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EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS, WORLD MISSION

Where in the world are we going? Thanks to you...

Preaching with Our Actions

by Dr. Valerie A. Kirk

The veterinary public health mission to Honduras this year was my first trip abroad and my first time as a missionary. We treated 5,237 domestic animals, and the public health team worked with hundreds of school children. But statistics don't reveal what happened there.

Dark, curious eyes watched us as we passed on our way to the small mountain communities. Smiles and waves lighted faces when we waved greetings. Unabashed gazes of the children, watching us as we worked on their animals were the most disarming. The younger the child, the more one's heart melted.

The depth and warmth of the welcome was astonishing. I was comfortable there, not feeling at all like a stranger. The language, the only true indicator that I wasn't at home, [was overcome by] the patience of the Honduran people and of my new American friends who interpreted for me. Many times gestures or a few words conveyed what was necessary. The best language bridge was a smile.

The best gift I received was a teenaged boy who sought me out while I was washing my hands after working the cattle and horses. In English he said, "Thank you for coming here."



Many of the thirty-two missionaries who took this trip did not know each other when leaving the United States, but we all returned as friends. We did not preach the Gospel to the Hondurans or necessarily to each other in words, but it is my hope that we, as St. Francis did, preached the Gospel to all with our actions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ST. ANDREW'S VET TEAM CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF MISSION WORK.

Upcoming Missions Events:

- *ORDERUP Fund Drive—May 1-September 1*
- *Summer Mission Symposium—Aug. 20, Bp. Jones Center*
- *Alison Barfoot's Visit—Sept. 9-14, various locations*
- *Bishops' Thanksgiving Reception—Nov. 3, San Antonio Country Club*

Another Day in Paradise from Mark Keddal

When we arrived at the school [Santa Rosita, Honduras], all the children were sitting at desks and on benches under a blue tarp which had been stretched under a large shade tree. The students raised their freshly washed hands to show us they were ready to begin. There was more focus on academic subjects, and the many math, spelling, reading, and geography games were enjoyed by the students.

Suddenly, a ripple of excitement and interest moved through the students. The TV crew had arrived. Almost immediately, the camera operator and Carlos Alvarado from *Canal 10* began moving around the groups shooting and asking questions of teachers, students, and the large group of parents... I was asked to say a few words about the [computer] project, our team, and about [my son] Owen. Carlos promised us that the report would be on TV that night. We worked for a few more hours and then broke for lunch and a vigorous Frisbee game.

Later at 6:15 Carlos came to the Zari lobby, and we gathered around the TV to watch. Instead of a short 2-minute spot, the story went on for about 8 minutes and continued for another 2-3 minutes following a commercial. We all went out to dinner with Carlos joining us... There have been very few days like this in my life when events are so powerful that I feel in the grip of something greater than me, and my rather simple life. Perhaps this is what grace feels like.

(Mark and his wife Sally founded the Owen Project which distributes XO computers in memory of their son Owen.)

News from a Transitional Home in Russia

Here's Pasha at his graduation party along with the new air conditioner we just bought for one of the transitional homes. Lots of reasons to smile here...

John 15:16-17, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed to you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last Then the Father will give whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other."



Little Dresses for Africa

A traveler to Africa was overwhelmed by the need of the little girls (often the primary caregivers of AIDS-orphaned siblings) for clothing, so she came up with the idea of Little Dresses for Africa. Basically, she took pillowcases or fabric remnants, cut armholes, trimmed them with colorful bias tape, and added decorative elements. One of our staffers, Barbara Duffield, picked up on the idea from her home church where the women now meet to cut and stitch the little dresses. "Little britches" have been added to the sewing circles, and clothing is shipped or delivered by mission teams.

To learn more, go to www.littledressesforAfrica.org.



Why, God? Shared with permission from Guidelines Intl. Ministries

When he was a young man, Glen Chambers felt God was speaking to his heart about serving as a missionary, and eventually Glen combined a love for adventure with his desire to serve the Lord. Farewells had been said, and the tears had been wiped away... He was headed for Ecuador where he was going to serve with the pioneer Christian missionary radio station situated in Quito.

