

*Celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Year  
in Service to Honduras*



Spring 2009

[www.hoi.org](http://www.hoi.org)

Phone 404-327-5768

### Trip Calendar

- 4/18 Glen Ellyn Presbyterian
- 4/18 Westminster Presbyterian
- 4/25 Kingswood UMC
- 5/9 Auburn Christian Fellowship
- 5/16 CVM- U of IL
- 5/23 CVM-MI State
- 5/30 Simpsonwood UMC
- 5/30 Wesley Memorial UMC
- 6/6 Grayson UMC
- 6/6 Mission McDuffie
- 6/12 Whitefield Academy
- 6/13 St. Luke's Presbyterian
- 6/13 OH Univ- Grad School of Education
- 6/20 Hillside UMC
- 6/20 Glenn Memorial UMC
- 6/20 Education Advisory Committee
- 6/27 Stevens Creek
- 6/27 Hickory NC Young Life
- 7/4 First Presbyterian Grapevine
- 7/4 St. Mark UMC
- 7/10 One Sky Group
- 7/10 St. Andrew's Presbyterian-Tampa
- 7/11 Mt. Bethel UMC

## In Memory and Appreciation

My wife and I watched the last ever episode of ER broadcast on April 3rd when I returned from Honduras over that week-end. TIVO and DVR are such great inventions!

In that episode, a character played by Ernest Borgnine lost his wife whom he had met as a sixth grader and "only had eyes for her" for 72 years. When she passed away at the hospital, he remarked "is that it"? His meaning was, our 72 years together and all that history is gone in a matter of seconds. Is that it?

On April 3rd, the world, US, Honduras, Texas, Austin, and certainly HOI lost a very dear friend with the passing of Jim Morriss. Jim was very involved with the start and early years of HOI and remained a steadfast missionary and supporter throughout the 20 years. Recently Jim was the mentor to the Ranch's pastor, Wilmer Padilla.

I didn't have the privilege of knowing Jim, since I joined HOI after Jim lost the physical ability to continue going to the ranch and his much loved Honduras. We know Jim is sitting with Jesus now, but I don't want Jim's memory and all he meant to so many people to be "Is that it"?



**Jim Morriss  
1930-2009**

There is a section in this newsletter with some stories and memories of Jim Morriss.

Paul Tom  
CEO  
[ptom@hoi.org](mailto:ptom@hoi.org)

### Mark Your Calendar

**May 16, 2009 6:30 PM- Tribute and Roast  
1420 Room- located at 1420 Dunwoody Village Parkway**

**\$100.00 Per Person  
\$175.00 Per Couple  
Call Melanie for more information-(404)  
327-5768**

### Culuco Sewing Circle

The women's sewing project was the brain-child of Beth Lacefield, a member of Northside UMC In Atlanta. Beth has a business designing and manufacturing home accessories and other products for upscale retailers and catalogs across the country. In her travels to Central America, she noted that the women have good sewing skills and are just as eager as the children for participating in creative projects. Starting in Casa Quemada, Beth rounded up the village women, provided fabric, scissors and ideas, and led a project in which they appliquéd simple designs on fabric squares. The group paid the women for their

work. Then Beth brought the fabric pieces back to the U.S. where she made them into pillows, book and cosmetic bags, and other products. She always returns a portion of sales to the villages/ organizations who help create the products. We also sell the sewn items at sales at Northside UMC to create awareness of HOI and raise money for missions. I have seen Beth's pillows in shops around Atlanta. And they are truly works of art. They incorporate native fabric with the women's sewing as well as a pocket on the back of the pillow which holds a pamphlet explaining the project. Unfortunately, Beth could not travel with the

Northside UMC Team and HOI to Honduras in December 2008. Nevertheless, she sent the fabric, designs and other items we needed to organize the sewing project we held in Culuco. Hopefully, we will be able to send more fabric via another group and keep the project going.  
—Corinne Adams



The women have good sewing skills and are just as eager as children are for creative projects.

### New Arrival

Mirla Pradith Echeverria was born Friday January 30 at 6 pm, weighing 6.8 pounds. Mom and baby send their love and thank you for your prayers!



Sleeping Beauty !



## Reflections of San Agustin Blanco



Our trip this year started on a good note since Delta is now flying directly to Tegucigalpa. It certainly makes the trip easier!

We arrived at the ranch and settled in to begin our work in San Agustin Blanco the next day. This was our second year in this village and many villagers remembered us by name. Some villagers asked about members of our team who were there last year but not with us this year. It was very heart warming to know that we made a good impression on them. Since the children are in school in February, our team members that had planned to teach VBS worked on houses until after lunch. We had crews working on houses, helping fit villagers with reading glasses, conducting lice clinics, and also running a medical clinic. We distributed medication for parasites one day. We tried to have our team members

switch jobs in order to give everyone more than one experience.

