

# CENTRAL FLORIDA EPISCOPALIAN

NEWS FOR THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

WWW.CFDIOCESE.ORG

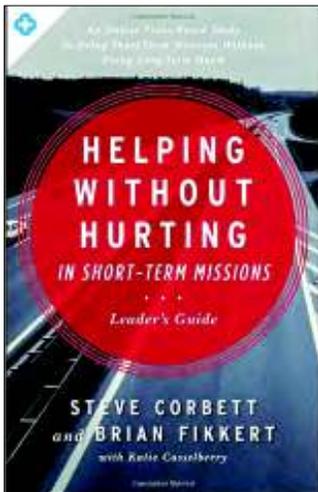
VOLUME 116, No. 9

NOVEMBER, 2014

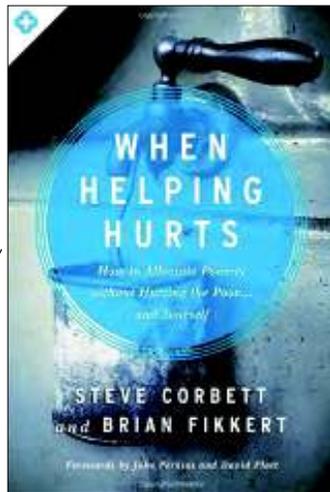
## HONDURAS Mission Blesses Hearts & Minds

● SEE P. 8

MORE NEWS INSIDE: ● FROM BISHOP BREWER, P.3 ● CANON TO HONDURAS, P.12



&



## Short-Term Mission

*If you don't train - don't go!*

Today you can Google "Short-term Mission Trips" and find opportunities for a church youth group, an adult group or even a family to experience four days to two weeks in or outside the U.S. serving the "least of these." In fact short-term mission has become a travel industry and can even be booked through a travel agency! However, who is genuinely helped by these experiences? That is a question asked by the Diocese of Central Florida Honduras Commission.

A book entitled When Helping Hurts by Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett, an excellent resource that has helped answer this question, was introduced to the commission by Bishop Lloyd Allen. After reading the book and using the video-based study that accompanies it, the commission members' understanding of what our diocesan role is as we partner with our companion diocese of Honduras has been transformed.

● STORY ON P. 16



## Bishop Allen Brings Honduras to Port St. Lucie

By Donna Dupuy

Diversity, multiculturalism and the decades-old relationship between the Central Florida Diocese and Honduras were all clearly reflected Oct. 12 in Port St. Lucie, during the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Holy Faith Episcopal Church, and exemplified by the presence of the Bishop of Honduras, the Rt. Rev. Lloyd E. Allen, who delivered the sermon.

The church began to fill up about an hour before the Rite II service began, and with all pews in the nave and both transepts full, folding chairs had to be brought out to accommodate some of the more than 250 worshipers in attendance.

Following a welcome message and announcements delivered in Spanish and English, a procession of children presented replicas of the flags of more than 40 nations, representing countries of origin for members of the congregation. There were flags for all of the Caribbean nations, but a number of European nations also were represented, including Germany, Ireland and Romania.

The international ambience continued with lessons read in English and Spanish; the Prayers of the People spoken in six languages, including German, French and Patois; a performance by the Haitian Choir; and hymns sung simultaneously in at least two languages.

In his bilingual sermon, Bishop Allen recalled that, as a child in Honduras, he was encouraged by his aunt to speak English instead of Spanish. ● STORY ON P. 20

## The Episcopal Church

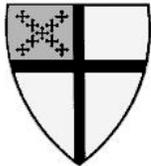


### IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

Based in the 15-county heart of our booming, diverse Sunshine State.

Companion to the Diocese of Honduras.

**Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Gregory O. Brewer**



### IN THE UNITED STATES

A community of 2.5 million members in 118 dioceses in the Americas & elsewhere. Established in 1789.

#### Presiding Bishop:

**The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori**



### IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

A global community of 70 million Anglicans in 500 dioceses. Covers 164 countries in 38 member provinces.

**Archbishop of Canterbury:  
The Most Rev. Justin Welby**

## Central Florida Episcopalian

Continuing The Palm Branch (1894),  
diocese (1971)

**The Rt. Rev. Gregory Brewer**  
Bishop

**The Rt. Rev. John W. Howe**  
**The Rt. Rev. Dorsey F. Henderson**  
**The Rt. Rev. Hugo Pina-Lopez**  
**The Rt. Rev. John Said**  
Retired Bishops

**The Rev. Canon Timothy Nunez**  
Canon to the Ordinary

**The Ven. Kristi Alday**  
Archdeacon

**Joe Thoma**  
Editor & Communications Officer

**Fina Florez**  
Design Editor

**Erick Perez**  
Subscription Manager

# Contents

## FRONT COVER:

Short-Term Mission - Story on page 16

Bishop Allen Brings Allen to Port St. Lucie - Story on page 20

- 
- 3 Bishop's Column
  - 4 It's All About Relationships
  - 7 Thanksgiving Offering, Guaimaca, Honduras
  - 8 Honduras Mission Blesses Hearts & Mind
  - 12 Deacon Kathy Pennybacker
  - 13 Pillow-Cases Dresses
  - 14 Mission Focus Brings Farm Expertise from Polk County
  - 17 The Joy of Relationship
  - 20 Filming the Christian Life Trilogy
  - 22 St. John The Baptist's 118 Anniversary
  - 24 Holy Faith's 50th Anniversary
  - 26 EYE 2014
  - 30 A Visit to ORMC
  - 31 Bishop Greg's Report from Taiwan
- 

The Central Florida Episcopalian is published monthly by the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida. Submissions are welcome, but are subject to editing and use at the discretion of the Central Florida Episcopalian.

