



Reflections From Honduras

Keeping You In Touch

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES THROUGH SERVICE TO OUR FELLOW MAN
APRIL 2011

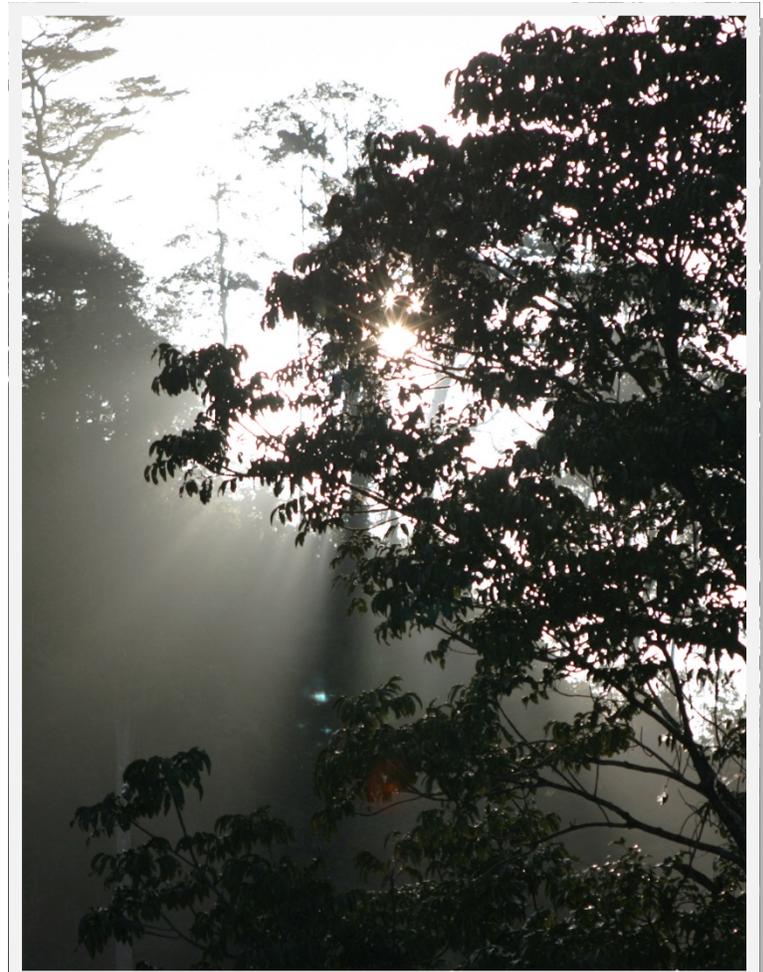
The Forest and the Trees

We've all heard the phrase "can't see the forest for the trees". I think that would be an accurate description of the place I was at when I returned home this year to give report. The difficulties of the past 18 months of Honduran political strife and uncertainty had skewed my view of what really mattered. There will never be enough words of gratitude to adequately express what I feel in my heart for those who have made this project possible. With every handshake, hug and word of reassurance, slowly but surely I began to get my vision clear. The "forest" which I would define as the overall vision of the mission came into perfect focus. The methods (trees)

no longer obstructed the view but instead seemed to fall perfectly into place forming a beautiful landscape filled with hope and promise for the future.

Now that I'm back in Honduras, I have promised myself and the people I serve to remember to walk in peace and unity with the forest. It's important to recognize my own piece of the intricate, sometimes difficult, complicated and painful make-up of the trees always remembering that the trees are only a part of something much bigger...God's creation.

It's also important to remember that when big winds blow, sometimes you just have to sway with the trees. Lisa



A Moment for Reflection

Service to humanity is service to God. Let the love and light of the Kingdom radiate through you until all who look upon you shall be illumined by its reflection. Be as stars, brilliant and sparkling in the loftiness of their heavenly station."

- Abdu'l Baha



Will Someone Please Help Me!

This man has been searching for help for three months. At first, physicians thought this problem was caused by tuberculosis, but with a little help from a pathologist, this man now has hope for a cure.

