



Volume 16, Issue 10, 11 & 12
October/November/
December 2016

WE NEED MED PACKS!

A donation of \$550 will purchase medicines worth \$15,000 for our clinic. Our new doctor need meds.

If you can help, go to our website
www.hope4honduras.org

2017 Teams

Dates for summer 2017 are filing up quickly. If you are thinking about bringing a team next year, now is the time to get in your request.

For more information about bringing a team, go to our website
www.hope4honduras.org
or
contact us at

HOPE ACADEMY IS BOOMING!

Education in this area is seen as valued and revered as abstract...but not as reality. Education is about facts. Education helps you move out of poverty, but that is a hard “fact” to get across to the people we serve. Studies tell us that it takes *two generations* to move from one socio-economic level to the next...for our purposes here....from generational poverty to middle class.

Granted, those two things are very different in Honduras than in the United States, but only from the financial perspective. Middle class in Honduras is below the poverty level in the US.

When we first came here, we did not know there was such a huge gap and that generational poverty has no country boundaries. It looks very much the same in Tegucigalpa and Houston. Only the money involved makes it different.

For those living in poverty, *people* are their possessions. In middle class, *things* are possessions. In poverty money is to be used, *spent*. In middle class families it is to be *managed*. If one lives in generational poverty having enough food, *quantity* is important. But for the middle class...*quality* if important....did you like what you ate?

Even our reason for “being” is different. *Survival*, *relationships* and *entertainment* are the driving forces of generational poverty. While *work* and *achievement* drive the middle class. Even time is looked at in a completely different way. For poverty, the *present* is most important. Decisions are made for the moment based on feelings and survival. For the middle class the *future* is most important. Decisions are made against future ramifications.

Why am I telling you all of this? Because we are dealing every day with students who come from families living in this generational poverty and we realized....these children are the *second generation!* Their

parents are understanding more about the value of education because we have been teaching them, showing them, talking to them about it for sixteen years! Finally, we are seeing this generation of children and parents responding differently. Education is becoming crucial to them for climbing out of their circumstances and making enough money to live.

We count that as success! It is still a long road ahead, but with each generation, we know they are relying more on Jesus and are not thinking of themselves as victims believing only in fate.

We have most of the Hope Academy students sponsored financially by individuals and churches in the United States, but as we grow, the costs grow, too. So we have been praying about how to generate support for the entire education program instead of student by student. Many of you are not able to support a child for \$2,200 a year, but you could help with whatever other amount you can afford.

We need your help for this coming 2017 as we add another class of kindergarten children to Hope Academy Bilingual School. With that new class, we must add more English speaking teachers and equip more classrooms. If education is something that you know God uses you for, please consider giving your year end gift to Hope Academy. Even if you have never donated to an education program before....this is fertile ground.

Education and Jesus....those are the two factors that are changing this area we serve. At this writing, we have 165 students in either Hope Academy Bible Kinder, Hope Academy Bilingual or Hope Academy Spanish. These programs are making a difference and giving the glory to God in a way we never imagined.

If you would like to help with this program, let us know or send your donation to:

Hope For Honduras
PO Box 11787
Spring, TX 77391

MEN OF HONOR

In October, we started a new group called MEN OF HONOR. There are thirty-two young men sixteen to thirty years of age who seem to have “fallen through the cracks” as the saying goes.

These are the young men who have dropped out of school, or in some cases finished school, and cannot find steady work. They sit on the corners in Mogote watching life pass them by. Many are selling drugs and are part of the gang life here, but almost all of them were in our first Bible Kinder classes several years ago. They learned about Jesus, but never stayed around long enough for anything else to affect them except the life on the streets.

We would drive by them every day and they would ignore us or duck their heads out of shame. We began stopping and rolling down the windows to at least say “hola” and remind them that Jesus really does still love them.

When short term mission teams are here, the younger kids play in the street with the “gringos” every day at 3pm in front of the Center. These young men used to do the same thing, but now they think they are too old to participate in the fun they used to have. They watch from the corner and get high or make lude remarks if a stray soccer ball comes their way.

One day, Shelley walked into the middle of a group on the corner up from the Center and began talking to them. As she was talking she notice one young man with a paper on his lap FULL of marijuana! They were all looking every where but at that pile of weed in hopes that Shelley would not notice it. Hahaha! “Oh my sweet boys” she said. “You were all in our Bible Kinder when you were little. Look how much you have grown. You are men now! You know Jesus still loves you even though you are not in our programs or around us any more. We taught you about him when you were little and all of you know Him. Do you remember?”

One by one their heads began to come up a bit in recognition of something they once had comfort in. “Where did He go?” she asked. None of them answered. She told them that they were not forgotten and we still wanted to help them if possible.