*Please submit notices two months before event to:*

### The Central Florida Episcopalian

1017 E. Robinson Street  
Orlando, FL 32801-2023  
Tel.: (407) 423-3567, ext. 316  
Fax: (407) 872-0006  
Email: [jthoma@cfdiocese.org](mailto:jthoma@cfdiocese.org)

[www.cfdiocese.org](http://www.cfdiocese.org)

## THE RT. REV. GREGORY BREWER

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*At 40 years, the companion relationship between the Diocese of Central Florida and the Diocese of Honduras is the longest of its kind in The Episcopal Church. As Compañeros en Cristo, Episcopalians in both countries are blessed to share the work to which Jesus leads us.*

*When Laura Lee and I visited and studied in Honduras last year at the gracious invitation of Honduras Bishop Lloyd Allen, we sensed real discipleship at work. We saw a Church that ministers to its community through many deeply dedicated servant leaders.*

*Our diocese and its churches traditionally earmark their Thanksgiving Offering for a designated building or outreach project in the Diocese of Honduras.*

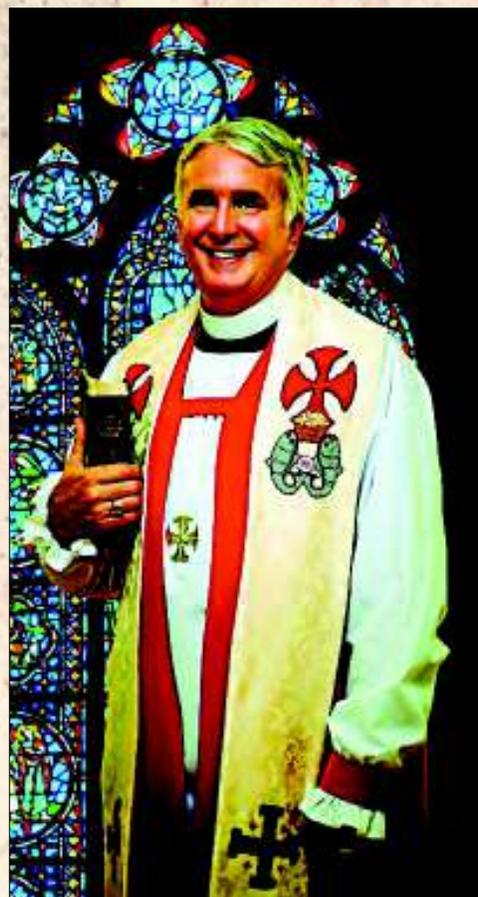
*This year, our Honduras Commission says the most urgent need is at a church in Guaimaca. Through the faith, determination and hard-earned resources of the people of Guaimaca, construction has been ongoing. But the site has been vandalized and is in much need of repair.*

*Now we have the privilege of demonstrating our thankfulness to God for all He has provided, by sharing His blessing and provision with our dear friends in our companion diocese.*

*In this time of Thanksgiving, let's put together a "Thanksgiving Basket" for our Honduran brothers and sisters in Christ.*

*In Christ's love,*

*Gregory O. Brewer  
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida*



## HONDURAS

# misión

## It's All About Relationships

**T**he Church of the Holy Child, Ormond Beach mission team returned recently to visit Santa Maria to renew old friendships. On this visit Father Comforted and his wife, Judy, stopped by the local school to get hugs from the school principal, Profesora Marta, while team member Lourdes Pagan, got hugs from two favorite students.



Pictured above is Father Comforted in Las Crucitas blessing Revda. Lourdes Herrera and her husband Eriberto on their wedding anniversary.

To the left he blesses their daughter and first grand-baby.

Father Comforted Keen, Retired Assistant at St. Barnabas, Deland, has enjoyed mission ministry in Honduras since 2003. As the Co-Chair of the Diocese of Central Florida Honduras Commission, he has been instrumental in teaching and training others about the vital, life-giving mission and ministry in Honduras. He encourages all parishes in Central Florida to develop Parish-to-Parish Relationships in Honduras, and counts it a privilege to have the opportunity to visit churches to tell them how to do this.

While rector of Church of the Holy Child, he led their parish in the development of Parish to Parish Relationships first in Rancho del Obispo for five years and then at Las Crucitas for five years.

The children in Rancho del Obispo line up to receive their final blessing from Father Comforted as Church of the Holy Child's 5-year commitment to Santa Maria came to a close. While their formal Parish to Parish Relationship ended, their friendships and relationships will be eternal.

Santa Maria Virgen, in Rancho del Obispo, is a church established by The Rt. Rev. Hugo Pina-Lopez when he served as the first Bishop of Honduras. It was here that from 2005 - 2010 Church of the Holy Child, Ormond Beach had a Parish-to-Parish Relationship following the pattern set forth between the Diocese of Central Florida and the Diocese of Honduras.

Father Comforted, now in charge of mission development at St. Barnabas, led a group in March this year to begin the process of establishing a Parish to Parish Relationship. A second team made a trip in October to formally begin that relationship with San Miguel in Ojo de Agua. ■

Pictured below (left to right) are Maureen Kilian, George Kilian, Barbara Rutherford, Brendan Nolan, Mike Nolan, Claudio (the student translator), Deacon Kathy Pennybacker, Canon to Honduras. Back row: Father Comforted Keen, Judy Keen, Father Brian Garrison, Rector of St. Barnabas, and Miriam Rivkind.



# An Awakening - My Trip to Honduras

By George Rivero-Kilian

I was born and lived in Spain until I was eleven years old. Travel is not new to me, but I can tell you that my visit to HONDURAS in March 2014 was an eye opener.

