Celebrating our 20th Year in Service to Honduras

Fall 2009 www.hoi.org Phone 404-327-5768

Trip Calendar

- 1/9 Northway Christian
- 1/16 Covington United Methodist
- 1/16 Watkinsville United Methodist
- 1/30 Alpharetta First United Methodist
- 1/30 Hamilton Mill United Methodist
- 2/6 Cornerstone United Methodist
- 2/6 Newnan Methodists
- 2/13 GACS
- 2/13 Conyers First United Methodist
- 2/20 Decatur First United Methodist
- 2/20 Mt. Park United Methodist
- 2/27 Mayo Rehab
- 3/6 St. James– Tampa United Methodist
- 3/6 Smoke Rise Baptist

Watch for…

2010 Mission Team Manuals coming soon via Email!

Meet the Teachers

I came to HOI about one and a half year ago. I enjoy working as a teacher because I have the opportunity to shape and educate children from poor backgrounds. They do not have access to other educational opportunities. They cannot do it on their own. I enjoy sharing my math knowledge and skills with the children. I want to shape students who are loyal to their moral, spiritual and academic principals. The ultimate goal is for them to be fruitful to their Society. **-Walter Cardon**

I have worked for HOI since the first year Aldersgate Elementary School started to operate, back in the year 2000. I enjoy working as a teacher. I feel tight to HOI in many ways and this encourage me to keep going. Wonderful people who are part of HOI have been key on helping me and my father recover our health. We will always be in debt. My goal as a teacher is to train my students to become good men and women who serve their communities and our nation. - **Seyla Andrade**

I have enjoyed being a teacher at Aldersgate Elementary School. Besides being the first grade teacher, I am also the school´s principal. I have been working here for about 5 years. I like to work for HOI because it is a non-profit organization that has a goal to help the children of the Agalta Valley to have a quality education. I also enjoy sharing my love for Jesus Christ with my students and help them to strengthen their spiritual and moral values. I want my students to learn the basic skills they need in order to continue with their education . I encourage my students to be active and creative.-**Maricela Mejia**

Students at Aldersgate	
First Grade	14
Second Grade	15
Third Grade	24
Fourth grade	23
Fifth Grade	27
Sixth Grade	19
Subtotal	122

Students At Hope Middle School	
Seventh Grade	31
Eighth Grade	52
Ninth Grade	43
Students at Grace High	
Tenth Grade	17
Grand Total	**265**

Reflections From Grace Presbyterian-Heather Potter

Feelings of excitement and pure joy sent my heart racing as I stepped out of the airport and onto Honduran soil once again. It is difficult to explain the love I have for the country and people of Honduras. What I can say is that I have felt a calling since my first mission in 2002 that has lead to a deep devotion to those in the Agalta Valley. The calling is so clear that there is nothing that would make me doubt where God wants me to be!

When we went to the middle school in Culuco, Leslie thanked us repeatedly for making the trip. She didn't refer to us as simply missionaries, but as close friends who had come to comfort them when they felt all alone. For the two weeks I was there, I was able to work in two villages–San Buenaventura and El Quebrachal. The relief I saw in people's eyes when we arrived brought me to tears. I knew that there was not anything more important than my presence at that time in that place. God's work is not always easy or comfortable, but it is necessary. We worked the two weeks we were there, but more importantly we spent time with the villagers-building stronger relationships and assuring them of our love for them.

As we were told by a villager this year, the week we are there is like Easter and Christmas rolled into one. It is the best week of the year, a week that allows them to feel showered in love, comfort, and joy. There is something between us that is of God, something so powerful and influential that it cannot be explained. However, I was able to understand it better due to how desperately they needed us, and we needed them. I know that when I give all my worries to God and focus on others, I am opening up the doors for God to use me for great things. He showed me the power of his love this week through the villagers, just as he showed them through us. This bond created through God's love by his children has proven to be stronger than any worldly matter, and has enriched my faith and theirs.

I must thank Honduras Outreach Inc. for this experience because they have kept their focus on God. It has proven to be a wise choice and allowed us to have the most meaningful mission trip of our lives.