The next week, invitations were hand delivered to every young man who had been on one of those corners or in the street and not living up to the potential for which God had created them. The invitations invited them to come to the Center and have pizza and sodas with us. Thirty-two of them showed up! Still today almost that many come every Tuesday knowing we are going to talk to them about Jesus. Wow! We are still amazed at what our God can do!

Only three of them have completed high school. Most went through the sixth grade. Some of the younger ones are still trying to finish, but their hearts are not in it. They would rather “hang” on the corner. One of those who graduated has been hired by H4H to work in Hope Academy Bilingual School because he finished a program in high school that trained him to be an elementary teacher (to a point) and he is certified to work with us. He has been here a month and still has a month probation before we decide to hire him permanently. Who knew??? He wants to continue with his education at a university here and wants to teach math!.....again....who knew?

There is no financial support for this program. We believed God was leading us to bring them in and just share



about Him and help them as we can to get out of that life. If this has tugged at your heart as it has ours, please consider helping up fund this program. The only thing they asked for after our first meeting was....of course, a soccer ball. If you can help, please let us know. It doesn't take much to reach these hearts that are so open.

We meet in the “champa” where we have the Bible Kinder. They come all cleaned up and hair jelled to their liking. No one asked them to come that way, but it shows us they have some respect still hidden in there. Yesterday, we asked them “How many of you have accepted Jesus or have renewed the relationship you used to have with Him?” Almost every one of them raised their hand! That was not the response in the first meeting. Yes, they may be responding to please us, but we will take that at this point and keep teaching them His Word.

NEW FACES



Daniela Nufio

Daniela is the Director of the specific program of Hope Academy Bilingual School. (To make sure there is no confusion, Ms. Nori is the Director of the entire Hope Academy Program which has Bilingual, Spanish and Bible Kinder.)

She is a certified teacher in the Honduran education system and is completely bilingual. Some teachers who say they are “bilingual” cannot be understood very well in English and it makes it more difficult for the students to really learn this language well. Daniela is fluent and has very good English. She is also the Spanish teacher.

Lorena Martinez

Lorena came to us on a referral from our Administrator, Luis Mario. She is his wife’s cousin and has lots of great experience that she brings to us. She is one of the few employees who lives outside of Mogote who drives herself to work! If you have ever been here, you know these roads are challenging to say the least!

She will be teaching 4th grade next year. She has taught kindergarten on up and we are excited to see her in action in February. She is spending the fall with us to get used to the ACE system we use because it is very different from the training and experience she has had before.

In February, she and some of the other teachers will be attending the

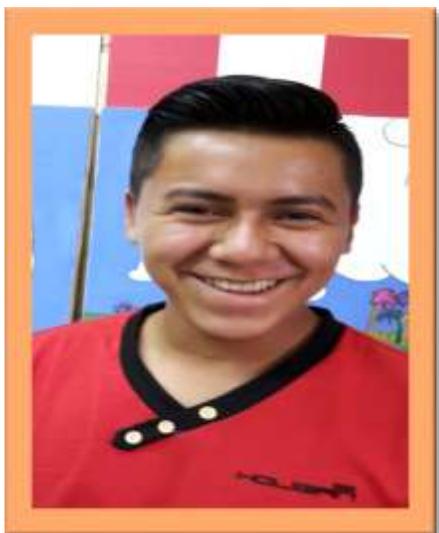


Kelvin Lopez

Kelvin is our prize from the Men of Honor group we told you about in the previous article. He is 19 years old but very mature and respectful...which is hard to find in this area! He is assisting and learning what and how we do things here. So far, he is doing very well.

Kelvin wants to go to college and study teaching. Math is his favorite subject and we want to help him make the most of his dream to become a math teacher. Until that day, we are blessed to have him here with us. He lives just a block away from the Center with his older sister. His family lives outside the city of Tegucigalpa and he moved here so he could go to school.

To become a teacher, he will need to begin going to the Teachers college on the weekends. We are looking for a sponsor(s) who would like to help him in this journey. If you are interested, let us know.



Cabañas Update



Construction in Cabañas for the new church building is ready for the two teams to come in January and begin the structure!

It was quite an event in the area. People were gathered around to watch this huge production...."huge" for this colonia!!

The building will be used for the church (Iglesia Vida y Esperanza), Hope Academy Bible Kinder, and Hope Bible Institute. There will be a small kitchen for use by the church and Bible Kinder, a storage room and a water storage tank area.

This project has been quite a challenge because of the fill dirt that was brought in years ago for this area. Everything "floats" when it rains! So, Ron and his team had to dig deeper and reinforce stronger to make sure nothing would ever move on this property again. The surrounding septic and latrines from the neighbors also drained down hill through our property which meant they had to make sure drainage was underground to direct it all off our land.



