



World Compassion Network

Showing Grace and Mercy to a Suffering World

Family 2 Family 2008

El Progreso Honduras



Friends,

We recently returned from the completion of our four weeks of Family-2-Family mission trips to Honduras, and we are excited to say it was an incredible success. The project chosen this year was the construction of a beautiful little church in a rural area called Brisas de Valle in El Progreso. The church will serve as a place for worship, as well as a kitchen to supply meals to hungry children in



Week One, July 12th -19th



Week Two, July 19th-26th

the surrounding area. The area is very poor, but the pastor is an incredibly committed Christian. His philosophy, like ours, is to tell of God's love through his words, but also show it in a tangible way by providing food for those in need. We loved the idea from the beginning.

Four teams of 24 people each, worked very hard over the four week period to complete 24 distributions which included food, clothes, personal hygiene supplies, toys and of course, the good news of Christ. All of this was done through the local churches in association with the local pastors. Over 1,350 food boxes were distributed, feeding conservative estimates of 5,000 people. It should be a wonderfully fulfilling

feeling to all those who partner with us, knowing that thousands were fed due to their willingness to support WCN both financially and in prayer. It is even more exciting to think that with every mouthful of food, it is God that is being praised by the people of Honduras. You cannot imagine the credibility given to the poor pastors of these small local churches, when they are associated with such desperately needed supplies. This also provides a great way for the spiritual seeds that we have planted to continue to be watered



Week Three, July 23rd- August 2nd

after we leave.

We were reminded of the effectiveness of our model when we visited a previous church project from two years past. The name of the church is De Planes Atlantida and when we first assessed it in 2006, there were 15 members and the building was in complete ruin. We renovated it, and when we visited this year, we found the church is now thriving, with almost 150 members. There is a passion for God in that church that is electric and spreading quickly. The ripple effects of such a church will echo throughout generations, and only in heaven will we know the full impact. It is absolutely awesome. We also had the opportunity to visit several orphanages and help supply them with bulk rice, flour, cornmeal and love. These visits were heartbreaking and beautiful at the same time.



Week Four, August 2nd-9th

6 DISASTER RELIEF, HURRICANE IKE

On September 13th, Ike slammed into the Texas coast and by the 15th we were on our way to Galveston County. We teamed up with Feed the Hungry and packed two semi trucks full of 20,000 bottles of water, flood buckets (cleaning supplies) and multiple pallets of food. As we did our damage assessments, the landscape, wreckage and stories of loss were heartbreaking. Nearly 37,000 people were in shelters, an estimated 2.2 million people in Texas alone remained without power, and 65 people were killed. Most service stations had no gasoline or electricity to pump it and with no running water, some residents were dumping toilet waste directly into the sewers. Restaurants and groceries had no electricity and no food. People were desperate and the area had a very dark depressing feel to it. It was in this setting that we saw huge opportunities for Christ. We set up a distribution site at the Abundant Life Church, advertised on local radio and immediately began distributing food and water. No strings, no requirements... just bags of food, bottles of water and a reminder that God loves them. The victims that we were serving were speechless. They could not



Joe conducting a damage assessment in Galveston County Texas.

understand a gift that required nothing in return. It is the overwhelming contrast between such a dark, hopeless atmosphere and the simple beautiful act of a gift in Jesus' name. That is what makes disaster relief so meaningful. We fed thousands over that three day period. Those gifts were the direct result of partners like you. Many of the victims we served thanked and blessed us with tears of sincerity and appreciation. We want to pass that blessing and thanks on to you.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING.



WCN has always taken a proactive role in domestic disasters, especially in Indiana. In the past few years, the USA

has experienced an increase in disasters of greater intensity. This has put a heavy load on the government agencies when responding to disasters. Non government agencies like WCN have become an important



asset for our national disaster response agencies. Being credentialed and trained makes us more valuable to our communities and to the government agencies. For this reason we have offered Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training. Our staff at WCN has taken the CERT training in Kosciusko County. Our first team had 13 participants including volunteers. The team members will be on call to respond to future disasters and will participate in further training to maintain their skills. If you have interest in participating in our next class, please contact us on our web site at www.w-c-n.org

Training Includes:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Medical Operations Part I
- Disaster Psychology and Team Organization
- Medical Operations Part II
- Fire Suppression
- Light Search and Rescue Operations
- Disaster Simulation



Members of the WCN team CERT team.

