

SUMMER 2016

SHELTER THE HOMELESS INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS



Summer 2016

When SHIP began working in El Salvador in 2004, we felt very ill-equipped – we didn't speak Spanish! But God equipped us with His love, and we have shared it through our actions, our hugs, and our love – no translation necessary!

It's been a very good year, seeing the transformative power of His love, as people gave their hearts and lives to Him. We've been thrilled seeing children learn, finding that they CAN succeed, and knowing that their futures are brighter because, through SHIP's scholarship program, they have received a quality education. We've seen a family step into their new home that has walls and a solid roof to protect them in the fierce rainy season, because of the efforts of a mission team. And we have seen girls enjoy SHIP's first ever girls' retreat.

MI PASION, MI CAMINO, SU PLAN 2016

In English, My Passion, My Path, His Plan, 2016. These words, written in the sand on the beach, were the theme for the girls' retreat held in El Salvador. Fifteen girls from our neighborhood and the orphanage spent two glorious days discovering that Jesus thinks that they are extraordinary young women (and that following Him can be fun, too). For some of them, it was the first time away from their neighborhood. For many of them, it was their first time to spend the night away from home and in a hotel.

For all of them, it was their first time to hear Carmen Sifuentez Maxwell of SOS Ministries in Bryan, Texas, tell them just how extraordinary they are and how much God loves each one of them. And that is a message they needed to hear.

We have watched little girls from the orphanage and neighborhood grow up and become teenagers and young women. We have seen how difficult – almost impossible – it is for them to find their way in the world, at least in a good way. Many girls, because of a lack of training and preparation, soon find themselves alone and pregnant, without work, without a support system, and without hope. Options are limited, unless they have an education and unless they have a place to go to learn how to make good decisions, how to manage their time, and how to prepare for the next phase of their lives.

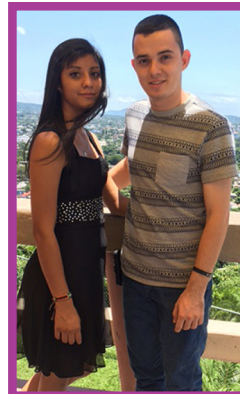
LOVE NEEDS NO TRANSLATION

So, what's next? As kids in the orphanage and neighborhood begin to grow into young adults, we see the need for a place

where they can safely start building their own lives. This is especially true for the young women. Because of safety concerns in the country, it is dangerous for young women to live alone. They need a place where they can be encouraged in their faith and life pursuits by other young women and mentored by a woman of faith and wisdom.

SHIP's next project is to build a transition home for young women. Our goal for this year's luncheon is to raise \$75,000, to construct the building, furnish it, and provide for the first year's needs (food, clothing, and other essentials).

We hope and pray that you will join us and help us reach this goal. There is no charge for the luncheon, but reservations are required. At the luncheon, you will have an opportunity to participate financially in ensuring that the home will be built.



Juan Carlos Coto and Isela Martinez from El Salvador, both SHIP scholarship recipients, will be joining us at the luncheon to share their inspiring stories of how SHIP has impacted their lives.

Love Needs No Translation

2016 Fundraising Luncheon

October 18, 2016

The Hilton, College Station, Texas

Reservations required

RSVP by October 8:

979.260.7447 or

shipinternational.org/fundraiser

New Brothers & Sisters

by Ryan Green

[Ryan served for eight weeks this summer as a SHIP intern.]

SHIP is a major life/hope-giving location in its Salvadoran neighborhood. While we are in El Salvador, we conduct Bible studies for the men on many of the evenings. Midway through one of the Bible stories one evening, we heard a huge crash. A limb from one of the mango trees fell on the roof of the main building and interrupted our Bible study. When we picked up with the study the next evening, a man and his two sons came who hadn't been there the night before. He didn't know much about God or the Bible, but he had been asking God to provide a group of men he and his sons could join. He wanted his sons to learn about God and for them to not be on the streets or get caught up in gangs. I believe God used the tree limb to interrupt our Bible study to allow this man and his sons to come to our group.

We made plans to meet him and his wife at their home to have a Bible study. He was there with his wife and kids, his brother and brother's wife and daughter, along with some of his in-laws. Leon Moore presented a wonderful Bible message out of 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 about how our level of wisdom and intelligence doesn't make us acceptable or unacceptable to God. He talked about how Jesus came to die in our place and be raised from the dead so he could forgive us of our sins. God sent Jesus Christ to make us wise, acceptable, and holy. That night, his brother and his wife accepted Jesus as Lord of their lives!