What went wrong will never fully be known. But we do know that the commercial plane he was in crashed, and there were no survivors. Strangely enough, just before he left Miami, Glen scribbled a note to his mother on a travel poster which had the word "Why?" in large letters, and that was the burning question on her heart following the death of her son. "Why, God?" her heart cried out. "How could this happen when You called him, and he never had a chance to proclaim Your Word to the people he wanted to serve?"

Fast forward several years. A stranger knocks on the door of the home where Glen's mother lives and introduces herself as a missionary serving in Colombia. She tells a story that is stranger than fiction.

Going into a remote village in Colombia to give the Gospel to unreached people, to the missionary's great amazement she discovers that there are already believers in the village and that they meet together for worship. "Who was the one who came and gave you the Gospel?" she inquires.

One of the men answers, "You are the first person ever to come to this area." Then he explains that several years prior to this, he was out hunting in the jungle one day and he found "this little case," (contd. on p. 4)

The Latest from Hogar Infantil (Chiapas Orphanage)

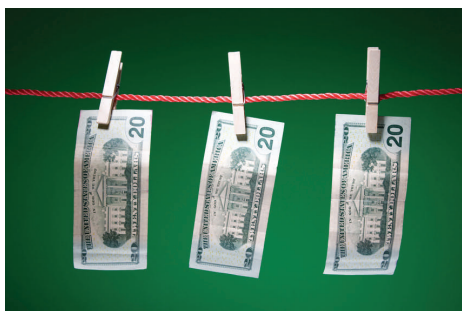
"...ONLY HE WHO BELIEVES IS OBEDIENT, AND ONLY HE WHO IS OBEDIENT BELIEVES."

Bonhoeffer

8 children graduated from primary school, 7 children from middle school, and 3 from high school. **Bien Hecho!**

What \$125 will buy in World Mission:

1. 12 blankets for the poor in Piedras Negras, Mexico.
2. 10 pairs of shoes for Honduran children who have no shoes.
3. 2 weeks supply of diapers for a handicapped orphan in Mexico.
4. 10 school uniforms for elementary students in Uganda.
5. 60 Bibles in Spanish for Vacation Bible School in Latin America.
6. School supplies for 11 students in Ecuador.
7. First time doctor/dentist visit for 12 children in SE Mexico.
8. Immunization for 10 families in Uganda.
9. One year's bus transportation to school for a disadvantaged student.
10. 10 warm sweaters for orphans in Russia or Belarus.



Upcoming Mission Trips and Prayer List

July 20-August 4 (Honduras). Elisabeth & Peter Engelfield. Visit new clinic in La Ceiba, Casa de Ninos Orphanage, and other clinics.

July 28-August 6 (Honduras). Water Ministry. Jack Martin, Team Leader. Terry Hayes, Pamela Haines, John Martin, Jack & Jeanie Robertson.

August 11-18 (Guatemala). Construction. St. John's, McAllen. Jorge & Lorena Rojas, Team Leaders. Nathan Palacios, Drew Casas, Ryan Glenn, Alec & Jorge Rojas IV, RC Richards, Johnny Cozad, Tom Stocker, Darlene Herrera, Audrey Lewis.

August or December (Mexico). Sandy Graciano.

September 23-October 8 (Viet Nam). Teaching doctors how to do sinus surgeries. Dr. Bill Smith.

October 13-22 (Honduras). Water Ministry. Jack Martin, Team Leader.

October 22-29 (Guatemala). Medical Mission. Jorge & Lorena Rojas, Team Leaders.

PRAY FOR OUR LONG-TERM MISSIONARIES: Olson Family (Philippines), Chapman Family (Liberia), Miller Family (Israel), Alison Barfoot (Uganda), Jeannie Loving (Honduras), Harry Gunkel (Israel), Dori and Pedro Zubizarreta (Mexico), Erin Cottos (Haiti).

“Why God?” (contd.)

which he showed to the missionary. “It was badly burned,” he said, “but in it was a book called the Bible. We have read it and believe in Christ. That is how we got the message.” The missionary looked at the slightly charred Spanish Bible. Opening the cover of the Bible, she read a dedication addressed to Glen Chambers—the man who never was privileged to preach to the Indians of either Colombia or Ecuador. When she returned to the U.S., she made it a point to share firsthand with Glen’s mother and to continue to tell the story...