When Father Comforted Keen invited me to join his group travelling to Honduras as a youth translator, I was happy, excited and even proud to go. I was only thirteen years old.

When we stepped off the plane, my first SIGHT was that there were armed guards everywhere carrying machine guns. My first THOUGHT was, "Uh Oh! Bad Idea!"

Further along, as our trip continued, I found a new kind of experience. Compared to the way I live, I guess you could say the people were very poor. And yet, I found them all very kind and happy with their lives because of their close relationship with God. I found them so much richer than I in so many other ways. They are happy with what they have. They don't seem to want money. What they did show was that they want to share ideas, grow and learn.

Seeing this, I think, has changed me and my own way of thinking. I knew that I wanted to be nearer to God as well. I felt like St. Barnabas Episcopal School and my Church were on the path I wanted to follow. I realized that St. Barnabas Episcopal Church was now my new "family" and where I could learn to grow.

Visiting Honduras was an experience I know will be with me for my entire life as the most profound awakening I will ever know -- for which I will be forever grateful. ■





## HONDURAS



# Thanksgiving Offering

## Church of the Transfiguration

### Guaimaca, Honduras



**H**istorically, the churches in the Diocese of Central Florida designate their Thanksgiving Offering to be used for mission in the Diocese of Honduras. This year Bishop Lloyd Allen, Bishop of Honduras since 2001, has asked our diocese to focus on a church with great potential, but in great need.

Before burglars and vandalism left their mark on the Church of the Transfiguration in the city of Guaimaca, Honduras, it was one of the church jewels of the Diocese of Honduras.

Not only were the Eucharistic vessels stolen, not only was the organ and guitar stolen, not only were two vital sewing machines stolen, but every wall plug, the florescent tubes and the wiring panel were stolen from this lovely church building. With the theft also came vandalism of the sanctuary itself with many windows broken.

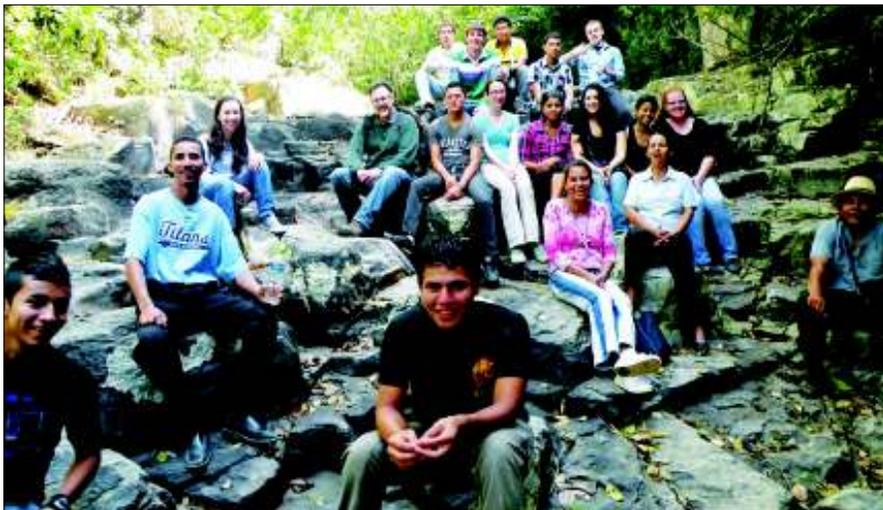
Church of the Transfiguration, which sits on unusually spacious and attractive grounds, is one of the best built and most useful sanctuaries of the Diocese. It also has a well-constructed building that at one time was used as a medical clinic.

Bishop Allen is seeking to renovate this Diocesan asset and revitalize its congregation with the goal of not only reestablishing its place in community life, but also to deepen and develop Church of the Transfiguration's impact on the community of Guaimaca, a city of some 20,000+ in North Central Honduras.

Father Comforted Keen, Father Gary Jackson, Erick Perez and Deacon Kathy Pennybacker, members of the Diocese of Central Florida, saw firsthand the damage done to Church of the Transfiguration on their visit in October. They could see the great potential of this congregation, whose membership has dropped to 17. The local lay pastor, who covers two congregations on a regular basis, said that repairing the damage done by burglars and vandals will draw the community back to this lovely worship space.

Following next month's ordination of fifteen new deacons, Bishop Allen will be assigning a deacon to live full-time in Guaimaca and be in charge of Church of the Transfiguration. Part of the resurrection of the Church of the Transfiguration will include turning the building that was once used as a medical clinic into a home for the new pastor. Having someone living on the property and living full-time in the community are both essential to the re-development and the sustainability of the church. ■

*Photos  
from the  
Honduras  
Mission  
All Saints,  
Lakeland*



# Honduras Mission Blesses Hearts and Minds

By Sophia C. Morrell, All Saints, Lakeland

**Y**outh on a Mission - As I look back over the course of 2012, perhaps the most outstanding event in my year was my trip to Honduras. On November 16, at 4:30 a.m., six of my most beloved friends and I left All Saints Episcopal Church and began our journey to Moroceli. We loaded and unloaded three cars, navigated airport security, and then quietly sipped our coffee before boarding the first of three planes that would take us to Central America. This would be my first trip outside of the continental United States, and my first long-distance trip without my parents.

I was expecting the unexpected, knowing that Honduras was one of the poorest nations in the world. Armed with four years of Spanish class and a Cuban lineage, I thought I was prepared for my long weekend in Honduras. But what I experienced was much more than a short trip in a poor, Spanish-speaking country - it was an eye-opening journey.

The first word that comes to mind is "welcoming." But it was so much more than that. The people of Todos Los Santos Moroceli greeted us with open arms and open hearts. Everyone we met wanted to know us, wanted to understand us, and wanted us to understand them.

