

REFLECTIONS



"This trip has turned out to be such a great chapter in my life. Traveling with a group of people I barely know to a third world country could have been stressful, yet everything was planned out and fell into place exactly like it should.

The School of The Good Samaritan is a safe haven for children in Pre-K through Sixth grade. The school operates and serves the community as if angels are flying overhead with wings spread open. To walk through the doors and in and out of the classrooms is pure joyous harmony. Everyone is speaking in Spanish and moving to the rhythms of a regular school day. During recess everyone joins in and plays. Visitors young and old seem to read each other's mind and engage in the perfect free-time activity. The children are so much fun and have such great opportunities because of this school.

My menial task of translating Spanish to English for Sandy Tarrant, and the teachers, left me exhausted and at the same honored to have been able to "serve" – yet, I gained so much.

Sandy is such a gift and an amazing example of Christian intellect. Being a school teacher for 20 years was only the beginning of God's plan for her life. She thinks she is retired, well, she is still teaching God's children: young and old.

The beauty of Honduras can be seen in the mountains, the flowers, the ancient caves and the butterflies. It can also be seen in the love and smiles of the children and staff at a school nestled away in the depths of a poverty stricken village.

Being a part of a Missions Team is an honor I will not soon forget. It is such a joy to visit a place and be so warmly welcomed." ■Lori McGrath

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SCHOOL OF THE
GOOD SAMARITAN



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SUMMER 2005

“How lovely on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who announce peace and bring good news of happiness, who announce salvation and say ‘Your God reigns.’” Isaiah 52:7

So much was accomplished on our week long visit to Catacamas. Our main task was to replace window slats. We had an awesome group of people willing and eager to do what was needed. They worked so hard, we finished a whole day ahead of schedule. Nearly 2,000 window slats were replaced! Six classrooms and the pre-school office and kitchen now have much needed new glass windows. When you walk into a classroom you can notice the difference right away. The classrooms are much brighter and fresher.

In between window work and meetings with teachers and staff, we spent quality time with the children. It is so amazing to see that the language doesn't seem to be a barrier when playing and sharing your love with the children.

We also finished assembling the “good health bags” that will be given to the children during the Day of the Child celebration on September 11. The Director was happy to see that all the children will be receiving a gift from their sponsors. Thank you all who sent health packs for the children. This ministry is a success because of people like you! ■

LEMPIRA DAY

Each year on July 20, all Honduran school children celebrate *Dia de Lempira*. The Lencan Indian Lempira is remembered as a symbol of Honduran rebellion against foreign powers and oppression. Fifteen years after the Spanish



began to conquer Honduras, the Lencas rose up against them in western Honduras, led by Chief Lempira. To celebrate Lempira Day, school children dress in what they believe the Lencas wore, and some boys carry bows and arrows.



This was the first year The School of the Good Samaritan celebrated the

Lempira Day. The basketball court was decorated with palm trees, strings of bead necklaces and hats made out of corn peel. In the soccer field there were kiosks hosted by parents where you could buy typical food like tamales, tortillas with refried beans and cheese, rosquillas and more.

The children delighted us with poems, songs and a traditional folkloric dance. A live band played ranchera and other traditional music.



For the teachers, students, and parents this was a day to remember and honor Lempira. And we were excited to be there and share their celebration. ■



Windows—Before



Windows—After

Visit our website at www.gssministries.org and see more photos of the mission trip to the School of the Good Samaritan.

SPONSORS NEEDED!

We still have 84 students who need your support. If you or anyone you know is interested in sponsoring a child, go to our website at www.gssministries.org or call the Metro Church office (407.366.7714, ext. 100.) The cost to sponsor a child is still \$216 a year.

NEXT SUMMER TRIP: JULY 13-20

Contact Okely Cruz (407.366.7714, x 100) if you would like to join us for the next trip to the School of the Good Samaritan in Honduras!