



A SHIP Trip to Remember!

In late June, SHIP took the largest group of volunteers to date to work at the orphanage – 23 people from Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Florida! We had barely unloaded our carry-on bags and the 40 boxes of checked items when the men got busy constructing bunk beds so everyone would have a place to lay their weary bones after a long day of travel. And so the busy week began!

A variety of tasks were planned for the week. Some built cubbies to place in the children's bedrooms for their clothing and shelving for the orphanage kitchen and bathrooms. Others painted walls in the learning center area. Still others worked in the "bodega" (storage room), sorting and sizing a "mountain" of donated shoes and clothing so it could be more easily located



when needed. The teenage boys worked with Sam Brown



to clear brush and get areas ready for planting. A small bridge was built to replace a plank that was previously used to cross a large gap. One brave young man scaled an enormous tree to install a clothesline pulley for the Brown family's use.



In the afternoons, a group went into the neighborhood outside the orphanage gates to begin forming relationships with the children, with the ultimate goal of sharing Jesus with them. It involved lots of playing with the kids, along with providing some needed clothing and shoes from the newly organized bodega.



orphanage would be complete without spending some quality time with the kids. In addition to having Vacation Bible School in the evenings, we played soccer with the boys and the girls and taught the girls how to make cookies. In return, the girls attempted to teach us how to make pupusas (a traditional Salvadoran dish). One afternoon was a

time of pampering for the girls as our ladies gave each girl a pedicure, shared verses of Scripture with them about their value in Christ, and prayed over each girl. Our last full day at the orphanage was a play day with the kids, and we took them to a water park in San Salvador. It was a real treat for the kids since they rarely get to do anything like this. Even the boys with muscular dystrophy, who are usually confined to their wheelchairs, were able to get in the pool with the help of our volunteers – the smiles, especially on the faces of these particular boys, were priceless!



This mission trip was a first for many of the volunteers and a life-changing experience that none of us will forget.



Our next mission trip to El Salvador is scheduled for March 10-17, 2012. God always assembles a diverse team for our trips – and they're exactly the ones we need for the work to be accomplished. We'd love to have you join us if God is calling you to do so.

Needs at the Orphanage

Food. Rice and beans. Beans and rice. Rice and beans. Beans and rice. Rice and beans. Beans and rice. Pretty tiring, right? Imagine that was your diet. At least twice a day, every day, and the supply of that diet is quickly drying up. There's less food on your plate, though you sometimes see things like chicken feet and chicken necks being served up for dinner. That's all there is.

That's what our kids in El Salvador are facing now. Our biggest concern about their diet used to be the quality of their available food. Now, we worry about whether or not they have any food at all.

We know that times are tough economically. That's a big part of why our kids are experiencing a food shortage. Due to the economic downturn, the major food contributor to the orphanage is now unable to help.

That's where you come in. All we need is for people to give a little. (Though, as always, we won't stop you from giving a lot.) We appreciate your financial assistance while we look for a more permanent solution to their food shortage.

Water Well. Water at the orphanage is provided by a public/private group; however, you have no guarantee of having water when you need it. For example, when you're in the shower with shampoo in your hair, it's not uncommon to find out that there is no water to rinse it out! And sometimes, there is no water for days. The water we do receive is suitable for bathing and cleaning, but it cannot be used as drinking water. We need a well! The estimate for a new well with a pump, purification system, and a generator (for those days when we don't have electricity) is between \$18,000 – \$20,000.

Can you help with these needs?

They're Married!

We have some great news to report from this summer. After 40 years together, Ann and Robert Horton have finally made it official. They got married. Okay, that's not entirely true. They did get married this summer – but for the second time; it was already official.



The wedding was a lovely affair with all the orphanage children serving as attendants. Two ministers performed the service: Jhony Benítez, the orphanage director, and David Archer, a pastor in Edmond, Oklahoma, and a good friend of the Hortons who wasn't able to be in the original wedding due to military service.

The party that followed was a blast for the children, especially the chocolate fountain and delicious cake. But more importantly, the children experienced a wedding, something many of them have never seen. They saw a couple who have stayed together a long time and learned that love and marriage can last a lifetime – a reality for too few couples and a valuable life lesson for these children. It was a wonderful celebration of the Hortons' 40th anniversary.