Especially the children. When we arrived at the church, they ran to us, grabbed our hands, and showed us around, excitedly talking as we went. I loved walking with them, playing with them, talking with them, dancing with them, and painting with them. They are the sweetest children - with such big and open eyes and personalities.

And the adults were no less welcoming. Though it was slightly harder for me to understand their words, their message and their joy were crystal clear. It amazed me how much these people love God, trust Him, lean on Him in everything, and



how happy they were. I am striving to be more like them in this respect.

Father Carlos and his wife Mayra were overjoyed to have us. Mayra told us "by the end of your trip, I hope you tell me that you don't want to leave." How true these words proved to be. Our last night in Moroceli was celebrated with a fiesta. However, after all the music, food, and socializing, there were very few dry eyes in the room. After Father Carlos and Mayra shared their goodbye speeches, they asked for our thoughts. I told them, "No quiero salir" - I don't want to leave. It was absolutely true. I was lacking the "creature comforts" we take for granted in the United States, but I was not lacking any happiness. Honduras felt like home.

Now back in Florida, I think about my trip often. It can be a polar comparison to the life we live,

one that helps put things into perspective. God has blessed us beyond our realization, but it is healthy to step back from those blessings and contemplate how little we need the extras. The true blessing is his Love, and sometimes it takes a useless phone, limited running water, and dirt roads to remember that.

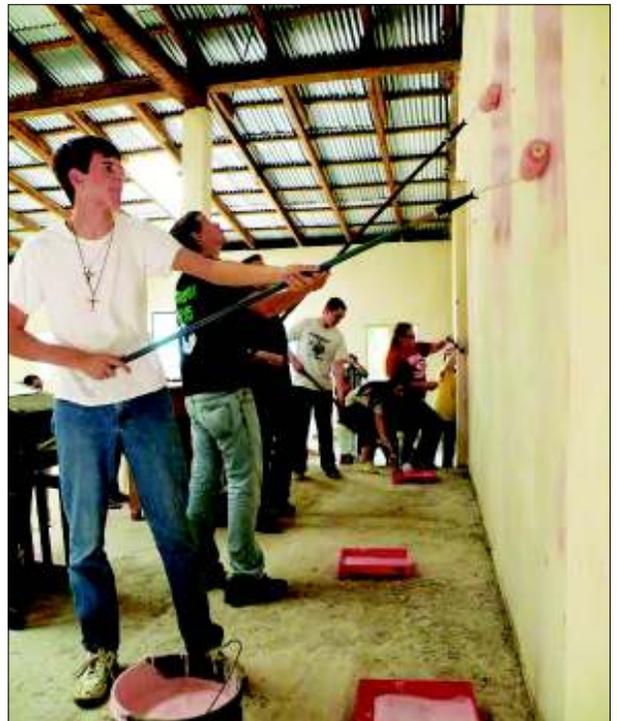
I certainly plan on returning to Honduras. I felt a certain peace in the isolation and minimalism of the Honduran lifestyle - a peace to which I believe is God calling me back. ■

Sophia C Morrell is a student at the University of Central Florida, pursuing a degree in Mathematics with a minor in Music. She has been a member of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Lakeland for 11 years where she served as an acolyte and Youth Choir member. She currently attends the Cathedral Church of Saint Luke where she sings in the Cathedral Choir.

HONDURAS - ALL SAINTS, LAKELAND



*Photos  
from the  
Honduras  
Mission  
All Sants,  
Lakeland*



# CANON TO HONDURAS REFLECTS ON DECADE-PLUS SERVICE

By Deacon Kathy Pennybacker

**H**onduras - in 2000 I only had a vague idea that it was somewhere in Central America, just East of Mexico. Being a missionary and eventually Canon to Honduras definitely was not my plan. My plan was to take early retirement and then return to the YWAM Mercy Ship as a medical missionary to Africa.

After my retirement, I made an appointment with Bp. Howe to express my desire to be a missionary. As an ordained deacon in the Diocese of Central Florida, I wanted his direction. I had a list of things I thought I could do on the mission field. I asked him to choose one and I would do whatever he chose - certain he would choose to send me back to Africa. Instead he chose to send me to Honduras with Bp. Hugo.

I made several trip to Honduras as Bp. Hugo's Deacon until 2003 when the Bishop of Honduras, Lloyd Allen, asked me to consider making a more permanent decision to serve in Honduras. The main problem for me and Bp. Allen was that I spoke NO Spanish. He suggested I attend language immersion school in Copan. After 5 weeks at Ixbalanque I traveled with Bp. Allen as he made pastoral visits. Following this, I visited all the deaneries - getting to know the clergy, people and the problems they face. In 2005, surprisingly to me, Bp. Howe appointed me as Canon to Honduras.

For the next 3 years I traveled back and forth between Honduras and my home in Inverness. While in the States I visited with and spoke to various churches to speak about Honduras and how mutually beneficial a partnership between their church and a mission could be. In Honduras, I organized "Come and See, Go and Tell" pilgrimages to Honduras to help develop partnerships and I visited missions that were in partnerships.

In 2010 Schyler (my Standard Poodle and Partner in Ministry) moved to Yuscaran, Honduras. We now live there 9 months of the year. Schyler is an "EpiscoDog". He goes to the villages with me, where the village children are amazed and thrilled that they can hug on him and they even try to ride him. At first they thought he was a sheep not a dog! The adults are amazed at his obedience and tranquility. He is welcomed in the churches as part of the ministry team. Even though he is a lover of children, he is my guardian and protector when we are in the car.

Living in Honduras is a joy and a challenge. We don't always have water or electricity. My housekeeper and I often joke that, when we have water and electricity at the same time - it is time to wash clothes and bathe.

