



*"United by the Same Blood"*

## **Teaching Them How to Fish – Moving to Self-sufficiency**

The Foundation has embarked on a new direction for working with the people of Honduras. We now work with villages rather than individuals. With the village leaders we develop and agree on a list of their priorities. The focus is on having adequate and clean water, improved health and hygiene, training of midwives to increase their knowledge and capabilities, providing every family with a latrine, installation of eco stoves to reduce respiratory problems and creating micro-enterprises to enable villagers to improve their standard of living

With the financial support of our donors, the Foundation funds the materials, the villagers learn the skills to build and properly maintain each project. This process gives them a sense of ownership, builds self esteem, teamwork and problem solving skills. They take these new skills to other villages.

The chart below shows the change in approach from the old method to the new. More news will follow as we gain additional experience.

### **Path Forward**

<u><b>Historical Approach</b></u>	→	<u><b>Desired State</b></u>
<b>Culture of dependence</b>	→	<b>Self-sufficiency</b>
<b>Our priorities</b>	→	<b>Their priorities</b>
<b>Doing /giving without growth</b>	→	<b>Teaching / enabling / helping</b>
<b>Treating illnesses</b>	→	<b>Preventive medicine and treatment</b>
<b>Partnering with individuals</b>	→	<b>Focus on villages / communities</b>
<b>Spur of the moment decisions</b>	→	<b>Planned, integrated, holistic approach</b>
<b>Endless engagement</b>	→	<b>End points defined</b>
<b>Limited earnings potential</b>	→	<b>Develop micro enterprises</b>

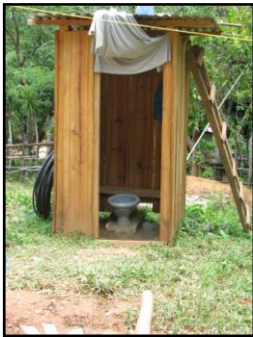
*“Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, yours are the eye through which Christ’s compassion is to look out to the earth, yours are the feet by which He is to go about doing good and yours are the hands by which He is to bless us now.”* Mother Teresa

## Current Villages Supported with new Path Forward Approach

The Foundation is initially supporting three villages using our new “Path Forward” approach, La Montanita, Teo, and Tejeras. You will read about these villages often during the next few months as we partner with them toward achieving self sufficiency. The following articles will bring you up to date on our activities in each of these villages.

### Latrines

Based on a recent survey, we have found that almost 50% of the homes in these villages have no latrines. This presents serious health problems and has become a major priority for HAF. Our approach is to provide the materials and the villagers will dig the holes and construct the building.



### Water Supply

Serious water problems existed in both Teo and LaMontanita. The village leaders identified improved water supply as their top priority. Funds were provided by an individual contributor and new water lines were installed. The money was used to purchase the necessary materials, and the villagers dug and buried pipe for almost 1.5 miles in rough terrain. The systems are now operational, and the water supply exceeds the needs of the people. They were able to refill their local pond and began to raise tilapia again. Various alternatives to the water problem in Tejeras are being discussed with the village leaders and a solution will be forth coming during the summer mission team visits

### Justa Stoves

A donation from First Presbyterian Church in Aiken enabled the construction of a number of Justa stoves in Teo and LaMontanita. These stoves eliminate the smoke from inside the home, use less wood,



give even heat across the metal grill and will prevent future respiratory problems. A resident from LaMontanita, Santos, has become the construction expert and has helped Teo, another village, learn the building technique.

### Community Health Care Workers

HAF has been sending medical brigades every other month to 4 villages that do not have access to medical care. Most of these villagers have mid wives who have some training and medical knowledge. We have embarked on a campaign to increase their medical skills and have them become the first line of defense in providing care. As the doctor and nurse visit these villages, they have begun training the mid wives in monitoring high blood pressure, diabetes testing, dispensing selected medications and use of a nebulizer.

The doctor held a joint training meeting with all 4 villages to get them to the same level of training, permitting greater interaction and enabling cross community sharing. This is another phase of helping these communities become self sufficient.

### Micro-enterprises

With the help and encouragement of several missionaries in January, the village of La Montanita has started a small business of making tortilla cloths and handbags. It started out with 6 women and now has over 20 involved.



Their handicrafts are sent back to Aiken and currently being sold in several of our



sponsoring churches. All of the proceeds from the sales are returned to the village. As we work with other villages, we plan to help them identify

opportunities to provide income and improve their quality of life.