Days later, another man showed up at our facility when we weren't having a planned Bible study, but I used an already-prepared lesson since he was there. The lesson's message led to some discussion about why he had come that night. He and his wife were having some problems, and he didn't know how to make his marriage work. We talked about how the Bible has answers for us on how



Our new brothers and sisters in Christ!

Thanks, Interns! Y'all were awesome this summer.



Interns Courtney Peters, Ryan Green, & Taylor Garrison

to live with a perspective focused on God, and it all starts with accepting the gift of Jesus as payment for our sins. God was obviously working, but he wasn't ready to make a change at that time.

Later, we were able to visit with the man who came to the Bible study and his wife, and the couple also accepted Jesus as Lord of their lives. I had been worried that he might not have another opportunity to accept Jesus, but it all worked out...according to God's plan and timing. Praise God!

Blessed

by Meghan Carpio

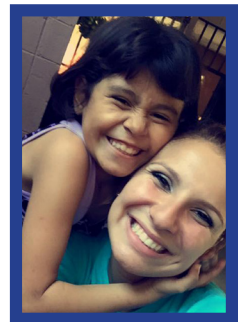
I spent two weeks serving in El Salvador this summer. The first job I helped with entailed delivering lumber and tin up a steep hill to the worksite. When we reached the site and I saw the home, I was in tears. During my time on this worksite, I had the chance to love the kids and family who lived there. Primarily using Google Translate, I spoke with



Meghan Carpio with neighborhood children

the mom. I played basketball with the little boys, while the little girls chased me and clung to my legs. Although I couldn't really talk to the kids because I know very little Spanish, love needs no translation.

During this time of the year, it rains almost every night in El Salvador. It's not just a light rain; it rains really hard to where I could barely sleep because it's so loud when it hits the tin roof of SHIP's facility. All I could think about was seeing the family's small house that had holes in the roof. What do they do when it rains? They have no electricity; they can't see anything once daylight ends. When it rains, they don't have a secure roof to sleep under. It broke my heart, and it made me thankful to God that we would begin building a secure home for them to live in.



I enjoyed spending time with all the kids from the orphanage, too. They made me realize that although they didn't have very much, they still enjoyed life and were grateful for what they had. They were always happy and smiling. Sometimes, we Americans forget that we have it made. Being around these children makes you remember how blessed you really are.

Two weeks in a different culture/country really makes you look at things/life differently. This trip was a life-changing experience. I grew to love El Salvador and its people. I can't wait until I can go back!



Insights from KOR Students

[Thirteen high school juniors, who had just completed their third year of leadership classes at KOR Education School in College Station, Texas, went to El Salvador in May. Below are excerpts from some of the essays written once they returned.]

In our freshman leadership class, we came up with five basic traits every good leader should possess: courage, humility, integrity, wisdom, and creativity. I used all five on this trip! It takes courage to strike up a conversation with someone who doesn't speak your native language, when you barely speak any of theirs. It takes humility to know that the reason you aren't being asked to do something isn't because you aren't able to do that thing, but rather, you're already doing more than your share, or that another person may just be a better fit for the task. I can hardly put into words how much integrity it takes to do the right thing when you've spent the last hour of your life trying to cut down a piece of sheetrock, and all you want to do is punch a hole in it and then chop it into thousands of tiny pieces because it STILL WON'T FIT. It takes wisdom to know that you should encourage the kids to pay attention to the VBS lesson when all they want to do is talk to you. And finally, it takes a LOT of creativity to figure out how to stuff 20+ people into a 15 passenger van. – *Bailey Vesperman*

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight." This verse has a renewed meaning to me because of my friend, Juan Carlos. This is one of his favorite verses. After hearing his story and seeing the environment he grew up in, I came to wonder how he was still alive, and even then, how he chose the right path. There are one million and one reasons why Juan Carlos could have chosen gang life, anger, or hate. But he chose God. – *Allie Brandon*

I was involved with an evening Bible study for older boys and men of the community. I saw the impact this experience had on both my life and the lives of others. I also saw a boy named David accept Christ into his heart and pursue a relationship with God. – *Chris Richter*