...close friends who had come to comfort them when they felt all alone.

Agriculture Graduation

On August 20, 2009, The HOI Agriculture Program graduated its seventh class of students. Classes run for 12 consecutive weeks during which students go to school for one week, then return home to work for a week. A variety of subjects are covered-the benefits of irrigation, artificial insemination of cattle, insect diseases, milk production, raising cattle, hogs, chickens, sheep and tilapia as well as growing corn, yucca, beans, tomatoes, cabbage. Knowledge of certain insect diseases is shared, and the principles of working together for a common goal are reiterated throughout the 12 week program This year the class had 14 students, three of whom were female! The students come from nine local villages and some are inspired to want to continue pursuing their education -if the opportunity is available.

Former Scholarship Student Now Ranch Employee

Hello! My name is Jose Roberto Rivera. I started to work for HOI on June 10, 2007.

I work as a technical assistant for the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Program. I feel very proud to work for HOI because it is an organization that serve people and has a goal the development of the communities. I am a living example of the work that HOI is doing in the valley to help people to grow.

I was awarded a scholarship to attend middle and high school. My goal is to help HOI in their goal of assisting the communities to grow.

Letter From the Board Chair

Greetings from the Staff of Honduras Outreach – One team, Two countries.

The political situation in Honduras has presented challenges to be sure. Mission teams, which help solve problems and put smiles on the faces of Hondurans, are missed so much. The number one question in the Agalta Valley is, "when will the groups return?" They know the answer. They know mission teams want to make their trips. They know that right now the thing they can do is pray and they are doing so individually, in groups, and in villages. They pray for you and they pray for their country. Will you do the same for them?

Our Board of Directors and staff have faced difficult choices in the past couple of months. The Board voted unanimously to continue our ministry programs even though finances were very tight. This was a step of faith. As a result, we lost 10 staff members. Additionally because of financial issues, the board released Paul Tom, our CEO. Paul had many good ideas and was implementing several new strategies, but the decision was made to continue serving the people in Honduras through our ministries rather than salary support. He is missed and we wish him Godspeed in the next phase of his work.

An urgent call for help rang out to all who love the people of the Agalta Valley. AND a miracle happened! Through you, funds came flowing in. It has been unbelievable. It became much fun to go to the mailbox daily. God has blessed the work beyond belief. We know that this is His ministry and we are His hands, feet, mind and heart to deliver it. Your response has been our affirmation. What a blessing you are.

There is still much work to do to stabilize our current financial situation and to improve HOI's balance sheet for the future. Please continue to pray for the people and the ministries in Honduras. HOI has completed its first 20 years; with God's help we plan to be here for many more 20 year anniversaries. The **20 for Tomorrow** Campaign has been launched and we ask for your continued financial support through that campaign. Our desire is to stay in God's will in Honduras and to raise the funds needed to continue our mission to serve the people. This most definitely includes group travel, for that is where lives are changed and relationships are born.

You are a part of God's work in Honduras. To God be the glory!

Faithfully,
Sue Church
Chair
Board of Directors

A Special Thank You To ALL the Donors Who Are Helping Put HOI "Back in the Black" for 2009!
It has been unbelievable to see the response of our friends and partners to the financial needs of HOI. We wanted to thank each of you personally…

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Covenant College Community Development Sr. Intern- Mallory Thompson

This place, Olancho, is absolutely gorgeous! I am living at a working ranch in the Valley de Agalta, surrounded on all sides by mountains. So, yes, to all my brothers- sorry, but half of my pictures are already of sunsets/rises. There are many components to this ministry, and it has been wonderful to see how they have been/are the hands and feet of Christ throughout this Valley. All of the staff are Hondurans, and have a deep, deep love and commitment to Christ and to spreading the Gospel throughout this place in word and deed.

