

# 2009 HONDURAS INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIP REPORT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*The CDP International Mission Team believes that the vision and goals for this mission trip were accomplished! A tremendous relationship was established with the leadership and congregation of the Church of God in Honduras and **many men and women responded to the gospel message** preached, testimonies and Praise and Worship songs shared by the CDP Team during the Worship services. **Many children responded to the gospel** presented by the CDP Mission Team during children's ministry, and particularly enjoyed the puppet shows. The team was able to minister to approximately 375 people seen in the **medical clinic** and **construct** a ceiling and patio for the **Multipurpose ministry building** at one location and **level a floor** that will be cemented by another group arriving after our team at another location.*

*The team was blessed and experienced **tremendous growth in our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ** to **be His witnesses** in Honduras and with one another as we labor during an Eventful Mission Trip.*

*To God Be The Glory!*

## Vision, Mission and Goals of Honduras Mission Trip Accomplished

A T.E.A.M. of 22 people from 6 different Churches came together to commit and submit to a VISION to build closer ties and partnerships between the Church of God congregations in our region and Honduras.

The goal was to support the Church of God in Honduras and reach out to the people in their communities.

We set out to accomplish the following goals:

### **DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S KINDNESS**

- ✦ WORK ON **CONSTRUCTION PROJECT** (Multipurpose Building)
- ✦ **RAISE \$9,000** FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT
- ✦ DISTRIBUTE **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** TO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY TO DISTRIBUTE TO CHILDREN
- ✦ PROVIDE A **MEDICAL CLINIC**

### **SALVATION (Evangelism) & RESTORATION (Edification)**

- ✦ CONDUCT **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**—VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (Including a Puppet Show)
- ✦ PROVIDE **ADULT MINISTRY** THROUGH:
  - THE **PREACH THE WORD**,
  - **TESTIMONIES** FROM THE TEAM DURING SERVICE, AND
  - **SINGING** OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP SONGS DURING THE SERVICE.

### **FELLOWSHIP & ENCOURAGEMENT**

- ✦ FELLOWSHIP WITH **PASTORS AND CONGREGATION**
- ✦ FELLOWSHIP & UNITY AMONG THE **CDP MISSION TEAM**

## Church of God In Honduras: A Dynamic Ministry

The Church of God in Honduras is lead by the dynamic Pastor Donny Allen and the name of the Church of God there is: La Iglesia de Dios Hermandad Cristiana (The Christian Brotherhood Church of God). Pastor Allen is a tremendous man of God with a tremendous ministry and vision for the current 4

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Congregations, Christian Academy (which offers a free education to the over 100 children attending), newspaper ministry, T.V. ministry, job training ministries (e.g. Welding school), and more.

### **Theme Set and Devotion Held Daily**

The **theme** for this mission trip was: ***Sowing Seeds for an Eternal Harvest (Eternity)!***

The team was blessed to have **devotion** with one another every morning around this theme, with different members of the team focusing on a different scripture pertaining to sowing seeds. The devotion was creative and rich! Every morning the team also ministered to one another through Praise and Worship Songs.

### **An Eventful Experience Trying to Get To Our Destination**

The Team flew to Honduras on **two airlines**: Delta and American Airlines, departing on Tuesday around 6am.

Delta arrived on time to Honduras around 11am. **American Airlines was delayed** and did not arrive until 3:30pm.

The **team responded well to this delay**. The team that arrived early scouted out a Wendy's and a Bank when they arrived to Honduras and was able to direct the team arriving later where to go for food and to exchange their U.S. dollars for the local currency before we left the Airport.

The Mission continued to be **marked by eventful experiences** from the moment we took off. When we arrived at the Airport, we were greeted by Pastor Donny Allen's son: Victor and two of the ministers in the Church: Steven and Billy; and an Intern from Anderson University: Ronny.

After everyone ate at the airport, the team boarded a Yellow School Bus and left the airport. After travelling only 5 miles, we noticed that the Bus was driving hard. The Bus seemed to have **transmission problems** and we had to pull over on the side of the road.

***From this point the mission team seem to be in action mode that would characterize the entire mission trip: Praying, worshipping, singing and action!***

Some members of the team began to sing and pray while others got out of the bus to try and help with fixing the Bus. Miraculously, we were able to get the bus back on the road and we safely arrived in La Ceiba, Honduras, which was approximately 3 hours from the Airport in San Pedro Sula.

The team prayed, sang Praise and Worship songs and enjoyed one another on the bus trip! We were informed on Wednesday morning that the Bus was no longer available because the transmission was broken.

Pastor Donny Allen acted quickly and rented a bus from one of the Pastors of a local Church. The Lord saw fit that we would be moved from a school bus without air-condition to a mini-coach bus with air-condition. By the way, it was hot in Honduras.

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### The Mission Begins

*Wednesday, Thursday and Friday* the two teams formed were taken to the work sites:

- **one team** ministered by conducting a **Medical Clinic** in El Pino and
- the **second team** ministered by working (**construction**) on a Multi-purpose Building in Villas Del Carmen that served as a Welding School, parsonage for the Pastor and Children's ministry.

*In the medical clinic we were able to provide medical care for approximately 375 people with the help of two doctors, nurses and other team members who conducted an intake station and a pharmacy that dispensed the medication (we brought with us), as the doctors prescribed it.*

*On the construction site, we put up a ceiling. This required cutting wood to frame the rooms and then putting up dry wall with all the finishes (nailing, taping, mudding, etc.). We also prepared cement and laid tile. The building will be used as a parsonage for the Pastor, Welding school, children's ministry.*

On **Wednesday evening**, Pastor Donny Allen had me **speak to the Principal of the school and Administrative staff**, because of my previous experience as a principal of the Long Reach Church of God Christian Academy and Rev. Lewis conducted a training with the **teachers**, since she has teaching experience for many years in a Christian Academy and now with the Public school. We were informed that this was very beneficial.

