

Trip Calendar

- 7/10 Stevens Creek
- 7/10 Saint Andrews Presbyterian (FL)
- 7/17 Catawba Valley Young Life
- 7/17 Holy Trinity
- 7/24 Covenant Presbyterian
- 7/24 St. Paul's UMC
- 7/31 CVM
- 7/31 Kingswood UMC
- 7/31 Grapevine Presbyterian
- 8/7 CVM
- 8/21 Decatur Presbyterian
- 10/16 Willing Team
- 10/23 Peach-tree Road UMC



Summer 2010

www.hoi.org

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New Executive Director to Lead HOI

On Monday June 21, Laurie Willing joined HOI as the Executive Director. Ms. Willing led teams with HOI for 13 years, so she has plenty of experience with HOI's mission work in the Agalta Valley.

Prior to joining our team, she worked for Simpsonwood United Methodist Church in Norcross, Georgia for 15 years. She held the position of Director of Children's Ministries for the first 4 years. From 1999 until recently, she was the Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries.



Laurie has organized and led youth and adult mission teams in three different churches over the past 26 years. Her undergraduate degree is in Accounting, so she has the ability to understand the unique



financial reporting required of a non-profit company!

This summer, Laurie's team from Simpsonwood traveled to the Ranch from June 5-June 12. After a busy week in Honduras with her team, Laurie was able to spend a few additional days at the Ranch with Sue Church as she began the transition to her new job.

Laurie is supported in this new career by her husband, Keith, and children, Tamara and Tyler. They all have been involved in HOI's mission trips.

New Style Chimneys



Throughout the Agalta Valley HOI mission teams are retrofitting chimneys in homes, replacing the familiar tin stovepipe with layered clay "donuts" or ladrillos para chimenea. Perhaps your team has participated in this work during your mission week.

Installing stovepipes in homes in the Agalta Valley was one of HOI's earliest initiatives almost 20 years ago. Previously the wood burning stoves were not vented, allowing smoke to fill the house and thus exposing residents to upper respiratory illnesses.

HOI mission teams have installed hundreds of tin stovepipes which have helped to improve lung and bronchial health. However, over time the tin tubes fill with creosote and the tin itself deteriorates.

Recently HOI community development staff saw a

new design for smoke ventilation: layering clay "donuts" between the stove and the outside, and set to work designing a mold and formulating the clay mixture. The staff worked with the eight women in the pottery co-operative in the village of Las Delicias who had not only experience working with clay but also a kiln for drying the "donuts."

The co-op sells the "donuts" to the Community Development program for a dollar a piece; each chimney requires 24 – 36 units. A layer of clay or mud is laid between each donut to hold the chimney together.

Using this design has numerous benefits. Unlike the tin stove pipes which have an average life expectancy of one year, clay chimneys will last up to 10 years.

For the woman of the house, the clay chimney is aesthetically pleasing, for the members of the clay co-op in Las Delicias, this is steady work with a steady income.

The mission team from Covington UMC installed the first clay chimney during their mission trip in January 2010.

—Emily Grossman
Group Coordinator

Honduras Mission Trip Journal– Excerpts from Nacoochee

Saturday, April 10, 2010
Saturday, April 10, 2010 was the start of our latest adventure in Honduras. For the Nacoochee group, the day started early, meeting at the church at 0530 for a 0600 departure for the Atlanta airport. There were plenty of volunteers and drivers to get us there safely and on time.

Sunday, April 11, 2010
Today we leave Juticalpa for the ranch. Following devotion was breakfast, where Tommy Jackson asked for God's blessing upon our favor, our group, and our mission.

Children along roadsides wave as we pass through. They smile as if everything is well with them., although



they live at a poverty level that would appall Family and Child Services

As we ride to the ranch, we pass farms with the cattle and horses on lead lines watched by the children. None of the land seems to be overlooked.

Everywhere it was in use. Even at the upper most levels of



elevation. The steep mountainsides had terrace paths worn into it for the cattle to graze. Houses were built among the boulders.

Monday, April 12, 2010
Monday morning – the first day of the new week. I look outside and the clouds are hiding the tops of the mountains. I know they (the tops) are there.



I've seen them before. As the veil clouds cover the view it reminds me that when I am not sure about seeing God, He's there just not always in plain view.

On the first day in village we were made to feel welcome. Had to relearn many names. The 10 to 12 year olds from last visit were 15 & 17 years now and some were parents now – it's a different culture and I must remember not to judge. A young girl of 9 years before, 15 now was on my mind and my wife's also. What we found out was that she was at San Pedro Sula doing

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They smile as if everything is well with them, although they live at a poverty level that would appall Family and Child Services.

Basket Weaving Co-Op



Ten women in the remote village of el Aguacate (Gualaco), Honduras, gather in the afternoons to weave pine needles into baskets, providing a source of much-needed household income as well as social interaction.

Their children help in the process by gathering the pine needles; in turn the women use the earnings for the children's school supplies, food purchases and in general, to make a small contribution to the family budget.

Each basket takes approximately one day to make, though the process is spread out over several days to allow each step to

“rest” before moving to the next step.

The women of el Aguacate (Gualaco) began making the baskets approximately six years ago, using traditional Honduran designs which originated in the Honduran department (State) of Santa Barbara.



Members of the co-operative came to Honduras Outreach, Inc. two years ago seeking a market for their wares. Since then they have sold baskets through the shop (La Tienda) at Rancho el Paraiso which is the center of operations for HOI in Honduras.

Honduras Outreach, Inc. (www.hoi.org) is a recognized US NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) dedicated to improving the lives of the residents of the Agalta Valley, a part of the Department of Olancho.