One never hopes to see patients in the clinic with Leishmaniasis. The local people call it the “revenge of the jungle” because if you get it, it’s because you have gone somewhere where you ought not have been. This gentleman came to the clinic wearing a pair of very dark sunglasses, hiding his shame and embarrassment because of the condition of his eye. He told Dr. Marvin

the lesion began with what appeared to be a mosquito bite. He said he had experienced intense itching and then finally was able to observe a small ulcer on his eyelid. He had been seen by many physicians in the last three months, but the lesion had been diagnosed as tuberculosis related. He said he felt desperate and had come to the

clinic in search of answers. Thankfully, with the help of a local pathologist at the Cancer League in San Pedro Sula, we will be able to confirm this man’s diagnosis and obtain the medication he needs to be healed. The Ministry of Health manages the tracking and treatment of leishmaniasis. Only after confirmation by the state laboratory are medications made available.

**TWO MILLION
NEW CASES OF
LEISHMANIASIS
OCCUR EVERY
YEAR.**

LEISHMANIASIS:

Leishmaniasis threatens about 350 million people in 88 countries around the world.



Leishmaniasis is caused by protozoan parasites belonging to the genus Leishmania. The parasites are transmitted by the bite of a tiny—only 2-3 mm long insect vector, the phlebotomine sandfly. Phlebotomine sandflies are found throughout the intertropical and temperate regions of the world.

When Dreams Become Reality - Seeing IS Believing

Buenos Aires Grade School Children Will Soon Have a New Building and a New Dream



The dream of a new school building in Buenos Aires has been held in the

hearts of the school children and their teachers for more than three years. Little by little, the building has been constructed. Finally it appears that an end is in sight. The two classroom building now has a sturdy roof, stucco walls, electrical wiring and a false ceiling. All that remains to be done is the hanging of doors and windows, tiling the floor, and finally the installation of the light and bathroom fixtures. Once the construction is completed, we will be organizing the classrooms. Both classrooms will have an area for computers as well as areas for reading and supplemental learning.

There is much excitement in the air as the students and teachers watch the final touches take place. In fact, there is such a lack of classroom space that the teachers use one side of the new building while the construction team works on the other side. Never before has a public school had so many amenities, much less one that serves a remote mountain community. The student’s parents are also excited about the new school. They have worked along side the foreman, volunteering their time in the name of better education for their children.

Although the construction process is nearly finished, there is still a need for funds to furnish the new classrooms. We still need to purchase desks, dry eraser boards and other items. Want to help?
lisaarmstrong@fellowmaninternational.com

WATCH US GROW



Welcome Dr. Victoria Rivera DDS A New Face, Fresh Ideas and A Passion to Serve



EMPHASIS ON PRENATAL CARE

Every pregnant woman who visits the clinic for prenatal care is also referred to the dentist. Cavities, poor oral health and periodontal disease are associated with an increase risk of preterm delivery.

Dr. Victoria Rivera is our newest addition to the Fellow Man professional staff. She graduated from the National University in 2009. She has been working with non-government organizations since that time. But, for Dr. Rivera, it simply was not enough to travel from village to village carrying a plastic chair and offering little more than a “lick and promise” for a people who desperately needed dental care. Dr. Rivera hoped for more. When Dr. Rivera heard of an opening for a full-time dentist with Fellow Man, she took a great leap of faith. She was living in Tegucigalpa, the nation’s capitol. She packed her bags and headed off toward Pinalejo in the hopes of catching “someone in charge” to ask for an opportunity. She patiently waited with her

aunt Lisa’s house. Her sincerity, passion for dentistry and desire to work in a rural area of Honduras quickly won her the opportunity work on a 90 day trial basis at the clinic.

Thus far Dr. Vicki as we call her, has already proven to all that she has a heart for the poor. She has placed pregnant women and children at the top of her list of priorities. Every day, Dr. Vicki can be found cleaning teeth, filling cavities and applying fluoride to the children’s teeth. When asked how she likes her work so far she quickly responds, “it fascinates me”. She has already begun formulating a work plan to ensure the goal of preventative health for all school aged children can be met by the end of the year. Stay tuned for information regarding Dr. Vicki’s plan to serve her own through dentistry.