We are also often internet compromised, so communication with the outside world can be a problem. What I DO have is a wonderful group of friends and family who are always ready to help this "gringa". Neighbors and even strangers help when there is a need - like when my house was flooded during my first monsoon rain and the drains were clogged. Five people showed up to clear the drain and help sweep away the water.

Living here is much like it was 40-50 years ago in the States. The children are free to play in the streets -but it can be rather noisy when they choose my street as the soccer field and my garage door as the goal posts.

We have many festivals and celebrations: Corn Festival, Mango Festival. Day of the Children, Patron Saints' feast day, etc. All of which require a multitude of cherry bombs and fire crackers and bands marching through the village. When I was new to Yuscaran I awoke in the wee hours of the night thinking we were under attack - as it turned out it was a birthday celebration of one of my neighbors.

I am awed by the generosity and joyful devotion to God that the Hondurans have.

Years ago, when I returned after one of my first visits to Honduras, I said that I longed to return because I had seen God at work in His Kingdom and I wanted to be a part of what He is doing here. He is still at work here and I still want to be a part of that work.■

Deacon Kathy Pennybacker



## HONDURAS

# Pillow-Case Dresses



*"The ladies enjoyed the fellowship they shared when they gathered on occasions at the church to sew and felt the joy that comes from giving as they worked on this special project."*



A group of talented women from Holy Trinity Church in Melbourne began making dresses for little girls out of pillow cases and by the time they were ready to be taken to Honduras they had made close to 300 of them! This idea began with Gail Pearson, who shared it with Dolores Faughnan, who solicited Geri Riley's help and in a short time they had about thirty women sewing dresses. Ella French, Betsy Ashcroft, Pat Thomas, Bonnie Register, Bridget Morton, Eleanor Doherty, Dinah Beverly, Nancy Kellerman, Jo Ellen Johnson, Helen Chandler and Kim, Sandy Blankenship, Dorothy Guinn, Gail Pearson, Pat Snodgrass, Kathy VanPelt, Helen Alexander, Suzy Stack, Margo Angleton, Trica Schneider, Gina Tideman, Monica Armstrong were among the seamstresses. They also had about ten women knitting little dolls to put in the pockets of the dresses! Many were knitted by women living in the Trinity Towers Assisted Living facility.

They received their supplies from members of Holy Trinity, the Holy Trinity Thrift Store, The Children's Home in Tampa and Percepta.

The ladies enjoyed the fellowship they shared when they gathered on occasions at the church to sew and felt the joy that comes from giving as they worked on this special project.

In March the dresses were taken to Honduras by a team from St. Barnabas when they went down on a Honduras Experience trip. At each stop (8 or more) they presented dresses to the churches for the girls in the village. The girls and women of all ages were excited to receive these gifts. Even some of the moms discovered they too could wear the dresses that had been made from the King-size pillow cases.

This little girl saw the bus bring the group to her church and she walked down all by herself to see what was going on. Team member, Miriam Rivkind, who teaches Spanish at St. Barnabas School, was able to talk with her and help her pick out a dress and a pair of pants. ■



## HONDURAS

# Mission FOCUS BRINGS FARM EXPERTISE FROM POLK COUNTY

By Good Shepherd, Lake Wales

In 2006, after Bishop Howe encouraged each congregation in the diocese to engage in mission by crossing boundaries of language, ethnicity, geography, culture and socio-economic status, Rusty Ingley, the youth minister at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lake Wales, Florida, asked the vestry to fund his participation on an exploratory tour of Honduras organized by Canon Kathy Pennybacker.

Upon his return, Rusty encouraged the congregation to explore a partnership with a congregation in Honduras. Canon Pennybacker visited the parish later that year to explain to the congregation that a partnership would require a three-year commitment with specific goals and objectives to be agreed upon by both congregations.

A mission team, including Tom Seitz, the rector of the parish, and four other parishioners, visited Honduras the following year under Canon Pennybacker's leadership, visiting a variety of congregations and communities to find, if possible, a good fit for a partnership. Because many Polk County parishioners are involved in the citrus and cattle industries, the team agreed that the rather remote agricultural town of Santa Maria, roughly the size of Lake Wales, was the best fit. This decision was reinforced by the team's response to a young girl, Isis, who had a serious heart murmur from her birth. The rector and another member of the team were active Rotarians, whose Foundation sponsors a "Gift of Life" program, offering life-saving heart surgery for children like Isis.

During the next year, local medical tests were arranged for Isis to verify her eligibility for surgery at Tampa General Hospital. When a mission team visited in the spring of 2008, much of their time was spent with the local Rotarians in the larger city of Danli, arranging for the necessary travel documents for Isis and her mother Olga. The team also inspected several parcels of land in Santa Maria so that the congregation, which

had outgrown its place of worship in the home of Senior Warden Alexander and his wife, Mabel, might eventually be able to build a home for a resident pastor and a combination church and community center, along with a community garden as a potential source of income, not knowing that a year later an anonymous gift of \$6000 would be donated by a parishioner for just that purpose.

Isis and Olga arrived at the small Lake Wales airport in January 2009 in a six-seat medical charity airplane flight from Miami, greeting members of the congregation and the Rotary Club along with their hosts, Steve and Lisa Carter. Steve is the church treasurer, an American educated in Spain, and therefore equipped to bridge the language barrier for his special guests; Lisa serves as the church administrator. As it turned out, Isis required not one but two surgeries to repair her heart, doubling the length of her stay to six weeks and giving her the opportunity to worship with the congregation and thank the local Rotary club for their support.

