



Where in the world are we going? ...thanks to YOU...

## Perspective by Karen Lee



I would like to give you a little history about the Children's Ministry in Honduras. In the beginning it was just a few volunteers taking crafts down and basically entertaining the children so that their mothers could go to the Hygiene class. I started out with Pamela Haines in the Hygiene class and decided I was more suited to be with the children. My feeling was that we should teach some basic hygiene such as hand washing, care of teeth and hair and general cleanliness because lack of these basic skills is the root of a lot of their health problems. Next I wanted to teach Bible lessons because as a Christian I feel responsible for their spiritual well being as well as their physical well being. And the third thing I feel is important is to develop a relationship with the Hondurans, teaching them that they are important to us ... that we care enough to come to a hot, crowded class room and make crafts and teach them about Jesus.

Does this always work out perfectly? Of course not. When the number of children far exceed the number of volunteers, it can become chaotic. With large numbers, we are limited to which crafts they can do because I can't possibly carry enough projects for 100 kids for a week in my limited luggage allowance. Also, their skills are limited because they have not been exposed to a lot of things that American kids do daily. If the project requires individual help we can not provide that for 100 kids with 3 volunteers. Also, there is a large discrepancy between the ages of the youngest and the oldest, but again for the reasons listed above I cannot take large amounts of crafts to cover all possibilities. I have requested that the groups be no larger than 40 with no children under 4. This never happens. Some children bring baby brother in diapers and look longingly at the rest of the children doing a craft, so I take his precious burden so that he can have a few minutes of being a kid.

It can be exhausting and frustrating, but at the end of the day when they are following me and my trunk to the bus, calling my name and vying for my attention, I feel I have provided them with a day of fun in a life of poverty. Have I taught them something major or life changing? Again, probably not. But hopefully, they will see Jesus in the tired volunteer and know that someone cares about their little obscure village in Honduras.

### FISHIN' FOR MISSION

*Thanks so much to  
St. Peter's, Rockport, and  
Chairs Cindy & Mike Glick,  
Their hard work and creativity  
brought in  
**\$9,614.09**  
for World Missions.*

## News from El Buen Pastor by Bobby Hausser

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The annual El Buen Pastor VBS was held this year for over 1,600 children. Teenagers, mothers and fathers also participated. Sixty new mothers showed up from Colonia Guillen, the church's neighborhood. The city was calm, peaceful and safe with normal everyday activity.

There were VBS locations in six colonias run by congregational teams from El Buen Pastor. Six missionaries from Texas participated this year with financial backup and supply from Glen Polhemus, San Angelo; Church of the Redeemer, Eagle Pass; St. Luke's, Cyprus Mill; St. Johns, New Braunfels; St. Luke's and Christ Church, San Antonio. Lunch was served daily, and all children received school supplies for the coming semester.

El Buen Pastor is a city- and state-designated refuge site in times of disaster or inclement weather. During the recent flooding from the Rio Grande and Rio Escondido, the church slept, fed, bathed, and clothed over 100 people for a week. No one died in Piedras Negras due to advanced warnings of the flood, but homes were washed away. Padre Miguel Cristerna, the pastor of El Buen Pastor, is currently walking the flooded areas. Amanda Hagy and Pam Martian ( St. John's New Braunfels ), and Linda Appleton (St. Luke's, Cyprus Mill) also drove the flooded areas. With help from the many congregations of the Diocese of West Texas and others, El Buen Pastor is giving assistance to those in need who lost their homes and all belongings. St. John's (New Braunfels) delivered over 700 diapers and wipes, 250 rolls of toilet paper and paper towels, many cleaning supplies, hundreds of hygiene items, water, along with enough beans and rice for 400 families. They also took clothes and other household items. New tooth brushes and tooth paste (donated by Dr. Wes Graham, Resurrection, San Antonio and Dr. Marquel MaCabe, St. Luke's, San Antonio) were distributed. Additionally, hundreds of disaster relief packets (assembled at diocesan council) have been handed out.

July 28<sup>th</sup> there was a city-wide meeting of all religious denominations to coordinate flood relief assistance. The leading priests and religious leaders of the city attended. Padre Miguel Cristerna and the congregation of El Buen Pastor were given accolades by his peers as the church that gives most assistance to the neediest of Piedras Negras.

Contact Betty Chumney (888/210-824-5387) or Bobby Hausser, St. Luke's, San Antonio, if you are interested in the work of El Buen Pastor.



## Wanted: A Few Good Episcopalians...by Tony Price

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...to retire in SE MEXICO and help with the work of THE ANGLICAN CHURCH. Did you know?