**Thursday evening** was the first **service** the team attended together and we ministered to the Congregation of **El Pino**. Three members of the team shared their testimony of how the Lord saved them, changed their lives and is empowering them to live as a Christian. The team also ministered through singing a selection of Praise and Worship songs.

**Friday evening**, the team ministered in the **evening service at La Ceiba** through the preached word, children's ministry (including a puppet show), testimony and song.

### An Excursion To Hog Island

On **Saturday** the team had the opportunity to visit "Hog Island", a beautiful Island about 45 minutes off the coast of Honduras. Wow! Several of us snorkeled in crystal clear water and enjoyed the beach. Note: Don't expect this for every mission trip. But, we have to say it was great day of rest.

### Back to Work/Ministry

On **Saturday evening**, we ministered in the evening service in the community of Villas Del Carmen through the preached word, children's ministry (including a puppet show), singing Praise and Worship songs and having members of the team share their testimonies.

### Political Turmoil

On **Saturday evening** we were informed that the President of Honduras might be deposed from His Presidency.

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On **Sunday morning** we were informed that the President of Honduras was indeed deposed and that the Sunday morning service was cancelled because of the uncertainty in the Nation.

### **Sunday Morning Impromptu Service at the Hotel...God's Strength and Peace**

The team decided to have service on Sunday morning in the garden of the Hotel, which overlooked the beach. We focused on the Lord's Prayer and applied the message that we learned by praying during this service. We broke out in small groups and formed prayer bands, praying and encouraging one another and praying for the political crisis in Honduras. Members of the team shared how the Lord really moved during this time. We were encouraged by the Lord's spirit and fill with a great sense of God's peace!

Pastor Donny Allen informed us that there would be an evening service in La Ceiba as scheduled.

### **Back To Work...Ministry**

On **Sunday evening** we ministered in La Ceiba the team ministered through the preached word, children's ministry (including a puppet show), personal testimonies and singing of Praise and Worship songs in La Ceiba.

On **Monday morning** half the team went to a construction site in El Pino and the other half of the team went to La Ceiba to conduct a medical clinic.

At the **construction site in El Pino** the team leveled the floor in the Sanctuary so that concrete could be laid. This required shoveling out rocks, dirt and cow manure (from the cows that earlier made the sanctuary a home since the doors were not placed on it yet). Another team will come in and finish off where we left off.

### **The Political Climate In Honduras Intensifies**

After the construction team finished their work, Pastor Donny Allen informed me that the political climate in Honduras was heating up and that persons loyal to the President seized the bridge; thus we needed to leave from La Ceiba a day early and stay at a hotel closer to the Airport. He suggested that we stay in El Progreso so we can get over the bridge that leads to the airport before 6am because the people loyal to the President seized the bridge already and would probably release it for a while and seize it again at 6am. After discussing a couple of options with some team members, we agreed to leave Monday at 5:00pm so we could get to the Hotel in El Progreso before the curfew began at 9pm.

After eating I announced to the team what was happening and that we would need to do go back to the Hotel in La Ceiba to shower, change, pack our bags, eat and leave by 5pm.

We left as planned and Pastor Donny Allen escorted us with his pickup truck, which he placed our additional luggage in.

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### **Bus Experiences A Flat Tire**

Along the way, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way to our destination to the hotel in El Progreso, we caught a flat tire. Again we had some members of the team praying and praising God and other members of the team helping the bus driver to change the tire and looking out for cars coming down the road, alerting them with our flash lights to slow down so they would not hit those changing the tires.

The Lord allowed us to get back on the road and we arrived at a tire shack. The worker there was able to get us a repaired tire, and we were again back on the road except for one problem: we were now on the road after curfew trying to get to the hotel.

### **Military Stops Mission Team**

The military pulled us over enroute to the hotel and the driver let them know what happened and that we had reservations at the Hotel in El Progreso. We were allowed to pass. Praise God!

We announced to the team that everyone needed to be in the Lobby by 4:30am so that we could leave by 5:00am. Although we would be on the road before curfew was over at 6am, this was necessary so that we could get across the bridge before the opposition seized the bridge at 6am. As a result, once we were just outside the airport, the military pulled us over again. Once we explained the situation, they again let us pass. Praise God! We arrived at the airport and found it filled with police and the Honduran military.

### **American Airlines Is Delayed...Half of the Team Gets Home A Day Later**

After our teams checked in to Delta and American Airlines, the Delta Team left at 12pm and the American Airlines team was scheduled to leave at 2:30pm. The team traveling on Delta arrived to Baltimore at 9:30pm on Tuesday evening. However, the team traveling on American Airlines was delayed and did not leave until 6pm. As a result, they missed their connection and American Airlines put them up in a hotel and they arrived to the United States on Wednesday at 2:30pm! Praise God that the entire team has arrived home safely.

### **THE LORD WAS IN OUR MIDST**

The team truly believed that the Lord was in our midst guiding us and giving us great success during this mission trip. Our relationship with the Lord and one another has gone to another level as Christians. We praise God for guiding us and for truly giving everyone a great measure of His peace!

To God be the Glory!

### **Mission Trip to Honduras News on the Internet**

<http://nz.news.yahoo.com/a/-/world/5694768>

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/honduras/index.html>