An Impacting Trip

by Laura Fernandez*

What impacted me the most about our trip was a comment made by Elena de Benitez when she told the women on our team about how she and her husband began their orphanage ministry. She said that during the years when it was so difficult to pay the bills and afford adequate housing for their family and the children, she often questioned if they had made the right decision in taking in children. But then she said that when we are faced with a child in need, it is not necessary to ask God if it is His will for us to help them. The Bible makes it clear that God expects us to do something to meet that child's needs.

It is a very obvious statement to make, but I had never thought of it that way, and it hit me right between the eyes and

in the heart. Whether we should help needy children is not something we have to wonder about. God has already answered that question in His Word, and one specific place is the verse printed on our tee shirts for this trip, 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."

**Laura came from Kansas to volunteer for this summer's mission trip. Her ability to fluently speak Spanish and translate for us, in addition to her many other talents, was a valuable resource for our team.*

Updating Our Website

If you've tried to access our website lately, you might have noticed that things are changing and that the site is now under construction. We're still at the same address (www.shipinternational.org), so keep that site bookmarked. However, the look of the site and its contents are getting a major facelift. That is to say, in the near future our site should be looking fresh, updated, and easier for everyone to navigate. Please don't give up on visiting our site. It will be better than ever in short order!

Rapid Response Team

Would you like to work at the orphanage but can't devote a full week to a mission trip? If so, you might want to be on our Rapid Response Team. The people who are on this team will receive an email notice from SHIP when Continental Airlines has greatly reduced ticket rates for a long weekend trip, and you'll have a short window of opportunity to purchase a ticket before they're all gone. Typically, these fares are announced on Monday night or Tuesday morning, for trips departing early on the upcoming Saturday and returning Monday or Tuesday. If you are available to go on the trip, you'll need to have a SHIP Short-Term Mission Trip Application and Release Form on file with us and make your airline reservation quickly. We always have some do-able weekend projects to be accomplished, and you'll get to spend some unforgettable time with 30 precious children. If you want more information or you're interested in being added to our email notification list, please let us know!



Thank You...

...to Earnest and Anita McCollum with Word of Truth, Inc. (www.wotinc.org) in Madisonville, Texas, who are providing tools to make pastors in El Salvador more effective in studying the Bible and creating sermons. Facilitated by Faith Bible Church in Bryan for our work in El Salvador, the McCollums are supplying the Salvadoran pastors with resource packets – collections of books in Spanish that will aid in their ministry. Jhony Benitez, director of the orphanage and a pastor himself, has been working to plant new churches in parts of the country



where there is a need. Jhony and Sam Brown have delivered the packets to several churches and were met with great enthusiasm and thanks from the churches that

have received them. When Jhony and Sam delivered the first package to Pastor Freddy in the mountains, he said, "I have been praying for a year and a half for my own study materials, and now you have brought them!" We know that God answers prayers!

...to the children attending VBS at Parkway Baptist Church in College Station, who raised over \$1600 that was used to purchase a refrigerator, freezer, and dryer for the orphanage.

...to Granada Presbyterian Church in Coral Gables, Florida, who donated supplies and money to purchase a clothes washer for the orphanage.

...to all who faithfully support SHIP through your prayers and financial donations.

Your prayers and support are impacting the lives of the Salvadoran people, including our precious children at the orphanage, and making a difference for the Kingdom!



An Update on the Browns



Sam and Angela Brown, SHIP's on-site missionaries at the orphanage, are back in Texas for a short time. At this point, they

are seeking additional training for their work in El Salvador. They are enrolled in two Spanish language courses, and they're ready to dive deeper into the language, which will be beneficial to their work at the orphanage when they return later this year. Additionally, they're also researching and utilizing resources here in the States to accomplish their goals in El Salvador, including an effort to align with an additional mission organization that will assist with their training and strategy while they are living at the orphanage. If you would like to be a part of what God is doing in El Salvador by praying for them or becoming part of their financial support team, please contact them by phone at 979.412.7788 or by e-mail at: onthego910@gmail.com.

