

## 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
- 2/26 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)
- 4/2 Glenn Memorial UMC



Winter 2011

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

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### Louise Mahaffey Bible Institute Graduation



Through the Louise Mahaffey Bible Institute, HOI has trained 131 Christian leaders over the past eleven years. On November 12, Honduras Outreach graduated twenty spiritual leaders. These men and women attended weekend classes throughout the year, taught by Wilmer Padilla, Ranch Pastor and Director of HOI's Spiritual Development Program. They will return to their villages as leaders and mentors to the community. As a graduation gift, each student was awarded a talking New Testament called, "The Proclaimer". These gifts were donated to HOI by an organization in Albuquerque, NM, called *Faith Comes By Hearing*. The Proclaimer contains the holy scriptures on a microchip. It runs on battery or through the use of a built in solar panel. These graduates will put this gift to good use



as they preach the gospel, evangelize to their communities and organize mission opportunities. Through the hard work of Pastor Wilmer Padilla, another class of 20 is registered for the current year. God continues to bless this program and we pray for its continued success.



### Needed at the Ranch....

If you are planning a trip to the Ranch and find that you can fit any of the following items into your luggage, we would be so grateful:

- \* Spanish Bibles-- "Reina Valera" is the preferred translation
- \* Pots and pans
- \* Cookie sheets
- \* Electric Urn Coffee Maker
- \* Plastic kitchen utensils
- \* Bath towels
- \* Hand towels
- \* Twin sheets for the dorms
- \* Aspirin (81 mg)
- \* Acetaminophen liquid
- \* Ibuprofen (200 mg tablets)
- \* Ibuprofen (400 mg tablets)
- \* Ibuprofen (liquid)
- \* Immodium
- \* Multi-vitamins (adult and children)
- \* Prenatal vitamins
- \* Naproxen sodium (tablets)
- \* Robitussin
- \* Triple antibiotic cream
- \* Mylanta
- \* Tums
- \* Prilosec
- \* Nexium
- \* Pepto Bismal

Our clinics always need over-the-counter medications. Please ensure that all donated items have a minimum of 8 months validity remaining.

### A Fond Farewell to Leslie and Osman



Please join HOI's Atlanta Staff and Ranch Staff in wishing Osman and Leslie Godspeed in their next calling to serve the Lord— whatever that experience may be! This wonderful couple has given much of themselves to Honduras Outreach—and the areas they served have flourished.

Leslie became HOI's Group Leader and Project Manager of home construction in two villages on the North Coast in 1999. After Hurricane Mitch, it became clear that Honduras Outreach could help with the rebuilding of Honduras in an area greater than the Valley of the Agalta. Miriam Crespo, Governor of the Department of Colon, contacted HOI to see if the organization could help in that region. Once it was decided that HOI could help, the appropriate leader for this project had to be found. Leslie managed the construction of 82 homes by organizing the villagers and inspiring them to continue their work which produced homes which were well built and are a source of pride to this day. In addition, she hosted several groups of North Americans who came to help with the construction. Each group gave Leslie high marks for organization, implementation, and a wonderful God-filled experience as they helped. One group was so impressed that they sponsored her to attend and graduate from Toccoa Bible College in Toccoa, Georgia, USA.

When Leslie completed her education, she re-joined HOI in 2005 as Director of Education. Leslie's responsibilities included supervision of the ranch kindergarten as well as 41 rural kindergartens with volunteer teachers, the ranch primary school, the ranch middle school, the new ranch high school, the newly constructed library, the scholarship program and the adult education classes. She has been very successful in each of these endeavors and improved the quality of the Education Program offered through Honduras Outreach.

Because of the political situation in Honduras and the economic conditions worldwide, it has been increasingly hard to fund the Education Program in recent years. As a result, Leslie stepped in as a teacher in the high school as well as teaching the Adult Education Class. Leslie is a diligent, dedicated person who holds high standards and morals. Her heart is a servant's heart. She saw her position as a ministry and not merely a job. Leslie and her family will be missed in the Valley and by HOI but it is sure that God will use her to further His plan for Honduras.

Honduras Outreach is particularly proud of Osman because he is a product of our scholarship program. Through one of those God-incidences, Dr. Fred Ingle DVM in Cleveland, GA, was matched with young Osman when he needed assistance with tuition to further his education.

The two men soon bonded over their shared love of agriculture and passion to help others. Dr. Ingle sponsored Osman through middle and high school, enabling Osman to become the first person in his family to have 12 years of education.