The midwife for the village fainted one afternoon. She fell against a barbed wire gate and cut her arm badly. We had given the doctor a day “off medical duty” to work on houses. But he had come back to the village for lunch and was able to attend to the woman. It took about an hour for him to clean and stitch the wound. She was doing well when we left the last day. But, I hate to think what would have happened if a doctor had not been in the village that day.

One of the highlights of the trip was attending the ground breaking for the Martha Fuller Library. The children at the school had prepared a program to perform for us. Then we walked into the field where Mike Fuller had the honor of laying the first concrete block for the library. It was a very moving day for all of us.

As we headed back to Tegucigalpa, we were already anticipating our trip for 2010!

—Lynn Porter

## Memories of Jim Morriss

Jim used to talk about the time when he lived in Bolivia and how every Sunday he'd visit a park in the city. In this park a man sold a dish called “Black Chicken Casserole” which he advertised as “buy this very rich and delicious dish”. Jim would always tell his wife Anita on Sundays that she needn't worry about preparing a meal because he ate the casserole. One day, a friend of Jim's by the name of Juan told him that this man who sells black chickens....and before he could go on, Jim said, the color of the chicken doesn't matter because it's delicious. Juan told him that the “black chicken” was Zopliote which is Spanish for the word buzzard! Jim claims he didn't believe Juan, but from that day forward, he never tasted the black chicken casserole again.

—Henry Mencias

Jim Morriss trusted in people's ability to change for a better life especially through education. There are many young man and women that have better and happier lives just because they participated in the scholarship program. If those young people did not get the scholarship, then they would not be able to change their lives and get decent, well paying jobs.

There are hundreds of families with new homes after losing their belongings when Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras. At that time Jim Morriss was in Honduras together with his lovely wife and dear friends from Texas. There are many neighborhoods that are now enjoying a sewer system and running water on their homes.

The most beautiful school in Olancho, Honduras, was built in Juticalpa thanks to the efforts Jim did to convince donors to finance the construction which is benefiting hundreds of kids every year.—Juan Pablo

**Aguilera**

Each newsletter will feature the blessings which partnership brings to a village. Please submit a short summary of the village in which you worked so we can share your story.

The HOI Newsletter is published four times a year

Chief Editor

Paul Tom– CEO

Newsletter Director  
Melanie Toven

Contributing to this Edition – Corinne Adams of Northside UMC in Atlanta, GA



### Needed at the Ranch:

Please make sure that all donated medications have a minimum of 8 months validity remaining. Please call Melanie for details (404) 327-5768.

- Acetaminophen liquid
- Albendazole, Mebendazole tablets
- Aspirin (81 mg)
- Cefadroxil (250 suspension)
- Cephalexin (liquid)
- Cephalexin (500 mg tablets)
- Clindamycin (tablet)
- Doxycycline (liquid)
- Doxycycline (tablets)
- Erythromycin (liquid 250 mg)
- Ibuprofen (200 mg tablets)
- Ibuprofen (400 mg tablets)
- Ibuprofen (600 mg tablets)
- Ibuprofen (liquid)

- Immodium
- Levaquin (tablets 500 mg)
- Levaquin (tablets 750 mg)
- Metoclopramide (tablets)
- Metronidazole (600mg x 100 tablets)
- Multi-vitamins (adult and children)
- Naproxen (tablets)
- Penicillin (tablets)
- Penicillin Benzathine (1.2 ampules)
- Piperacina (ML)
- Prednisone
- Robitussin
- Triple Antibiotic cream
- Prenatal Vitamins



### Current Events

#### HOI and Rotary Launch Crusade

The Rotary Club together with Honduras Outreach will begin piloting the Crusade to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in Honduras this summer. The first pilots will be conducted in Soroguara and Juticalpa under the auspices of the Rotary Clubs in Tegucigalpa South and Juticalpa. Survey and diagnostic tools are designed by the University of Georgia's Dr. Mary Ann Johnson of the School of Agriculture (Family and Consumer Sciences).

#### Fuller Library under Construction

Footers were laid by Mike Fuller and the Wilderness Team worked with the HOI construction team to lay the foundation for the School and Community's Library

which will be located on the new grounds for Grace High School in Cu-luco.



#### Interns at the Ranch

Robyn Paz a graduate student at Rollins School of Public Health from Emory University will be interning at the ranch from June to July.

Mallory Thompson, a senior at Covenant College and a major in Community and Economic Development, will be interning at the ranch from June to December.