—Emily Grossman
Group Coordinator

Culuco School Elections Teach Students Democratic Process



The school year in Honduras is now in full swing - the classrooms in Culuco are buzzing with excitement and learning.

(Remember, the

school year runs from February through November in Honduras).

Recently, the students of Hope Middle School experienced the joys



of democratic government as they elected their student government, pictured here.

The elected students serve as leaders in the school, listening to their fellow students, communicating feedback from the class to the teachers, and making plans for the class and the school. Congratulations to these students on their accomplishments!

As always, many thanks to our donors and sponsors who support education programs in Honduras. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please email us at hondurasoutreach@gmail.com

Journal Excerpts (cont)

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house work – at age 15 – away from family – it seems dangerous to me. But what can I say?



Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Clinic went well in the AM. We saw adults and babies until lunch and school kids after lunch. Ears and eyes were fine. Teeth were

another story. Some had broken rotten teeth with parts sticking out of gums. Others had just rotten shells in the gums. We did find some kids with very good teeth. One child had perfect teeth.

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

The day before this, at our little clinic, we had fitted a man and his wife with a pair of glasses. Only one pair seemed to work for them both, so they left with the single pair to share. The next day the husband returned. Hum. He went through the entire bag and nothing would do. He said, "They don't work as well as my wife's." And hum again. He didn't actually come right out and say this, but apparently his wife had decided that the glasses were HERS, and she was not sharing. So I put on my very best irritated Mom face, turned on my very best scolding Mom voice and told Crystal to tell him that he was to tell his wife that I SAID she was to share. The funny thing was that I think that is exactly what he had come for. Obviously he needed some reinforcing from the Gringas. Crystal will remember the 'I told you so' look that came over his face as he turned to walk home and give his wife the message. Ah, to be a fly on the wall....

Thursday, April 15, 2010 [tax day in the U.S.]

After supper I pack and head to closing worship with the



ranch team. There we have some great singing and a good message on feeding the 5,000. Then we are given commissioning certificates and Isthmus fish. It is a nice parting gift from friends at the ranch. Then we gather for evening devotion.

Monte leads tonight. With this being his first trip to Honduras, it is a special time. Monte shares how God has touched and challenged him on the trip. He came to work hard and serve God. But he found out that the people of La Floresta and the Hondurans served him more. The foot washing with and by Tommy was a sacred moment for him as to what it means to love and serve another. Monte's emotion even almost made me cry which is a great feat. This is what this trip is all about. This is why we come. For God to change us as much as the Honduran families.

The Festival began with a time of competition games, followed by an inspirational message from Pastor Chris. And then the rains came, driving everyone inside the church. We were literally "wall to wall." Even though bodies were damp, spirits were not. Excitement and anticipation continued to abound.... Saying goodbye to the folks, specially the children, was bitter-sweet; wanting to stay longer yet wanting to get home too.





Recently, the red pick-up truck at the ranch was sold. The proceeds were used to buy a motorcycle that is shared between Community Development and the Medical Program. This method of transportation is much more economical and allows HOI to make more visits to our villages without spending more money on gas.

We have several open dates for team travel in the fall-September, October and November.

Please contact Emily Grossman for available trip dates:
egrossman@hoi.org



Dedication Celebration for the Martha Fuller Library

The morning was filled with celebration, music and smiles as the Martha Fuller Library on the Hope Middle School campus in Culucu was officially named and dedicated June 15.

As guests approached the newly painted building they were greeted

by school children who lined the walkway and waved blue and orange balloons, acknowledging

another love of Ms. Fuller—her alma mater, Auburn University.

Along with Mike Fuller, Martha's husband, their daughters Joann Raybon and Jennifer McVay were present to cut the ceremonial ribbon and inaugurate the building. Two beautiful plaques, one in Spanish and one in English were unveiled and hung on the exterior of the building.

With the wall mural of Honduran birds as the backdrop, over 300 children, teachers and leaders participated in the dedication ceremony. In addition to speeches by Mr. Fuller, HOI staff, and community leaders,



children from Aldersgate Elementary and Hope Middle Schools sang. They also installed bookplates



designed by Janelle Byerly into books purchased through the fund raising efforts of Sydney Floyd.

The Martha Fuller Library is unique in the department of Olancho as the only public library which allows patrons to check out or borrow books, similar to the library system in the US, according to Sue Church, chairman of HOI's Board of Directors.

Children and adults alike marveled at bookcases holding new books to inspire readers of all ages as well as newly crafted tables and chairs thanks to the talents and efforts of members of the Tarrytown UMC and Wilderness Mission teams.

Through the efforts of many people, the family's dream to honor the memory of Martha Fuller became a reality. Her love for learning and for the people of Honduras will remain a focus with this new facility that will help the surrounding communities for years to come. Library committee members are Joann Raybon, Mike Fuller, Leslie Bobadilla, Kathy Bernhardt and Cindy Wilson.



— Laurie Willing
Executive Director

Join the Ready, Willing and Able Team

Keith Willing, a long-time HOI mission team member invites YOU to join a mission team he will lead Saturday, October 16-Saturday October 23, 2010. While at Rancho el Paraiso the team will offer a Children's Bible School as well as work on construction projects planned by the Community Development staff.

If you missed your annual trip this year, or are interested in taking a fact-finding trip to learn more about HOI, join Keith and his team, the

"Ready, Willing and Able" team. Keith encourages Individuals to invite friends and business associates to join his team. He also says he is seeking folks with experience leading Children's Bible School.

For more information please contact Emily Grossman, Group Program Coordinator, at: egrossman@hoi.org who will connect you to Keith. Cost for the week is \$720 per person plus airfare. And remember that you will need a passport valid for at least six months from the date of arrival in order to enter the country of Honduras.