$1200 was raised in less than an hour during registration as golfers purchased "combined" tickets- a mulligan ticket with a raffle ticket taped to the back. The winning number was drawn from a basket of 162 tickets and for a brief moment, there was total silence....



We had wonderful volunteers who came out to do whatever was needed-Jackie Thornberry and Christine Peredney from the Lilburn Woman's Club, Anna Belle Pyle from

Kingswood UMC and Graham Stovall from Smoke Rise Baptist Church. Since Graham did the majority of the recruiting of foursomes and sponsors for the event, he was very pleased to see the good turnout!

As the day ended, the HOI staff reminded the men who worked in the golf shop that we needed the sponsor signs brought back to us from the tees and greens. The men were very gracious, although they seemed somewhat perplexed by our request. They drove out in several golf carts and collected all the signs quickly. As we were leaving, we explained that HOI is a non-profit and we plan to reuse the same signs next year!

### Mini Farm Project (Continued from page 1)



recognized the natural lagoon in the village and planted tilapia fingerlings.

Six months after the original "feeding a village for a day," the community not only has a means to feed themselves, they also have sources of income as they sell their abundance to other communities. According to Osman Echeverria who oversaw the Community Mini-Integrated Farm Project, the community has also developed "a sense of pride, ownership, community sense, saving principles, administrative skills and many other collateral benefits."



-Emily Grossman  
Group Travel Coordinator

## Did You Know?

-Honduras is the fourth poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Three-quarters of its people live on three dollar or less per day.

-In 1998, Mitch obliterated about 70% of the crops and an estimated 70-80% of the transportation infrastructure.

-Honduras obtained independence from Spain on September 15,



## Agriculture School Graduation



On August 19, twelve students from seven different villages graduated from HOI's Agriculture Vocational School. These students, housed at the ranch, attended classes for 12 weeks which focused on methods and techniques of farming and animal husbandry. Rancho el Paraiso is used as their training ground from growing vegetables to working with cattle, chickens and hogs. The class also visits area farmers to learn from their experience and attends seminars where experts from various institutions share their knowledge.

Each year at graduation, someone is chosen by the students to be the "godmother" or



of love for the agriculture program. Over the years, this program has produced many young men and women who returned to their



villages with newly learned skills that they then used to assist the community with agriculture projects. This knowledge helps in providing food and income for the

families so they can begin to be self-sufficient.

(Continued from page 2) I didn't know I could touch myself in places I can't feel!" We then went through the process of rolling over in bed, a skill he learned with ease.

The following day, the wheelchair and cushion that had been lost in transit finally appeared at the Ranch and I took it with me to El Aguacate. Unfortunately, the chair was adjusted for a man shorter than Eugenio and much more skilled at wheelchair maneuvering. When we first transferred Eugenio into the chair, he nearly flipped over backward. I realized I had to adjust the seat and back of the chair for him to be able to use it. I set to work with the only tools I had—a crescent wrench and pliers. I was able to complete the adjustments and taught Eugenio how to get into the chair using a transfer board before leaving that day. I told him I would return the next day and expected him to be dressed and in his wheelchair by the time I got there. Lo and behold, when we arrived the next morning he was sitting in his chair, dressed and with the biggest smile you can imagine on not only his face, but also on his mother's and wife's faces. We worked on some basic wheelchair skills that day and I left with a promise to return in the future, not knowing when that would be. I was excited about the progress we made in a few days of rehab, but quite apprehensive about how well he would do with so little training.....

Over the past 11 years, the rehab teams that have travelled to the Ranch have treated many patients with a variety of conditions. Yet they all need respect, encouragement and hope. Whatever else we provide for our patients with physical impairments and disabilities during our time in Olancho, I believe the most valuable is that we show the patient, his or her family, and the community as a whole that people with disabilities are capable of living fully and contributing to the family and society. They don't need to be cared for like infants or put away out of embarrassment to the family. These people have abilities that need to be identified and developed, just like everyone else. Through rehabilitation, we provide a combination of the three E's--exercise, education, and equipment. But what I see as most important, whether in Honduras or in the US, is the fourth E—**empowerment**.

There is so much more that has happened over the past 11 years that I cannot include it all here. I do want to add one very valuable activity that we have been doing in partnership with Dr. Nery Madrid and the School of Functional Therapy in Tegucigalpa. Each trip to the Ranch now includes Honduran therapy students who are just learning how to apply their skills to patients. Physicians specializing in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine also accompany us to the Ranch. By training Honduran rehab specialists, we are able to ensure that the services we provide are not lost when we leave. We have colleagues to continue the work in our absence between visits. We have also been presenting a rehabilitation conference in Tegucigalpa the weekend before traveling to the Ranch. This is one more way we can teach and help Honduran therapy students develop the skills needed as they create the future of rehabilitation in Honduras.



Here is the most recent Baggage information from the Delta website:

You may check up to two bags that meet our size and weight restrictions (below) at no extra charge when traveling internationally to most destinations outside the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

Checked baggage must weigh 50 lbs. or less and its combined length, width and height must measure 62 inches or less.



[www.havefoundation.org](http://www.havefoundation.org)  
To better assist education initiatives in the Agalta valley, the HAVE Foundation was created. This 501(c)(3) organization was designed to raise money to help support the education of children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend school. Money raised by HAVE contributes to everything from teacher salaries to supplying students with uniforms and books.

## Honduras Independence Day



Independence Day was celebrated by Hondurans on September 15. On this day in 1821, Spain granted independence to the country. The celebration held at HOI's Culuco schools started at eight o'clock in the morning, when almost three hundred students were lined up and ready to begin the parade and festivities. Many people from the area had come to participate because HOI's school was the only one in the Valley conducting such an event.

The students were dressed in colorful outfits representing each state of



Honduras or to express their cultural background. Even the attending parents and visitors were wearing their Sunday best.



The school band of twenty students, under the direction of music teacher Heber Durón, did an extraordinary job of leading the parade of children. Because of generous donors



to the music program, the band has been a huge success and has developed dedication, discipline and pride in these students.

It turned out to be a wonderful day of joy and patriotism for all the students and people of the surrounding communities. Honduras Outreach, through the Culuco schools, continues to be a blessing for the Agalta Valley. The support of our education program by so many is greatly appreciated!

## Comedy Night Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> Smoke Rise Country Club

Reception at 7 & Show at 8  
Featuring famous NYC comedians Darryl Salerno and Andy Nibley (performers at the New York Comedy Club and Rancho Paraiso in Honduras), along with Atlanta and Honduras favorite, David Funderburk. Warm-up act will be country music singer Jerry Eickhoff with surprise accompaniment. Special jazz entertainment by Christian Chalk from Wales on piano and John Cowden from Decatur First UMC on drums. All for the modest cost of a \$60 donation to HAVE Foundation, which

assists in funding the schools of Honduras Outreach in the Agalta Valley.

**\$60 donation to HAVE is your ticket**

**Be ready for a great silent auction too**

Pay at door or send check to:  
**HAVE**

17 Executive Park Dr., Suite 600  
Atlanta, GA 30329

RSVP to

[BHope@HopeBeckham.com](mailto:BHope@HopeBeckham.com)

*Educating Kids in Honduras is  
No Laughing Matter,  
But Comedy Night to Help  
Them will be Funny.*