After finishing high school, Osman worked as an intern at Rancho el Paraiso for a year before continuing his education at Earth College, a premier university in Central America where he eventually earned a BS in Agronomy. He returned to the Ranch in January 2006 as director of the Agriculture program and soon met Leslie who would become his wife five months later. In August 2009 he was promoted to Ranch Director and continued his work as agriculture director.

As ranch director for the past 18 months he oversaw a staff of 60 employees, a fleet of vehicles and six program areas in addition to the agriculture area including the Vo-Tech school. However he remains a farmer at heart. A few years ago he rented land to experiment with planting tomatoes. Like farmers everywhere he hedged his bets and his prayers on good weather. The rains came and much of the crop was lost. But Osman saw this as a teachable experience, learning from each aspect of the growing cycle. As the agriculture director he oversaw an ever-increasing dairy herd, successful chicken production as well as a Vo-Ag school with 15 or 16 students annually.

Through the good times and rough times, Osman has held fast to his faith in God and his desire to be in God's Perfect Will, not only for his work and life but also for the organization's. It is with this confidence that Osman and his family face the next part of their journey.

## Did You Know?

That Honduras was formerly known “Spanish Honduras” to differentiate it from “British Honduras”- which is now the country of Belize?

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That Trujillo and Gracias were the first city-capitals?

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That *Canasta Basica*, or *Basic Basket*, is something that the average Honduran cannot afford? More than seven of every ten Hondurans cannot afford the commodities and services needed to live a physically and emotionally healthy life.

Source-  
Honduras  
Weekly

### HOI and U.N's World Food Security Committee



The “La Laguna Project”, inspired by the mission team from Greater Atlanta Christian School, has recently brought international recognition to HOI. The project (see HOI’s fall 2010 Newsletter on our website) was chosen by Honduran officials to be the single project representing Honduras at the 36th Session of the United Nations’ Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome, Italy. Many people will benefit due to the efforts to create a secure food supply for **all** Hondurans since the Honduran government passed a law in 2010 making Food Security a priority for the country for the next twenty years!



During the week of December 12-19, 2010, Dra Margarita Oseguera de Ochoa of UTSAN (United Technology Security Food and Nutrition), a project of the office of the President of Honduras, visited Atlanta for a series of meetings-including one with HOI’s Board of Directors! Beginning in 2011, Honduras Outreach will be

### Nelson Zelaya Named as AG Director

Honduras Outreach is excited to announce that Nelson Zelaya has been named Director of Agriculture, effective Jan. 1, 2011. Nelson came to the ranch in 1998 to do his high-school internship. The following year, he was hired to work for HOI as a member of the agriculture team and was awarded a scholarship to attend college in 2001. From this opportunity, Nelson grew in his knowledge



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part of a National Food Project that is being implemented by the Honduran government to fight hunger and malnutrition. In 2011 we will be duplicating the “La Laguna” project in some of our other villages.

The goal is to create an environment of sustainability in these communities as was accomplished in La Laguna. Some of our teams will be assisting in building chicken coops, creating community gardens, and educating children and families in hygiene and nutrition. By providing these communities with training in safe food preparation, personal hygiene and proper nutrition, we increase their overall health and well-being. Through education about the importance of working together as a community, we will be able to guide them in ways to sell their produce or instruct them in starting up a small business. This high visibility endeavor is assisted by the Nutrition Department at The University of Georgia. They have provided us with the educational training guide to be used with the children and parents. We would like for mission teams to be involved in this important training of the community and are anxious to see what God has planned for the future, with this project.

For questions, please contact our Group Travel Coordinator, Emily Grossman, at: [egrossman@hoi.org](mailto:egrossman@hoi.org)

and professionalism in agriculture and was hired in 2007 as the coordinator of the agriculture extension program at HOI. He has done an amazing job training agriculture students in our Vocational School and teaching area farmers through other HOI supported programs. We welcome Nelson to his new position and we hope you will get to know him the next time you visit Rancho el Paraiso.

**People Making a Difference in Honduras**

Thanks to Frank Spears and Bill Phillips the village of Coyolito now has a kindergarten! The village is located approximately 90 minutes from the Ranch, has 140 families and 50 kindergarten students.



The kindergarten brings hope to the community through early childhood education.



The mission team from Alpharetta First UMC, guided by senior pastor Rev. Don Martin, partnered with the village of Pacura in order to fix the roof in the clinic. They not only funded the repairs and helped do the work during their mission trip,



But a few months later the team pledged \$6,000 to cover the nurse's salary for all of 2010.

Thank you for enabling HOI to reopen the Pacura clinic!