FAMILY 2 FAMILY 2008, THE HOPE CENTER

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

On October 25th we took a F-2-F team to the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa to distribute food, clothes and the gospel to the poor. We stayed in the Hope Center, an Orphanage run by Zion Ministries. Staying at the Hope Center gave us the opportunity to live with the children and do our distributions during the day. Just prior to our arrival, Honduras had received very high levels of rainfall which had caused massive flooding and landslides throughout the country. Thousands were left homeless and were housed in make-shift shelters throughout the city. Local government contacts were telling us that many of the shelters had not received food for days. When we arrived the need was obvious. Up to 60 people were living in one room with no running water or a functioning toilet. The team was incredible... in spite of our small size everyone worked hard and completed 7 distributions. Our distribution sites varied significantly this trip, from the poorest inner city barrios to a Kia mountain range distribution bordering the La Tigra rainforest. Once again it is difficult to convey the level of appreciation expressed by the poor in those villages and shelters. There is a sincerity of heart that these people possess that has to



WCN Tegucigalpa Team with the children of the Hope Center

be experienced to understand. The food, clothes and toys we take can sustain them for several weeks, but it is the hope and eternal perspective we bring that can change their lives forever. The coolest part about the interaction is that the life-change is mutual. This should not come as a surprise. God promises us through Paul in Romans 12 that when we offer our bodies as living sacrifices, not conforming to the patterns of this world that there will be a "renewing of our minds". Those who came with us to serve will never be the same.

A Very Special Thank You to Le Roy & Mary Lee Crain

As nonprofit organizations begin, they often rely the willingness of some to volunteer their time, service and love for the sake of the cause. Le Roy and Mary Lee



Crain are two beautiful examples of this for WCN. Le Roy has volunteered as our organization administrator for the last 5 years as well as a F-2-F team leader for the last 6. Both positions require a significant time and energy investment. Le Roy and Mary Lee have shared WCN's vision from the very start. We love them both dearly and are thankful for their service, friendship and love for Jesus Christ.

Disaster Relief, El Progreso, Honduras

Our Executive Director made a special trip from Tegucigalpa to El Progreso to assess the flood damage. While there he purchased food for several church shelters including pastor Hernon's church in the city. He also delivered food to about 50 people on an island created due to the flooding.



2009 Family 2 Family Mission Dates

Week 1 July 11th through the 18th

Week 2 July 18th through the 25 **Sold Out**

Week 3 July 25th through August 1st

Week 4 August 1st through the 8th

2009 F2F missions trips dates have been set and we are currently reserving spots. Week 2 is already sold out. If you are considering going, please get your \$ 100 dollar deposit in so your spot will be reserved.



We have recently updated our internet website. Please visit us online at www.w-c-n.org and see our latest pictures and video documentaries of F-2-F, our Disaster Relief efforts and testimonials.



A Message From Our Director

Our Vision: To see people become fully devoted followers of Christ through "Compassion Ministry".

Our Mission: To help mobilize and assist the church in responding to the needs of victims of disasters and poverty.

Just read our newsletter and you will see what a great year we have had serving others. Next year we face a worried world because of the financial crisis, two war fronts and political changes. The scripture says that none of these situations change the way we are to live as Christians and how we are to respond to the needs of those who are suffering. We must be determined to not lose our focus on the call God gave us on our lives. That means we must continue to serve Him and be the best citizens we can be. I don't know about you but I sometimes have difficulty with the will power to live like God desires. Where does it come from? It comes from God. Look at 1 Peter 4:11 "If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ". May God not only give you the desire but the strength to serve the needs of the poor in 2009. Merry Christmas
Always for the Suffering and Hungry,

Joe Wilkey



Clark Shepherd
Disaster Relief Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that Clark Shepherd has joined our staff as the new Disaster Relief Coordinator. Clark and his wife Mary Kay have three children and live in Warsaw Indiana. Clark is a graduate of Indiana University. He spent the last 14 years in upper management of a major food corporation. God has been stirring Clark's heart toward ministry through his local church (WCC) and a recent short term missions trip with F2F. WCN interviewed many talented applicants but after much prayer God made it clear to Clark and the organization that he was the person for the job. We are incredibly pleased to have Clark on board. He has a passion for people and an incredible love for God. Please keep Clark in your prayers as he transitions into his new position and begins raising his financial support.



Chris Leiter
Office Assistant

In any effective organization there is always someone who works incredibly hard behind the scene to help mobilize and organize the team. Chris is that person at WCN. She started with us part time in February 2008 and has been slowly transitioning to full-time as we have expanded. Chris is a Warsaw graduate and worked in the Title Insurance field for 15 years. She took her first missions trip in 2002 and in her words "God magnified my compassion for those in need". Chris continues to do short-term missions work in both Guatemala and Honduras and serves as a board member of Guatemala Evangelistic Medical Servants. We are so thankful God brought Chris to our WCN team. You will not find someone with a more compassionate heart. Please pray for Chris as she completes her move to full-time and begins raising her financial support

Tax Deductible Giving and Receipts

We are near the end of 2008 and it will soon be time to pay the taxes. If your gift is received by December 31, 2008, you will be able to deduct the gift from your taxes this year. This includes stocks, bonds, Gift In Kind (GIK), gifts of tangible items like food, clothes, vehicles and other items that can be used by the ministry. In the case of GIK, you must declare the value of the gift in writing. We can then issue a receipt for the amount declared by you. You might also consider WCN in you estate planning. It is possible to name WCN as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. We issue receipts monthly as the gifts are received. As stated on your receipts, in order to save on postage and other mailing costs, we do not send year end giving reports. If you forgot to save your receipts, we will send one upon receiving a written request. We thank you for partnering with us in bringing the gospel through Compassion Ministry.