TODAY WE ENDED OUR WORKSHOP IN CHALMECA, HONDURAS, with the women who are Threads of Blessing, Honduras. They have been four days full of joy with these beautiful, gentle, determined women.

Most of the people in this area depend on picking coffee for their livelihood. However, there has been a blight on the coffee plants. The only way to recover is to pull the plants up from the roots. It takes 3-5 years for the new plants to mature; hence, there has been little income for many of these families.

That's where Threads comes in. Through the workshop women are inspired and encouraged to release their creativity with needle and thread. Their needlework is artistry executed with a keen eye for color and design and a determination for excellence. Some of it reflects the Mayan culture of this area, and some examples reflect their heritage as Lenca Indians. We are very proud of all they are producing - placemats, napkins, hand towels, tote bags, and exceptional pieces worthy of framing or exhibited as pillows. All the proceeds from sale of these beautiful pieces will be returned to the women who made them.

Pastor Suyupa continued with her Bible study (Mark 16:1-8) focusing on the women who went to the tomb and found the stone rolled away... three women ... strong ... unafraid ... determined ... devoted their Lord. How do we apply this to our own lives?

We listened to testimonies and heard the beginnings of new ventures. Yolanda, the leader of the women in this area, is opening a bakery to serve the local community. After giving a tithe to the Lord, she is putting all other funds from her needlework back into her business. She is also eager to continue her education to become a Deacon.

Romelia, who is pregnant, told of her seven-year-old son encouraging her when she was tired telling her, "Mommy, you can do it, keep going," and drawing her attention to a small plaque in their home with a verse from Philippians 4:13: *I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength*. She, too, gives first to the Lord. Romelia is having difficulty with her pregnancy, and when she asked her doctor if she should stop her embroidery and rest, the doctor replied, "No, this is keeping you alive."
Orfilia, wife of the Lay Leader in the nearby village of El Carmen, said there had been so much rain they lost their corn crop. She was thankful to the Lord for Threads of Blessing because she was able to buy food for her family with the earnings from her embroidery.

Guadalupe has begun her own *pulperia* (tiny grocery with chips, drinks, eggs, etc.), and as her needlework sells, she is able to increase her stock for sale.

Delicia has coffee, bread, and sugar in her *pulperia*. With each sale from her embroidery, she is able to buy a little more after giving her tithe to the Lord.

Norely is 14. She first tithes and then gives her income from her needlework to her parents to help the family. She only has a 4th grade education.

Yamileth, 31, can't read or write, and was emotional as she told us how much she wants to be able to read the Bible.

One by one the ladies shared their lives and their stories. Their needles and threads are the instruments they use to bring them together in fellowship, mutual encouragement, and blessing. And our needles and threads make us one with them.

*To learn how you can be involved in Threads of Blessing in Honduras, contact Terry Koehler (tobascoroad@gmail.com) or Threads in Uganda, contact Helen Schnelzer (helen@schnelzer.org).*

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**THERE WILL BE ANOTHER DRAWING AT THE FEBRUARY 2017 COUNCIL FOR AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO ANY OF OUR DWTX MISSIONS for anyone who has never been on a mission trip.**  Grab an application from your church office and send it to DWTX World Mission, PO Box 6885, San Antonio, TX  78209.

**2017 MISSION TRIPS PLANNED**

(others will be added as announced)

February 16-21 - Haiti - Team Leader, Stephen Carson (Cheryl Brumley, Beth Moore)
March 30-April 1 - Frontera Unida (Mexico) - Team Leader, Marthe Curry
April 22 - Love4theLeast (Kurdistan) - Team Leaders, Terry & Brien Koehler
May 20-27 - Veterinary Team (Honduras) - Team Leaders, Lynn & Bill Campaign
Summer (TBA) - Guatemala VBS - Team Leader, Nancy Springer
Summer (TBA) - Band & Bible (Uganda) - Team Leader, Eric Fenton
June (TBA) - Kenya Retreat for Clergy & Spouses - Team Leader, Marthe Curry
June 9-16 - Christ Church Jr. High (St. Louis, MO) - Team Leader, Gavin Rogers
June 18-24 - The Owen Project (Honduras) - Team Leader, Mark Keddal
June 25-30 - The Owen Project (Guatemala) - Team Leader, Mark Keddal
June 19-July 2 - Christ Church Young Adult (Guatemala) -Team Leader, Gavin Rogers
July (TBA) - Hogar Infantil (SE Mexico) - Team Leader, Marthe Curry
July (TBA) - Educatodos (Honduras) - Team Leaders, Terry & Brien Koehler
July 17-23 - St. David's Youth (Haiti) - Team Leader, Mary Hayden Manning
July 17-24 - Christ Church Youth (New York City) - Team Leader, Gavin Rogers
Fall (TBA) - Threads of Blessing (Uganda) - Team Leaders, Helen & Garry Schnelzer

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A contribution to the Bp. Folts Missionary Scholarship Fund has been given in honor of BETTY CHUMNEY and MARTHE CURRY by the Rev. and Mrs. Brien Koehler.