

Farsight Christian Mission, Inc.

ENewsletter
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Eye-opening! Heart-wrenching! Encouraging! The ministry that Farsight has just begun in Honduras provides a beautiful door-opening, object-lesson opportunity to share the Gospel while providing urgent, essential assistance to families there. We begin by randomly selecting a family in need of a roof over their heads. This is quite easy. When we arrived at our first building site last month, there were twelve women with proof of land ownership in their hands, waiting to show us their property, their family, and their lack of a house. The object lesson comes after the house is built. This one took the four-man FCM team, along with 5-6 Honduran men and a dozen hammer-swinging young boys, just 6 hours to complete.

The object-lesson devotion will come with the next house we build. This one was our "learning curve" house. On the next one I will have my message ready.

Question: What did you do to deserve this house?

Answer: nothing, you chose us.

Question: What did you pay for this house?

Answer: nothing, you paid for the house.

Question: How does this new house make you feel?

Answer: Very Happy, wonderful, blessed, etc.

Question: Will this house last forever?

Answer: No.

Question: Can you imagine a house that would last forever? A house complete with everything you could ever need or want? Can you imagine someone paying for your house with His life? Right now, Jesus is building a new house for you. Its not for sale. It is yours if you will love Him, follow Him, obey all His teachings. He paid for this house on the cross. Can we come back and share His teachings with you and your family?

We know we have an "open door" into this house because we just "chainsawed" it open. Another object to use in this lesson is the huge statue of the ascending Christ that looks down upon the city of Tegucagalpa.

Honduras Report



The team: at left left to right Jorge Sandoval, me, new homeowner, Sam Bates, and my son, Paul Halstead.

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The house-building project is a very satisfying experience. A team works hard and at the end of the day a family has a home to move into. If we had more funds, I would have enjoyed building three homes, one every other day. I'm too old to work that hard every day.

The homes cost between \$1,200 and \$1,300 for material. I can't help but roll the numbers around in my head. A person donating \$100 per month would provide a home for a family each year. For each three people who committed to this support I would need one team of builders, four to six volunteers to go build the houses. Each 3-house week would provide the team with 25 or more people willing to listen to the Gospel message. Four teams per year and 12 donors would provide 12 homes with an evangelical outreach to at least 100 people.

My dreams seem to be set in some pretty fertile soil as they tend to grow exponentially, but to my amazement, what God is able to accomplish always exceeds even my dreams.

Other activities filled our week. One emotion-filled morning, we spent time in the children's ward of the local hospital. Jorge (HorHay), was used mightily by God, fluent in Spanish and a heart big enough to hold all of Honduras within its beating walls. He came to the U.S. from Honduras when he was 17. This was his first mission trip but now he's hooked. (Does that make me a fisher of men?)

Our week included a visit to the children's ward of the local hospital. As is common in most hospitals outside the U.S., all nursing care is provided by mom, meals are carried in by family members, and the cost of meds, beds, and supplies is paid for prior to admittance.

The "Gentle Giants", Paul and Sam, didn't intimidate the children even though they were 3x taller than the kids and about 15 inches taller than most adults. All the barriers of language, culture, and size seemed to melt as friendships were made.

On another day, we worked in a "free lunch" program to feed about 250 kids in one of many poor neighborhoods. I was totally amazed. To describe the kids I would have to use words like: polite, respectful, courteous, friendly, and helpful. I'm forgetting one more adjective, oh, yes, HUNGRY!

The missionaries we worked with are: Ashley, Jen, David, Samantha, and Mike. On the next trip, I will try to learn all their last names.



This week I am planning to go to Eastlake Christian Church in Chattanooga and work on repairing the ceiling. They had water damage after the steeple was struck by lightning. On two previous workdays Jeff McGuire and I removed the steeple and patched the roof and Frank Graham and I changed the slope on a section of roof to fix all the leaks. My "TO DO" list for the church is almost as long as my ToDo list at home. If any of you are unemployed, like me, and need a project, give me a call and we can go fix something. Or, come visit Cindy and me at the mission house and we can find a project here to work on.

I'm waiting and watching the progression and severity of the flu before I start planning my next team for Honduras. Fortunately for Honduras, the human migration flow in that part of the world is always North. Unfortunately, if it does move South into Honduras the combination of poor communication, poor medical services, and extremely crowded areas are all conditions ideal for an epidemic. For now, I covet your prayers for these newfound friends and everyone who are in the path of this flu. When the CDC gives an "all clear", would you like to go with me to build some houses and spread some Good News?

Please keep Cindy and me in your prayers. The current economy has really hit FCM hard. I had to lay myself off in December and go back to being a volunteer because FCM could not afford to support the missionary and the mission work, and the work comes first. Every day we remember each of you in our prayers. You are the lifeblood of the mission.

Professor Cynthia is still teaching online English classes for Broward College in Florida as an adjunct Professor. She calls this her "Community Service" since adjunct pay is only slightly higher than my volunteer work.

We have planted a garden, Haitian style, with lots of terracing and planting around rocks. We are hoping to be able to can and/or freeze the produce. I'm counting on a big crop of Blackberries so I can continue with my once-a-week berry cobbler diet.

A few more pictures from Honduras. On the left, I trim floor boards to make the house ready for the front wall to be put in place. The 16'x16' house sits on a piece of land that's about 18'x20' with a 4' drop from front to back.

The boy is standing in the middle of his HUGE new home.

A little something extra from FCM for the houses we hope to build in the near future; I am stretching "shadecloth" to make a set of bunks for the boys.

We visited and brought a lunch out to the "dump" residents so we could see and, unfortunately, smell the living conditions there. The home pictured at bottom right is actually one of the nicer homes with many more made from cardboard scraps spread over tree branches. I have to give these families some credit for their work ethic. One family collects green plastic, another family glass, another metal, spending their day picking through big loads of garbage and then waiting to see what the buyers will pay them for their recyclables.

