

Monthly Update from Trujillo, Honduras (September, 2009) by Mark and Brenda Young

It is great to have just returned from Honduras with an 11-member medical brigade from Washington State. While we were there we conducted clinics in Santa Fe, Cristales, and the *campesino* village of Guadalupe Carney. Our daughter, Dr. Amber, has spent years serving the Honduran people. It made us proud as parents to see her give so freely of her medical knowledge to help the people who are so underserved. Though she is six months pregnant with their new baby, she did well during the clinics. We also were grateful to have Joyce, R.N. from Cashmere, Washington join us on the trip. Her nursing skills were so valuable in setting up patients for Amber to see. She was assisted each day by Heather who demonstrated her love and compassion for people. Alissa played games with the children while they waited for hours to be seen. The rest of us on the team helped with setting up and breaking down for the clinics and moving equipment and supplies. We appreciated having the help of Sara and Maybelline from our *LH* staff to help with distributing medicine and providing inhalation therapy treatments.

Though we lost track of how many patients we treated, most of us think it was around 300 people since many women came with lots of children to be seen. Many of the patients were suffering from diabetes, asthma, infections, and several cases of chicken pox. Several had flu-like symptoms. One cute little 10-month old girl had hydrocephalus. She will have to be treated by a specialist or she will die. Our *LH* staff will try to get her and her mother to the children's hospital in San Pedro Sula for an appointment. We also want to thank David, our senior member of the mission team who works as a hospice chaplain. David and Mark prayed with patients who sought spiritual help. We also distributed Bible tracts to patients who wanted to learn more about the Lord.

In addition to the clinics, the group helped teach the children's Bible Hour classes at the Family Development Center. Several spent a morning with Alissa and Roxana making home visits to three children served by *LHBH*. We also went out to pick up Daniel who is 14 years old, but looks like he is 6-8 years old. He suffers from cerebral palsy and had a high fever and was vomiting. His family was most appreciative for the medical attention shown him by Amber and Joyce. The group also helped Brian one afternoon as they pressure washed the dormitory and then painted the back wall. The grounds and buildings at the FDC looked better than they ever have before. On our "free day" Brian, David, Yefrin, and Fred decided to hike to the mountaintop above Trujillo from where you get a beautiful view of the Trujillo Bay. They got an early morning start but it began to rain and it took them nearly 5 hours to make it to the top. By the time they arrived the clouds completely covered the mountaintop preventing them from seeing anything. The rest of us spent the morning swimming in the warm Caribbean and even enjoyed a special treat when Josh arrived with a rented wave runner.

After an early morning departure from Trujillo, we drove all day through the Honduran countryside to Copan arriving 12 hours later. Though the country still has political unrest, we did not incur any problems with demonstrators, military presence, or police actions. Though we were cautious about our presence, we didn't experience any animosity. In fact, almost the opposite -- we found most Hondurans very excited to see us as most tourists have not returned to this beautiful country. We were repeatedly urged to tell our friends in North America to please come back to visit. One of the highlights of being in Copan was that we got to watch the Honduran and U.S. soccer teams play on a big screen T.V. for a spot as the North America representative for the World Cup. After spending a day at the Mayan Ruins we got to tour Macaw Mountain bird sanctuary. It was great seeing these beautiful macaws -- the national bird of Honduras.

In closing, we want to urge you to continue praying for Brian and Sara Bilodeau who will be heading back to the U.S. after serving as our *LHBH* missionaries for two years. Also pray for Maybelline and Jeffrey Rodriguez who are doing a wonderful job as our Honduran directors. They will continue serving in 2010.

In Christian love, Mark and Brenda