Dr. Russell Wallace, a retired neurologist who travels with Holy Trinity Episcopal church, conducts his own "letter writing" campaign to purchase expensive, hard to acquire medicines to treat neurological disorders such as epilepsy. At least once a year, he comes to the HOI Atlanta office with a stack of envelopes to be mailed to potential donors!

Since 2008, the members and friends of Holy Trinity Parish, including the Brotherhood of St. Andrews, have contributed funds to purchase sufficient anti-seizure medicines to cover the ranch clinics for a year. To all these groups and individuals, we say thank you! We know that those we serve in Honduras will forever be changed by your willingness to step out in faith and do work that needed to be done.

**Thank You to All our Donors**



Last year was a challenge financially for our country, for HOI and I'm sure for your family. At Honduras Outreach, both in Atlanta and Honduras, we made significant reductions in our expenses, in order to

maintain our much needed programs that reach the people of the Agalta Valley. Combining this with the generous contributions of our donors, we were able to support these mission efforts through the end of the year and are now looking to 2011 with hope and faith.

We already have more mission teams scheduled for this coming year than last and are excited for the new opportunities God is placing before us, to do His work in the Valley. Thank you very much for your donations and your support of HOI. God Bless you all in this New Year and we hope you will travel with us soon!

**Laurie Willing – HOI Executive Director**

Please notify us early if you think you would like to be "linked" to another team in order to meet the minimum number of participants needed to travel to the Ranch: [egrossman@hoi.org](mailto:egrossman@hoi.org)



**Available Spring 2011 Dates:**

March 19 – 26  
 March 26 – April 2  
 April 9 – 16  
 April 30 – May 7  
 May 7 – 14  
 May 14 – 21

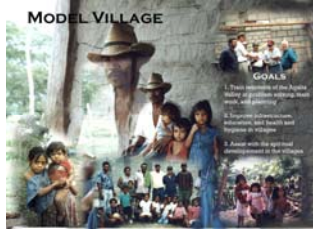
**Available Late Summer & Autumn 2011 dates:**

Weekly from August 13 – 20 through December



## History of HOI

**1995** - The Wayne Maddux bridge, crossing the river from the Ranch to St. Martine, was built by adult groups. It was later destroyed by late spring rains. The Model Village Program, pairing a village in Honduras with a group from the U.S. began.



**1996** -The Wayne Maddux Bridge was repaired by adult groups. The Model Village program continued to add new villages in Honduras and sponsors in the U.S.

**1997** - Adult groups constructed a bridge over the Rio Grande to provide easier travel to two Model Villages. The bridge was damaged by heavy rains, but remains usable. Over 35 groups travelled to the Ranch, providing a mission experience for over 460 people.

**1998** -Construction began on a new freestanding kitchen expected to feed over 75 ranch personnel, boarding students and group members each day. The large storage barn was remodeled to house the new Louise Mahaffey Bible training Center as well as classrooms for the vocational school.



Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras October 1998



causing great loss of life and untold damage throughout the country. In response, HOI began a "Rebuilding Honduras" campaign. Over 500 missionaries worked in Honduras.

**1999** -Adult groups continued working on the new kitchen which opened in September. A credit program to provide seeds, pesticides and expertise to local farmers was begun. Families needing food to last until harvest received help through the "Rebuilding Honduras" program. In the summer, HOI expanded its mission to include Trujillo, Colon Depart-



ment (State). The task to rebuild two villages destroyed by Hurricane Mitch was accepted and over 50 people worked in this new area. In the fall, a new elementary school building was constructed for children of ranch staff and nearby villages. The first class of the Louise Mahaffey school graduated in November. A total of over 650 missionaries worked in Honduras.

**To Be Continued....**

## Volunteers Needed for a Fundraiser Run/Walk

Are you an avid runner? Do you have experience in organizing Runs or Walk-a-thons? Do you just want to help HOI with one of their fundraisers? We are looking for a team of volunteers to assist our small staff in organizing this type of event for spring. If you are interested, please contact: Laurie Willing at: [ljwilling@hoi.org](mailto:ljwilling@hoi.org)





Special Thanks to Jim Gillaspie who donated a pump for one of Ranch wells. We now have BOTH wells working again!

And we are also grateful to the Christian Veterinary Mission Team members who carried the separate parts of the pump to the Ranch in December- as well as some Administrative items-Thanks, Thanks!



Remember: Boxes are not accepted as checked baggage to Central America at any time of year, according to Delta's website.

Always check with your airline before traveling in order to verify the baggage allowances to Honduras.

### Ranch Yard Sale

Some Groups have car washes to raise funds for a special trip, others hold a bake sale. Our staff at Rancho el Paraiso dreamed of taking a year end staff retreat and wondered how to fund it.