Planting the Gospel

Below are excerpts from a letter Sam and Angela Brown recently wrote about their time in El Salvador to this point and how God is at work in it.

The Lord is moving in a mighty way among the people of El Salvador. It was evident from the beginning that God had gone before us and prepared the way. He had key individuals ready, who would become a big part of a growing ministry in San Salvador. It was a breath of fresh air to be exactly where God wanted us to be. It was home from day one!

Because God had gone before us, many doors for ministry were opened while we were there. Much of our summer was spent building relationships with the orphanage director and his wife, and the orphans. Sam also teamed up with Dr. Flores, a brother in Christ that God provided, and began forming relationships and teaching English classes to young men in the local community.



The boys spent time learning English, responsibility, respect, and trust. Before Sam left, a large group of 20 boys had formed, and he was able to begin praying with them, handing out Bibles, and reading Scripture. It became obvious to us that one of the older orphans, Richard, is being prepared to enter into ministry. Richard was introduced as the leader of that group of boys and will continue to assist Dr. Flores with the classes, as well as build deeper relationships with the boys.

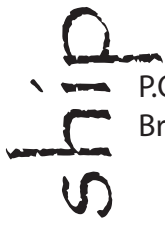
The acreage that the orphanage sits on was evaluated for fruit and vegetable production as well as reclaiming/recycling the rain water. Many very tall fruit trees were cut down to a usable height, and most non-fruit bearing trees were removed. It will take about two years for them to become producing trees again, but when they do produce, they will provide the kids with much-needed nutrition and a means to make money to support themselves. The plan is to bring in a local group that will train the orphanage children to prepare the fruit for selling and storing. This production effort can also be used by the orphanage as a possible community outreach program.

We worked with the kids and alongside the orphanage director this summer, as well as in his local church. Sam became a bus driver who picked up people in the community so they could attend church. I [Angela] was asked to share my testimony to the church using an interpreter. It was well received the first time, so I was able to share again with



another group of people. I have another church awaiting my return to hear my testimony. I had no idea that God would use me in this way. I was blessed, probably more than anyone!

None of these things would have been possible without people who were praying for us and supporting us financially. We are so thankful for each of you.



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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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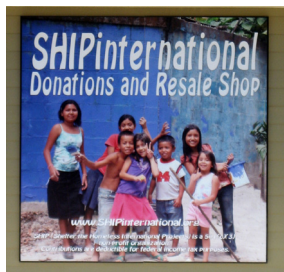
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Honoring the Life of SHIP's Friend and Vice President

SHIP celebrates the life and cherishes the memory of John Hamilton, who went to be with the Lord on July 11, 2011. He was a passionate supporter of SHIP's work to provide homes and hope for a brighter future to the homeless. We are grateful to him for sharing his life with us, and for giving us the gift of his humor, intelligence, compassion, and wisdom.

SHIP Shop

Please remember that we are always grateful to receive donations at the SHIP Shop. Located at 3905 Cavitt in Bryan, the SHIP Shop is a place to sell new and used clothing, furniture, appliances, and whatever else we're fortunate enough to be given. If you have a donation to make, feel free to give Sara Horton a call at 979.324.0281 to make arrangements. Usually, you can simply drop off your goods, but, in the case of large drop offs (like



that awesome two trailer loads of items from Parkway Baptist Church the other day), we'd like to be there to give you a hand and to let you know where we'll be storing the items.

Also, keep in mind that the SHIP Shop is a great place to shop. We get really good donations, so give us a shot if you're in the market for, well, just about anything. If we don't have it, the SHIP Shop is conveniently located near two other resale shops, benefiting Hospice Brazos Valley and Habitat for Humanity. Between the three of us, you could completely redecorate a house!

Do you "like" us?
Find us on Facebook (facebook.com/SHIPinternational) and "like" us! You can also check out our website: www.shipinternational.org.
Would you like to receive e-mail updates and prayer requests regarding the work in El Salvador? We'll never provide your address to anyone outside of SHIP. To be included, send your e-mail address to: ahorton7@msn.com.