The hours I spent connecting with the Salvadoran people taught me that the



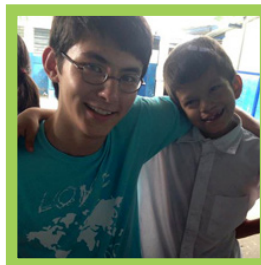
people of El Salvador and the people of the United States are really very much alike. Whether I was giving my testimony, trying to have a one-on-one conversation in my limited Spanish, or playing soccer at the orphanage, I was making real friends and changing people's lives in a very personal way. The experience changed my life, too. By the end of the week, I was inspired and wanted to never stop loving God and serving Him as tirelessly. – *Collin Slowey*

I expected to be the one serving and helping others while in El Salvador, but in reality I was blessed just as much in return. ...Hard work, crazy soccer games, and cleaning dishes all surround my thoughts of El Salvador, but mostly I think of the grinning faces of the children. I see their names and their smiles, and I never want to forget them. – *Dani Duncan*

During my time in El Salvador, I was blessed with the opportunity to assist in the building of a house for a very poor family. Never have I experienced such joy in doing such hard and tiring work. Perhaps it was because I knew I was making a difference in someone's life and because I was doing it in the name of Jesus. ...Truthfully, I did not fall in love with El Salvador. I fell in love with its people. – *David Coyle*

It took less than five minutes for me to fall in love with the kids at the orphanage. The neighborhood kids are also so full of life, love, and laughter. Three little girls in particular have a special place in my heart. It was these three special kids that reminded me of the joy of Christ so often. Even after a hard day at the worksite, when I felt like I had nothing left to give, these girls kept me laughing and helped me find that when I am weak, it is then that our Lord works best through us and makes us stronger than we were before. ...El Salvador not only stole my heart, it changed it. – *Kyra LeJeune*

Our team helped lead a Bible study for all of the girls, from both the neighborhood



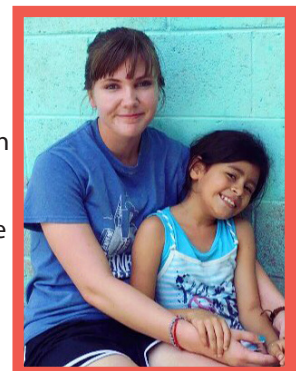
and the orphanage. With some pressing from the group, I got to bond with them on a deeper level than I expected. I saw sparkling eyes in dirty faces, and God's glory in the trash and torn clothes. God put in me a desire to help people, and a newfound knowledge that serving other people is much more rewarding than serving myself. – *Mara Lang*

I saw sparkling eyes in dirty faces, and God's glory in the trash and torn clothes.

I was moved by the children because despite their circumstances and poverty, they were joyful. They seemed so grateful and happy to talk with us. We connected with them through Bible studies, evangelistic outreach, and in our work at SHIP's facility. The children specifically grew attached to us, and we grew attached to them. The week we stayed was full of memories. – *Seth Maedo*

God taught me so many things on this trip. One of the things that He taught me comes from 2 Corinthians 12:9. Paul writes, "And he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" That week, I had a lot of weakness. Sometimes, I was discouraged, but then I remembered to trust in God to take care of my inabilities, and He demonstrated His power in a dramatic way. In my tiredness, He gave me energy and joy to be positive with the kids. In my impatience, He helped me to see everyone through His eyes. I have learned how to love and know people better. – *Rachel Meade*

Probably the most surprising thing on this trip was the way the orphanage kids showered unconditional love on each of us. They so easily invited people into their hearts and adopted them in so freely, when so many times they must have been rejected or left alone. It made me remember how in class we had talked about how our biggest weakness often ends up being our biggest strength. These kids sure were a testament of that. – *Lee Winkler*



Shelter the Homeless International Projects

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James 1:27 "Religion that God
our Father accepts as pure and
faultless is this: to look after
orphans and widows in their
distress and to keep oneself from
being polluted by the world."

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SHIP 2016 Fundraising Luncheon

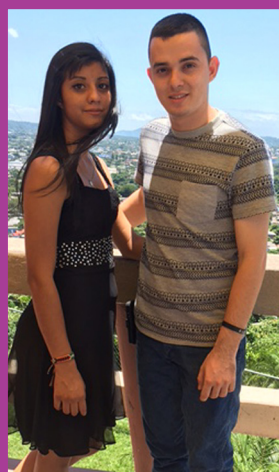
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SAVE THE DATE!

*Juan Carlos Coto and Isela
Martinez from El Salvador,
both SHIP scholarship
recipients, will be joining us
at the luncheon to share their
inspiring stories of how SHIP
has impacted their lives.*