Sadly, Isis' home had been washed away in a flood prior to her surgery, so the congregation pitched in to help her family select a piece of land and build a ram-earth dwelling, a much more substantial option than the typical adobe homes in Honduras, capable of weathering heavy rains and hurricanes.

With so much attention directed to Isis and her family, who, as the mission teams later discovered, were not active members of the Honduran congregation but had taken advantage of the opportunity that had presented itself to seek help from the American missionaries, the congregation in Santa Maria understandably became jealous and even resentful of the Americans' loss of focus on the broader goals of the partnership. Delays in finding a suitable piece of property with a clear title also strained the fledgling partnership, especially because the donor, with a heart condition of

---

***“The highlight of the 2013 mission trip was the opportunity to celebrate and witness several infant baptisms.”***

---

his own, was eager to see the purchase completed while he was still living. Two factors made buying a piece of land even more challenging. Canon Pennybacker was in Honduras for less than half a year, residing in Yuscaran, over an hour's drive from Santa Maria. The Rev. Alejandro Chirinos, the local Honduran priest and agent for the partnership, was a full time public school teacher and a single-parent father with several children with a full time parish of his own in Danli, facing an all-day round trip bus ride to and from Santa Maria.

Bishop Allen helped resolve the crisis by assigning Jeannie Loving, a SAMS missionary and retired Spanish teacher from Texas, now living year-round in Danli with a vehicle of her own, to relieve Canon Pennybacker in order to become our local American contact, along with Victor Velasquez, administrator of the local deanery, a postulant for holy orders in charge of another congregation in Danli, with more time and access to a motorcycle, to serve instead of Alejandro Chirinos as the Honduran contact person for the partnership. Bishop Allen also authorized his chancellor, Connie Suarez, to expedite the legal details of purchasing a fine piece of property at the entrance of the town.

The Good Shepherd mission team of 2010, therefore, was concerned primarily with mending

fences, clarifying misunderstandings, and putting a partnership together in writing that included providing ten scholarships for middle and high school students, valued at \$250 each; funds and equipment to start a sewing co-op so the women of the congregation could earn money making school uniforms; and seeds, plants and equipment for a fruit and vegetable garden as another source of operating revenue and nutritional food. The congregation in Santa Maria, for its part, agreed to send regular reports on the students' grades along with the results of their two micro-enterprises through regular emails and photographs.

Later that year, Jeannie Loving visited Good Shepherd on her way back from her American residence in Texas to thank parishioners for their faithful support and to encourage them to persevere in their partnership, ending her remarks with the announcement that the mission in Santa Maria had decided to name themselves El Buen Pastor, the Church of the Good Shepherd, in honor of their American partners. Parishioners Fleet Ryland, Tommy Phillips and Rusty Ingley decided, accordingly, to dedicate the proceeds of an annual golf outing that the parish had held as a simple fellowship event for several years to the mission effort. Three annual golf outings since have netted over \$25,000.

The 2011 mission team from Good Shepherd traveled over Super Bowl weekend and an even more raucous Honduran national celebration in Danli. They dug post holes and strung barbed wire for the perimeter of the church property in order to secure the vegetable garden from cattle and to protect the bathrooms and pila, a cement open water-storage tank, from vandalism. Those who did not want to dig post holes in the rock-hard earth assisted in making eco-stoves, at a cost of \$25/piece, that use much less of Honduras' precious wood stock and are vented through the roof, thus reducing the resulting multiple eye ailments of countless Hondurans. Others, as was the case on every mission trip, led a Bible school for four dozen children, both within the congregation and from the larger community, who were eager to learn and play with their American guests.

Later that year, a Christian missionary organization from Texas contacted Jeannie Loving with an offer to drill a water well on the church property, thereby providing the congregation and the town a vital, reliable, backup source of drinkable water when the river ran dry or the municipal pump failed to deliver water to the cement storage containers every fifth day to the homes of Santa Maria's residents.

Mission teams in 2012, 2013 and 2014 each included, for the first time since the partnership began, a pair of students from St. Mary's Episcopal School in Tegucigalpa to assist the team in communicating with the children in Bible school and the adults with sewing, gardening, preaching and building. Since students attend St. Mary's primarily to learn English for the doors that English skills will open to them after graduation, their presence not only gave the teenagers on the mission team from Good Shepherd new friendships, but they were able to put their language skills to a rigorous test.

The 2012 team brought more sewing equipment and supplies along with a serging machine for hems and other specialized applications. When asked what sort of church/community center the mission might want, the leaders showed the Americans a new church building down the street as a basic model from which to begin. Mark Parlier, a member of Good Shepherd, donated his time as an architect to develop and modify the plans which were finally authorized and bid recently with the assistance of another SAMS missionary, Jack Melvin, a retired architect from Massachusetts now living year-round in an apartment on the grounds of the cathedral and the campus of St. Mary's Episcopal School in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, designing and coordinating diocesan construction projects throughout the country.

The highlight of the 2013 mission trip was the opportunity to celebrate and witness several infant baptisms. A parishioner, on learning the need for altar appointments, donated a pewter paten, chalice, and cruets. Good Shepherd's memorial fund was used to supply necessary linens. One morning was set aside for a trip to a cigar factory in Danli. Scholarship students and their parents shared their educational achievements and expressed thanks for the opportunity to advance beyond the unskilled manual labor of their parents.

Between 2013 and 2014 a wall topped with razor wire was constructed so that when the church is finally built, the construction materials will be secure on the property, since there are no police or burglar alarm systems in Santa Maria. Tragically, Isis, the recipient of the heart surgeries, contracted hemorrhagic dengue fever from a mosquito bite and subsequently died. Mabel, the wife of Alexander, the senior warden, gave birth prematurely to a son who consequently died after a two-week struggle.