Goodbye Dr. Edmundo Ordonez - We Wish You Well

It’s never easy to say goodbye to someone who has worked with our clinic for such a long time. Earlier this year, Dr. Edmundo Ordonez made the decision to work for the Honduran Ministry of Health as a full-time dentist. He is also working part-time as a dentist for one of the military bases. Many of you may not know that since his graduation from dental school, Dr. Ordonez has been the sole support for his aging parents and two sisters who are single mothers. Many times, those of us who are close to Edmundo have asked ourselves how he has managed to support so many people while at the same time manage his own affairs. Edmundo has also expressed a great desire to specialize, perhaps orthodontics. So, it is with a big hug and many well wishes that we send Dr. Ordonez off on a path toward a new phase in his life. We thank him for his nearly eight years of service to the people of this mountain. May he always carry with him the dreams of his youth and the phrase this missionary will never forget.

“When I don’t have anything to eat on a given day Lisa, I just remember that today I won’t die if I don’t eat, but I might die if I don’t get to be a dentist.” Best Wishes “Mundo”!



The Power of Fluoride

Fluoride application helps to strengthen the tooth structure by incorporating fluoride ions, making the teeth more prone to acid dissolution. Both baby teeth and permanent teeth benefit!

The ladies of Fairfax Presbyterian sewing group have done it again! Every child in Buenos Aires was given a uniform to wear to school! The women's sewing group of Fairfax Presbyterian church once again provided these uniforms through their labor of love. The uniforms were laid out according to size. Each child came forward and was measured to ensure the uniform would fit properly. The uniforms are mandatory for attendance. In years past, many parents did not send their children to school because they could not afford a uniform. How wonderful it is to know that no parent should have to deny their child a grade school education because of something as simple as a school uniform.

The teachers, the parents and the Fellow Man staff all admire the details in the uniforms provided by the ladies sewing group. There are pleats in the girls skirts. The boys pants have zippers. Many of the children's mothers comment about the quality of workmanship stating, "these uniforms are well made". On behalf of the community of Buenos Aires, we would send our most humble words of thanks for these gifts, given so freely and with so much love. May God bless your hands and fill your hearts!



THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

Loving hands that sew these uniforms make possible the opportunity of education for the

MANY THANKS

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.



There is something amazing about the way people respond when asked to help. Late last year, a plea was made for over-the-counter medications to help fill the pharmacy shelves at the clinic. Because most of our clients at the clinic haven't any money to buy even so much as a Tylenol to calm a fever or quiet their aches, it's logical that great demands are placed on our supply of over-the-counter medications. We asked for everything from ibuprofen to prenatal vitamins. All of you responded with a generosity that is difficult to comprehend.

Many churches began to collect the medications to be sent to Honduras. A group from First United Methodist church in Abilene collected money and then approached a pharmacy for help with a bulk purchase. Suitcase after suitcase was filled with precious medications, vitamins and medical supplies, all to help our patients who visit the clinic. Surely our cup overflows! Because of your wildly generous response to our plea for over-the-counter medications, we have been able to dedicate more of our general medication budget to prescription medications. In the past year, there has been considerable demand for medications to treat chronic illness such as diabetes and hypertension. These medicines along with antibiotics can be quite costly.

On behalf of the people the clinic serves on a daily basis, we would offer our most heartfelt thanks to each and every person who felt it within their heart to donate. There is no greater joy in service than the satisfaction we all feel when we are able to provide for the needs of the sick who seek our help at the Fellow Man clinic. As each prescription is filled and handed to our patients, it's easy to see the gratitude in their eyes. When mothers of several children find the help they need, not just for one, but for all of their children, there are no words to express our gratitude. Thank You!

MEDICINE

OUR CUP OVERFLOWS

Dr. Marvin Pineda and clinic nurse Nidea Ramirez were thrilled to unpack these much needed medications.