## A “Watch for God” moment

Thanks to Dr. Randy Shelley and his office staff, we started a dental hygiene program. Children in several villages were taught how to brush. They were each given a baggie with a



toothbrush and tooth paste. We were just finishing training almost 100 children, when two young girls, ages 10 and

8, came riding their horse down the dirt road. They stopped where we were standing and said they heard we were giving all of the children tooth cleaning supplies and could they have one. They had ridden more than an hour through the mountains to get to us and to receive their baggies. We spent an hour or so talking to them and learning the sadness in their lives. We all gave them both hugs, and they got on their horse and rode back home. As they left, there was not a dry eye among all of the missionaries.

## Agape Promises Graduates begin University Study

Through the generosity of sponsors and individual donors two recent Agape Promises graduates, Laura and Vilma, are now attending University in San Pedro Sula. Laura hopes to be a dentist and Vilma is studying for a career in psychology. The current AP program ends after high school graduation.



We have just received their first semester grades and they are doing very well. Please pray for their continued success

As a result of this positive experience we are exploring extending the AP sponsorship to university. For information on AP sponsorship opportunities, please contact June and Ken Blohm at [kenjune@bellsouth.net](mailto:kenjune@bellsouth.net).

## Missionaries Wanted

Have you ever thought of joining us on a mission trip? Did you ever wonder why people use their own money, venture into the unknown, take cold showers, and work in the heat of the day? Why do they do this, you may ask?

They go to spread the love of Jesus Christ, to send a medical brigade for villages who have no access to health care, to experience a smile from a homeowner who has a new eco stove and a smoke free home, to provide latrines for families who have no toilet facilities, to see the joy of villages who now have an abundance of clean water, to give people the gift of sight by fitting them with glasses.



They go for the children; to teach them about God and His love for them, to teach them how to brush their teeth, give fluoride and deworming medication, to build desks and benches so they do not have to sit on dirt floors, to play soccer with them, or just to sit and talk. Most importantly, they go to see the love in a child's eyes, and to feel the warmth of a hug.

Why not join us on a future trip to Honduras and find out what mission work is all about? It will change your life and give you experiences which will last a lifetime. For further information, contact George Dewhirst, e-mail address: [ghdewhirst@hargray.com](mailto:ghdewhirst@hargray.com).

## Maynor Visits South Carolina

Maynor is our go to guy in Honduras. He is our administrator, has become a jack of all trades and we would be lost without him. In May, Maynor had the opportunity to spend 10 days in South Carolina – his first trip to the USA. He met all of the



pastors of our 4 sponsoring churches and attended many social gatherings, including a Board Meeting.

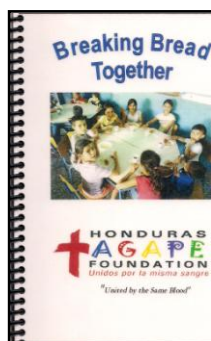
Additionally, he enjoyed all of the wonderful things the South has to offer. This included early

morning at the Aiken training track, breakfast at the Track Kitchen, a boat ride on the Augusta Canal, a polo match, Charleston and the Riverbanks zoo in Columbia.

It was a very special time for him and created memories that will last a lifetime. It was also a wonderful experience for all those folks who met him and spent time with him. We all realize what a great person he is and how fortunate we are to have him as part of HAF.

## Honduras Agape Cookbooks

Do you have your cookbook yet? We have a few copies left, and one can be yours for only \$15.00. It is not just a cookbook, but contains an update on the activities of the Foundation. It even contains personal recipes from the senior pastors of our 4 sponsoring churches. It is a "must have."



Get yours by calling June and Ken Blohm at 803-644-5935

## A Ride to the Park a Huge Success

The inaugural bike ride fund raiser from Odell Weeks Center to Aiken State Park was a huge success with over 35 bikers assisted by some 10-15 support folks. All funds raised will go directly to Honduras for water purification devices, medicines, food and educational support.

Key to the success of the bike ride was the support received from the Aiken Standard, the local sponsoring churches, the staff at Odell Weeks, Aiken Department of Public Safety, Annie's Inn, Cycle Sport and Aiken State Park personnel.

Thanks to all for making this a success. Planning is already underway for next year!

## Here are a few thoughts for helping the people of Honduras

1. Join us on a future mission trip. It is a life changing experience.
2. Contribute toward the purchase of latrines and stoves. The cost for materials is \$50 for each one.
3. Sponsor a child from the Agape Promises program
4. Donate tooth brushes and toothpaste, medical equipment and supplies, school supplies.
5. Provide financial support for all of HAF's activities.
6. Volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors or one of our committees.

Pray for the people of Honduras, our Board of Directors, and all of the HAF volunteers

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