When the 2014 mission team arrived, the Honduran children completed a first commu-

nion course and the adults attended four stewardship education classes led by Father Seitz, since Bishop Allen is intent on all congregations being self-sufficient by 2019. The sewing co-op received linen fabric in the four liturgical colors and enough cross stitch floss and waste fabric to design their own superfrontals. A seed bed was prepared, several avocado trees were planted, and the existing citrus trees were pruned with new garden tools.

One of the ways the Church of the Good Shepherd has celebrated its partnership with El Buen Pastor is to hang a carved wooden cross in the parish hall that Rusty Ingley had brought back from his exploratory trip in 2006. Every Wednesday evening during the school year, when the parish gathers for worship, dinner and education classes, a Spanish blessing is offered by Steve Carter, who hosted Isis for six weeks in his home. Any profits from the meals help defray the cost of joining a mission team. Teenagers typically travel at no cost, thanks to various fundraisers. Adults are asked to pay for their plane ticket. Food, lodging and ground transportation expenses are covered by fundraisers. The outreach budget of the parish finances several of the annual student scholarships. Those scholarships, more than any other factor, are the reason El Buen Pastor is the fastest growing congregation in the deanery, if not in the entire diocese.

In addition to the retired couple who donated \$6,000 to purchase the land, another family has given \$5,000 for the future construction of an adobe house for the lay pastor and another couple has given \$50,000 for the church and community building. These are donations over and above the golf fund raisers and the many other smaller scholarship and miscellaneous donations, whether from the annual Christmas Pageant offering, the Women's Tea, or from individual parishioners. Ground should be broken before the end of this year for the church.

Unlike many church-building ventures by other American missionaries who bring in an entire team of builders, completing the project themselves and presenting it as a finished product, Good Shepherd believes it has been best to allow those in Honduras to have as much influence in the design and construction of the building as possible as our partnership has strengthened over the years.

A mission team will travel in the summer of 2015 to lend a hand in the construction. All of this has happened because a youth minister caught the vision of Bishop Howe eight years ago. ■

## HONDURAS

# EL HOGAR

by Ann Croft, All Saints Episcopal Church, Winter Park

**E**l Hogar de Amor Esperanza (The Home of Love and Hope) started in 1979 with five hungry, scared, abandoned boys sleeping under cardboard in a doorway on the streets of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. By God's grace and the support of many donors, El Hogar is now an orphanage which serves 256 children through through elementary school, technical institute for high school boys, agricultural school, farm for high school boys, and residence for high school girls.

The mission of El Hogar is to transform and empower abandoned and hopelessly poor children in Honduras by providing a loving home and education. Our goal is for them to fulfill their ultimate potential as productive,

caring and independent Honduran citizens. At El Hogar, we find the most desperate children - the ones on the streets, the ones without enough to eat, the ones at most risk - and show them what a better future can be. We give them love, the support and the tools to help make this vision a reality.

El Hogar thrives on the personal relationship built with supporters. As part of that personal relationship, All Saints, Winter Park, has sent mission teams to El Hogar for many years. As an experienced leader of several missions to Central America, David Mead will lead a team to El Hogar, April 11 - 18, 2015. Individuals from the other parishes are invited to join the team. Contact David at Davidmead17@gmail.com (407-579-5899). ■

### ● CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT COVER

The following was taken from the Chalmers Center website [www.chalmers.org](http://www.chalmers.org). It references a study done in Haiti, which could have as easily been done in Honduras, a country second only to Haiti in its poverty.

#### ***"We Are Not a Poor Country"—Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions***

"The numbers are incredible," explains Brian Fikkert, coauthor of *When Helping Hurts*. "Literally millions of people participate in short-term mission trips each year to the tune of billions of dollars. We have a hard time even conceptually understanding what a billion is."

The sheer scale of short-term missions (STMs) has left church and ministry leaders asking hard questions about the effectiveness of these trips. What is the long-term impact of STMs on receiving communities and participants? How can visits bless the existing work God is doing in a community?

On May 1, 2014, Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert submitted the manuscript for *Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions*, a project created to assist church leaders in designing effective short-term trips—and then to guide participants in lasting learning and engagement with poverty alleviation.

As part of this upcoming project, Chalmers is creating video teaching units for short-term teams to use in pre- and post-trip learning sessions.

In May, Chalmers' Katie Casselberry traveled with a videography team to Haiti to film the work of The 410 Bridge. The 410 Bridge is an organization that encourages Christ-centered, community-initiated development work in rural Majority World communities. The 410 Bridge then mobilizes short-term teams to support and learn about that work.

"We spent five days in a rural Haitian community, interviewing 410's staff, local community leaders, and short-term team participants," Casselberry explains. "It was a remarkable opportunity to capture different angles on what makes a short-term trip effective."

One Haitian staff member shared, "I hope teams see that we have God [beside] us, and we have knowledge, we have people, we have resources...we are not a poor country."

Reflecting on how teams can bless his community, a local leader shared, "We are one in Christ and will be together in heaven. When teams come to live and be with us, we get to see and glimpse a bit of that now."

"What we didn't hear from community leaders was a desire for teams to come give things away, solve problems, or execute programs," shares Casselberry. "Yes, these communities experience acute material poverty. But they are mobilizing many of their own resources and gifts to meet those challenges, and US churches have an opportunity to come alongside them in that process."

The scale of the STM movement provides an incredible opportunity to influence how churches think about poverty, missions, and the materially poor.

One community leader in Haiti shared his vision for the purpose of short-term trips, explaining, "We would like for [teams] to learn along with us, because we are doing the same mission and the same work."

*Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions* aims to equip teams to see, respect, and celebrate that mission and work, leading them to recognize Christ's reconciling power in new ways.

In addition to *Helping Without Hurting*, the Honduras Commission also suggests *Serve Smart*, a course and training tool found online at [www.serve-smart.com](http://www.serve-smart.com).



Managing volunteers in Guatemala from 2006 to 2008, *Serve Smart* founder Ryan Richards witnessed the profound mutual transformation that happens when volunteers partner effectively with the communities they serve.

But he also saw what can happen when volunteers arrive thinking that they have all of the answers: imposed agendas, poor results, and sometimes outright harm.

Everyone can engage in ethical and effective service - it just takes training and support. *Serve Smart* designs tools that make it easy for service programs to equip their participants for success.



The Honduras Commission also recommends SAMS, the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders, which has effectively served the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion in Central and South America for well over 100 years. Find out more about SAMS at [www.samsusa.org](http://www.samsusa.org). ■

# The Joy of Relationship

By Maureen Kilian



Lajjani & Byron

In 2004 Church of the Holy Child, Ormond Beach, entered a Parish to Parish Relationship with Santa Maria, Rancho del Obispo, Honduras.

On that first visit the team from Holy Child met Lajjani, age 8, and her little brother, Byron.

When Kathleen Carroll, began attending Church of the Holy Child, Ormond Beach, one of her first questions was, "What do I have to do

to join this mission in Honduras?" The response she was given was, "You simply have to have a willing heart." It turned out she not only had a heart that was willing, but also a heart filled with love and compassion that was amplified over her years of mission work through the church.

When Kathleen joined the team she met Lajjani and their special relationship began.

Nine years later, Kathleen and the mission team from Church of the Holy Child visited their new companion parish, which was in a different community from where Lajjani lived. Nonetheless, Kathleen hoped she would be able to see Lajjani, even knowing that may not be possible. What joy she felt when the team stopped at a local store to pick up supplies and she discovered that Lajjani, who would forever hold a special place in Kathleen's heart, was in the store!! What a reunion that was!!

Judy Keen, member of those mission trips with Church of the Holy Child can also speak to



Judy & Fema

the joy of relationship found through their Parish to Parish relationship. In 2009, while on a mission trip to visit their companion parish in Rancho del Obispo, Judy received word that her mother had passed away. The evening she heard this news she was sitting in the front of the van between her husband, Comforted, and Fema, the wife of the pastor of Santa Maria's. When Fema was told the reason Judy was quietly crying, she simply took her hand and communicated deep love and comfort. Judy will forever remember her compassion and caring, which she also experienced the following day from the women of the parish. Love was communicated without words and she knew first-hand that language is no barrier when it comes to sharing the love of Christ.

Judy was reminded of this special love when she visited Fema in March, 2014, to bring her pillow-case dresses made by the women of Holy Trinity in Melbourne. ■

Kathleen & Lajjani



Kathleen & Lajjani nine years later



## Central Florida Honduras Commission

The Central Florida Honduras Commission was established by the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida to support, encourage and enable the mutual ministry between the Diocese of Central Florida and the Diocese of Honduras.

The Commission is actively involved in:

- Teaching, training, equipping those interested in serving
- Promoting seminars, workshops, and pilgrimages

- Facilitating the networking of ministries in Honduras
- Serving as a conduit for Honduras communication

The Commission members meet every third Thursday of the month. Their meetings are held at noon at the Diocesan Office or by phone at 7:00 pm using Go to Meeting.

Wesney Dubic and Father Comforted Keen Commission Co-chairs on behalf of the entire Commission invite everyone to contact them through the Diocesan Office if you would like more information on the Commission or if you would like to become involved in the work of the Commission. They also invite and encourage you to check out the website at [www.hondurascommission.com](http://www.hondurascommission.com). ■

# A CALL TO MISSION

By Andrew Stucker

I was raised and brought up in church and in the spring of 2010 was beginning to have God confirm the call to ministry He had placed on my life. During this time, God gave me the opportunity to visit Our Little Roses in San Pedro Sula, Honduras and He used the mission trip as one of the defining moments to confirm my call into ministry. In visiting Honduras, it is hard not to recognize both the immense physical and spiritual needs of the people. God allowed me to hear testimonies from people which included stories of great brokenness and hurt but ended with proclaiming their is a great Savior in Jesus Christ who cares for them and makes them whole. Although I knew God's grace to be true in my own life, being able to witness this in a context where ultimately it could be easy to find no hope, confirmed that God was calling me to spend my life preaching the gospel. The mission trip confirmed for me that it is the gospel alone which brings the only sustaining and satisfying hope to a lost and dying world. After returning home from Honduras with yet another confirmation of God's call, I finished my undergraduate program at Florida State University and began pursuing a Master's of Divinity at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. My wife and I are serving with a local church in New Orleans, but continue to pray and discern if God intends to send us abroad for long term mission work. Regardless of where God's call places me, I will always have a special attachment and love for Honduras and its people. It is evident that God is mightily at work in the country and revealing to them the hope that can only be found in Jesus. ■



## HONDURAS

# *Revda. Dagoberto Chacon Affectionately Called Padre Dago*



Father Dago teaches team members, Father Brian Garrison and Mike Nolan how to strip a sugar cane to find the sweet parts to chew on.



Rev. Dagoberto Chacon, Dean of the El Paraiso Deanery, an area the Diocese of Central Florida has been asked to focus on, is pictured above with daughter, Angie, as he prepares to lead music and worship with the team on Deacon Kathy Pennybacker's patio.



Fathers Comforted, Dagoberto, and Bryan, assisted by Deacon Kathy prepare for Eucharist at the church in Zarzal, one of Father Dago's churches.