Olancho is known as the Wild West of Honduras, and so the culture reflects this concept. Everyone I ask loves "el campo," more than the city, and I just have to laugh, because God has most definitely been preparing me for this trip for a long time. I too love "el campo," much, much more than the city, and my parents are even from the Dairy Capital of GA! I have attended meetings of Cattleman's Associations, training sessions for mastitis, and, of course, helped milk the cows in the mornings. I just love it! 2 days next week, I plan to spend time with the agriculture vocational school students here at the ranch….I have discovered such beautiful things in these villages as well. The flowers are absolutely brilliant, for example, and I have found that the women love to show me their flowers if I ask about them. I told my family that it reminded me of our Granny Willie….when she was alive, we would spend hours and hours digging around the yard, it brought her such joy, the flowers did.

Twenty for Tomorrow

As Honduras Outreach, Inc. celebrates twenty years of service, the mission that started so many years ago with a handful of faithful volunteers continues to thrive in partnership with the people of Honduras. While the struggles of the U.S. economy and the political situation in Honduras have challenged our efforts, HOI remains committed to continuing God's work with our sisters and brothers in Honduras.

1989-2009 -20 years of Service in the Agalta Valley

Honduras Outreach, Inc.

4105 Briarcliff Road NE Atlanta, GA 30345

Donate online @ www.hoi.org/donate

2009-2029 How will we serve in the next twenty years?

As you join us in prayer for our missions, consider joining us in giving. With a need of over $75,000 each month, every gift counts. Your contribution of $20 daily($7300), weekly($1040), monthly($240) or annually($20) can be the drop of rain that turns to a flood of giving, filling the Agalta Valley with God's Love for years to come.

King and Queen- Independence Day!

Honduran Independence Day

Independence Day in Honduras is celebrated on September 15th- the date that Spain granted independence to Honduras in 1821. This year's celebration of Independence Day at the Culuco schools was a spectacular event.

The festivities started early in the morning with marching bands wearing bright colors. The villagers made all of the costumes for the participants in the parade. There were several Kings and Queens crowned for the event, as well as representatives from all the grades at Culuco schools.
We understand that if we could have heard the sounds of the parade, it was pure joy!

Contributing to this Edition – Heather Potter, Grace Presbyterian; Walter Cardona, Seyla Andrade-Hope Middle School; Maricela Mejia-Aldersgate Elementary School; Jose Roberto Rivera-Agriculture Program; Mallory Thompson-Ranch Intern.

Golf Tournament and Fundraiser

The rain held off long enough to enjoy HOI's Golf Tournament and Fundraiser at Smoke Rise Country Club on Monday September 14, 2009! We appreciative all of the golfers who came out to play. Their generous and fun-loving attitude made the day special, and they purchased plenty of "Mulligans" that helped boost our fundraising efforts.

Our Platinum Sponsor was Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia. We had three bronze sponsors- Commercial Finishes, Esswein Engineering Group and Whoop-Everything Mobile. The staff of HOI and the people we serve in Honduras are so grateful for the generosity of our sponsors. Thank you to all!

Two teams shot a 58 and tied for first place- Team Huntz and Team Jordan. The tie was decided by a "score card playoff", which is a method of counting backward on the score-card to determine which team had the lower score on the back nine holes of the course.

Since Team Huntz shot a lower score on the sixteenth hole, each of their players received a trophy for being part of the winning team. However, Team Huntz had 3 players only, not the usual four…..That left an additional first place trophy, which was brought back to the HOI office in Atlanta, where Lee Jordan's wife, Elizabeth Jordan, works. It was awarded to her for recruiting her husband to put together a foursome as Team Jordan!

We had wonderful volunteers who came out to the course do whatever was needed- Dorna Adams from Stevens Creek Church, Anna Bell Pyle from Kingswood UMC, and Graham Stovall from Smoke Rise Baptist Church. Since Graham did all the recruiting of sponsors and foursomes for the event, he was so pleased to see the good turn-out! Two additional trophies were also awarded. Mike Wise won closest to the pin. And Clay Snellings, from KIngswood UMC, won the longest drive competition.

As we got into our cars at the end of a great day on the course, it began to rain. As of this writing, it has rained for seven consecutive days. We are so thankful that it didn't rain on our parade!