- *You can qualify for a retirement visa in Mexico and bring your car, pets, and household goods with you. You can buy or rent property. Good, affordable health care is available.*
- *Thousands of retired US and Canadian citizens are enjoying a safe retirement in Mexico. While the majority have congregated around Guadalajara and San Miguel Allende, the Southeastern States are even more attractive (although less English is spoken).*
- *With a lower cost of living, beautiful beaches, tropical mountains, UN Heritage sites, and friendly people, Southeast Mexico offers an unparalleled opportunity for adventure, learning, and community involvement whatever your talents and skills may be.*

The Anglican Diocese of Southeast Mexico welcomes your help with church planting and outreach projects in these fascinating cities: Oaxaca, San Cristobal de las Casas, Merida/Progreso, Cancun/Playa del Carmen, Veracruz, Xalapa. If you have a basic knowledge of Spanish or experience with another foreign language or if you are passionate about outreach and mission work in your present Episcopal Church community, and if you and your spouse would enjoy an international lifestyle, please call Tony Price for more information at 210-767-3398 (San Antonio, TX number). NEIGHBORS TOGETHER.

## Mission's Alive at Brady by Marthe Curry

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I've just returned from St. Paul's, Brady, where the mission fires are burning. Lynda Fritts (Fr. John's wife) is the passion behind the program in which the church has decided to sponsor a different missionary per year for a mission trip. Each member is asked to pledge, and this October they will send Pam Coker and Doug Holmes with the Water Ministry to Honduras.

*Mosab Yousef's account of the Arab/Israeli conflict, Son of Hamas, is deeply moving and informative. I recommend it.*

*Eddie Gibbs*

St. Paul's theme is: Pay for One; Pray for One; Be One. A large bulletin board in a prominent location of the Parish Hall announces all mission news to reinforce what comes from the podium on Sunday mornings.

## VBS at Hogar Infantil, Chiapas, SE Mexico

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Team Leader John Harrison took a group of 19 (8 adults and 11 children/youth) from Christ Church (San Antonio) to Hogar Infantil, an orphanage set in tropical Chiapas. The team spent mornings painting the older boys' dormitory inside and out while afternoons were devoted to the Vacation Bible School. Bible stories were told, and children participated in arts and crafts activities. Pedro Zubizarreta is Director of the orphanage, and his wife, The Rev. Dori, will be doing church planting using the orphanage as home base.

The team also took extra time to visit the nearby nature preserve, took a boat trip down the river, visited a remote open air church on the mountainside of Yochib, saw the colonial city of San Cristobal de las Casas, and celebrated Eucharist with Bp. Benito Juarez. On Friday night the children and staff at Hogar had a fiesta in thanksgiving for the team's ministry. John says they all hope to go again.

## Upcoming Mission Trips and Prayer List:

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September TBA. (Uganda) John Harrison, Team Leader.

September 23-25. (Southeast Mexico) Rosine Carter, Team Leader. Work on SE Mexico Foundation. Stuart Carter, Frank Fuller (Diocese of Texas), Jackie Totsch (Diocese of Chicago).

October TBA. (Southeast Mexico) Bill Campaigne, Team Leader. Veterinary.

October 14-23. (Honduras) Honduras Water Ministry.

November 13-22. (Haiti) Mombin Croche School construction project. Jennifer Wickham, Team Leader (St. George School, San Antonio). 40 member team (10 adults and 30 children).

Trip with no date yet: San Miguel de Allende, MX, Orphanage (St. Barnabas, Fredericksburg).

## East African Mission Trip Report from Sandy Lamprecht

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Sandy set up school libraries in Rafiki Village Tanzania and Rafiki Village Rwanda, tutored Village orphans, and had a delightful time reading to large groups of children. Sandy sends a big “asante sana” (thank you very much in Swahili) to all who prayed for her.

### Symposium Report: Empowerment in Mission

*“Excellent. Thought provoking! We will go home and reevaluate all our methods used in mission projects.”*

*“Great music to prepare our hearts for the message.”*

*“Opened my eyes to new thoughts.”*

*“You all continue to bring ‘cutting edge’ subjects and conversations to us, thank God.”*

Glenn Schwartz and Jean Johnson shared vivid examples of how we can, from the beginning of our missionary relationships, empower rather than create dependence. They encouraged us to take a long view of what we are doing and to remember that the assumptions we make tend to affect the way we shape our work.

Participants from 20 churches, including a sizeable team of Methodist “cousins,” joined us and were so challenged by the message that a follow-up meeting was planned for August 26 during which we looked at the differences between relief, rehabilitation, and development. The conversation looks to be ongoing. Join us if you are interested.