

## 2017 Honduras Update

Proverbs 16:33 tells us that every decision is from the Lord. Funny how we think we are in control and making decisions. When Renae came to me at church and told me that the kids from VBS had raised \$360 for missions, I was thrilled and "decided" we would use it for the orphans in Honduras. I was sure the CCW children would not be excited to buy cement blocks so we purchased backpacks, school supplies, chapstick and some snacks. I was told Refuge Children's home had 34 kids but I decided to plan for 40 just in case. When we filled the backpacks, we discovered we had seven extra so I decided to give them to the pastor's wife and let her give them to the most needy. She called me into the church and there stood seven precious children. One little girl never stopped smiling. The oldest girl had a lady's purse that she was using to carry her books. Elaine and I gave them the backpacks and of course, they couldn't leave without a MoonPie. That evening after dinner, Todd began his devotion series on the attributes of God. He said, "I want to talk about the providence of God." I couldn't wait to tell them how I had witnessed the providence of God earlier that day. When I got to the part about the girl using a lady's purse, Cristian, our interpreter, said, "That purse is borrowed. She had nothing of her own to carry her books." Needless to say, we were all humbled, overwhelmed and praising God that He decided to bring a team from Alabama to give a girl a backpack.



"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house (Matthew 5:14-15). Working every day alongside Pastor Freddy and his sweet wife, Yadira, I kept thinking of these verses. Tabernacle Baptist Church is on a corner lot on a hill and the roads that surround it seem to be the short-cut for everyone. By the end of the week, many were stopping and saying, "Hola!" I was on pew patrol and I'll never forget the look on Yadira's face when she came in after we had assembled the first pew. She began to weep tears of joy. Moments later, she was back with more ladies to show them the new pews. With each block laid, each pew sanded and every batch of concrete mixed, we prayed that more would come and see Jesus and more than see but experience a true relationship with Him. Darron had the opportunity to witness to Martinez, one of our helpers. Martinez told Darron he knew Jesus was the only way, the truth and the life (John 14:6) but he was away from God and needed to get closer. Darron reminded him of I John 1:9 then invited him to attend church here with his wife and child.



When I see the precious children at Refuge orphanage, I can't imagine who could give them away. I'm so thankful for a Christian home that cares, teaches and loves them and that they have a Father to the fatherless (Psalm 68:5). We love partnering with them; sharing school supplies, clothes and MoonPies but most of all loving them. I decided Denia (age 2) would enjoy a treat from inside her backpack so I unzipped it for her. When she looked in, she let out a little squeal and brought out a pair of lavender flip-flops with sparkle on them. We spoke the same language because when she pointed to her socks and shoes, I understood immediately that she wanted those off and her new shoes on so her toes could breath. Check out the video on Facebook to see her twirl at the end.



What a glorious week God gave us; unifying our team, protecting us when the wall fell, softening our hearts to serve others and knitting our hearts together with the believers of Tabernacle Baptist Church. Thank you, Lord, for deciding to send us to San Nicolas, Honduras! Thank you, faithful prayer warriors, for your prayers on our behalf!



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