

**Monthly Update (October, 2011) from Trujillo, Honduras** by Mark and Brenda Young

I wrote this update from the *Little Hands* mission in Honduras when I visited in October with a group composed of people from Seattle and Yakima. We arrived in Trujillo on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday joined with 70 others from two of the local congregations at the ***culto unidos (unity worship)*** held in the small town of El Agricultor. **There were 13 congregations** from the state of Colón represented at the worship which had over 220 people. It was great to meet with brothers and sisters in the Lord under several big trees and a couple blue tarps. **The ladies in our group taught the children's Bible class which had about 60 children in it.** They taught them a Bible story, sang songs, and did a craft with them. A great time was had by all!

Upon our return to the Family Development Center it started to rain...and rain...and rain some more. It turned out to be the first tropical rain storm of the season which usually begins later in the month, but as we all know the weather conditions are changing worldwide. After having been so dry for so long, **it was nice to have the rain.** The sad thing for the Trujillo area is that most of the water ran off and into the bay before it had an opportunity to do much good. I am always so sad that the city does not have a way of capturing much of this rain in a reservoir to then be useful later. At *Little Hands* we are **exploring the potential of capturing rain water off the roof of our buildings** and then using drip irrigation for landscaping and gardening purposes.

In fact, our mission team has **finished working on the terraces** started by Brian and Jonathan Bilodeau in September. It is our hope to have these four terraced areas on which to build three raised-bed gardens from different available materials. Antonio, our gardener is eager to lend his knowledge in helping us build the gardens although something gets lost in the translation about "raised beds". We also **helped build a retaining wall to divert run-off** and built several areas for composting organic waste and garden clippings. Our hope is to see how these terraces survive the rainy season and then plant raised bed gardens in the spring. Pray that this work can be successful and that it can serve as a training ground for our families who want to learn how to grow vegetables on their own land.

Another project this group worked on was the collecting of school supplies for the *Little Hands* backpack ministry. **Thanks goes to several churches and families who donated thousands of items for these backpacks** that will be filled in time for school to start in February next year. We brought down 173 boxes of crayons, 100 bottles of school glue, 684 colored pens, 158 rulers, 300 colored markers, 676 colored pencils, and a whopping 1,721 pencils. Also the group brought pencil sharpeners, scissors, erasers, glue sticks, and backpacks. Thanks to all those who had a part in this vital ministry to children desirous of going to school. **This group also brought nearly 3,000 children's chewable vitamins that will help our Little Hands children stay healthy** during the upcoming rainy season.

Many of you who have been to visit the *Little Hands* mission know how busy the kitchen is as hundreds of meals are prepared each week for staff, children, and visitors. In the spring we purchased a new stove and refrigerator to maximize the efficiency of the kitchen. Now, this month **we put in an exhaust fan in the wall over the stoves to extract some of the hot air in that corner of the kitchen.** Luis helped us with the electrical work as we knocked a square hole in the concrete block wall in order to place the fan. This should make the kitchen more bearable for our cooks and others who work there.

As I close let me quickly report on the recent teen trip to the Central American Youth Encounter held at the Baxter Bible Institute. Nineteen of our teens traveled by bus to Teguc (the capital city) to take part in the 3-day youth conference. While it didn't seem to be as well organized as in past years, the classes and main lectures were outstanding. **Our teens asked me to express their thanks to those of you who helped them attend this year.**

Thanks for your prayers for the children we serve at *Little Hands*! In Christian love,  
*Mark and Brenda*