They rounded up the disparate items left by mission teams during the year, trunks, work boots, clothing, luggage, towels, soap etc. and held a North American style Yard Sale which they called a bazaar.

Group Coordinator Alejandrina Dominguez organized the sale with the help of the housekeeping staff who gathered the items each Friday after teams departed and washed



everything to make the items more marketable.

The bazaar, held in early September and open to the Ranch staff and their families, garnered about \$300. This amount was added to the tips some mission teams had donated to honor the "job well done" by the Ranch staff during their mission week. The trip to Trujillo in late November served as a time for team building and relaxation.

While Rancho el Paraiso cannot accommodate large donations of clothing, the staff thanks those of you who left items and in turn helped to fund the 2010 staff retreat.

-Emily Grossman  
Group Travel Coordinator

### Aldersgate Elementary Celebrates 10 Years

On November 11 2010, Aldersgate Elementary (our sponsored school in Culuco) celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary by graduating 22 sixth graders! Jennifer Davis (Bishop Lindsay Davis' wife), who spearheaded the school's creation, presented a commemorative plaque to recognize that day to school principal, Maricela Mejia.



Guests at the graduation were treated to a musical performance by the Hope Middle School band students and speeches by Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Sue Church (Chair of the HOI Board) and Mrs. Laurie Willing (HOI Executive Director). All of the graduating students have plans to continue with their education at Hope Middle School.

### Coffee Co-op

The coffee co-op is seeking an International market but there are two weak links:

- \* the distance and remoteness of the coffee growers from sales centers
- \* the cost of shipping.

One option for overcoming the difficulty in shipping is to ship the coffee in small containers since a smaller coffee producer cannot fill a large container! The coffee harvest season is in late March, and another idea is to plan an



Informational trip in an attempt to interest others in coffee production, marketing, sales and shipping.

For additional information on this trip, please contact Melanie Toven at:

[mtoven@hoi.org](mailto:mtoven@hoi.org)

## Trip Reflections from Dripping Springs UMC– By Barbara Doss



I want to thank those who supported me when I got the opportunity to travel to Honduras. The experience was more *amazing* than can be described in a short article but forthcoming are the highlights and the significant experiences of my trip. The beauty and wildness of the country were breath taking. The unusual warmth of the people and their fellowship were a great joy and comfort. The spirit of community strengthened by



teamwork applied towards a measurable goal provided a very fulfilling experience. Our accommodations were rustic, comfortable, and invigorating and helped us to realize we are almost cluttered by our excesses! The spirit of camaraderie applied to useful work not to exclude play, care and laughter are about all one needs to live well. What is lacking in Cerro Chele is an adequate source of clean water and all the blessings that clean water affords: better health and more variety in nutritious vegetation. The other lack was an mosquito netting and barriers against insects that feed on the skin. I observed and photographed a lesion that many Hondurans contract which I believe is called Cutaneous Leishmaniasis. According to my dermatologist, it is spread by a sand fly the way a mosquito spreads malaria. It is a parasitic

lesion, not easy to treat, and creates a nasty skin ulcer. Many villagers had that lesion. The villagers were appreciative of the care and support that we were able to give them- although it was rather limited. Their appreciation and gratitude were sincere and deeply felt. The children with whom I spent most of the day were bright, affectionate and attentive. It was hard not having answers and solutions for the needs and problems we witnessed. I am grateful that God has inspired this mission to exist and I hope we will be able to return again and hopefully address some of those very real needs. I am glad that their many faces dwell in our memories and we can access the avenue of prayer on their behalf and with so much left unsaid.....  
Let us continue to love not only with words but with actions.



**“Let us continue to love not only with words but with actions.”**

**-Barbara Doss**

## Culuco Scholarship Sponsors and Donations Needed

Due to the economic conditions, our Culuco schools, built and sponsored by Honduras Outreach, are in need of financial donations and sponsorships for students. We have 140 middle school students this year, which is amazing! Because of the quality of our teachers and curriculum, students desire to continue with their education after the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level (which is not required). In order to maintain this level of education, we are in need of funds to manage this Education program and sponsors for our students. Educating the children is one of the most important things we can do to affect the future of Honduras and improve their quality of life. If you would like to donate to our Culuco schools through our online donation process or to sponsor a student, please visit our website: [www.hoi.org](http://www.hoi.org) To get more information or to download a Culuco Sponsor form, go to the Education Program page. Questions? Contact Betsy Turner, Scholarship Coordinator : [hondurasoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:hondurasoutreach@gmail.com)