



Join Us for the Upcoming Spring Break Mission Trip!

Our next mission trip to the orphanage in El Salvador will be **March 10-17**. There are always many projects to be accomplished on these trips, and we can take up to 20 people. Gardening and painting are almost always on the "to do" list, but below are some other things we have planned.

You'll read elsewhere in this newsletter about our food production efforts at the orphanage. One project will be training the older girls, who do the majority of the cooking, in how to cook these foods and preserve the excess for future use. It will provide them with nutritious food on a daily basis and

also provide food later when some crops are not producing.

A project we started last year was teaching English to the children who live outside the orphanage gates. Learning English is an important skill, because it opens up their world to new opportunities. But the most important reason we work with these children is to form relationships that will allow us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. We also plan to devote one day of the trip to an evangelism outreach in this neighborhood. We know that God is faithful to honor what we are doing here, and we will continue planting the seeds that will lead them to Christ.

Of course, we always love spending time with the precious children at the orphanage, and you will, too! Before you leave, one of these children will



have captured your heart, guaranteeing that you will never be the same.

We're always amazed at the people God pulls together for these mission trips – they're exactly the ones we need to accomplish specific tasks, and we're sure this trip will be no different! We ask that you prayerfully consider joining us. If you'd

like more detailed information, including the cost, please visit our website, www.shipinternational.org, and click on the "Get Involved" tab. The trip application form that can be downloaded is also located there.

SHIP will host an **informational meeting** about the Spring Break mission trip on **February 5 at 2 p.m.** for those planning to go and for those who want more information before making a decision. Contact SHIP regarding the meeting's location or if you have other questions. The completed application for this trip is due to SHIP by **February 6**, along with your deposit.

**Summer 2012
Mission Trip Dates
July 21-28
and
July 28 - August 4
Begin praying now about
being part of a mission trip
to El Salvador!**

Christmas at the Orphanage

In the U.S., children anxiously await the arrival of the Christmas season, most with dreams of the gifts they want to see under their tree, and many times some of those gifts are



there. But for other children, dreams are all they have. For at least a portion of their lives, this was the situation for the children at the orphanage. You can imagine the excitement in early December when Sam

Brown, Robert Horton, and Koda Clark arrived in El Salvador bearing gifts for the children from **Coldwell Banker United Realtors** in College Station, Texas. And this time, the men brought a Christmas tree and ornaments, too – a first for the kids!

This Christmas, staff members at **Coldwell Banker United Realtors** adopted at least one child and purchased gifts that were tailored specifically to the child they adopted – their likes,

clothes sizes, toys, etc. – and packaged the gifts in clear individual containers for delivery. The kids loved it!

Additionally, Andrew and Susan Green visited the orphanage shortly after Christmas and delivered gifts from **The Gathering Sunday School Class at Central Baptist Church** in Bryan, Texas. This class has provided Christmas gifts for a number of years, and the children have been so blessed by their gifts and support.



You can see from their smiling faces that the gifts were a hit! We want to thank **Coldwell Banker United Realtors** and **The Gathering Sunday School Class** for their generosity and for making this Christmas a special one for these children!



The P.E.T. Project

There are various ways you might get from one place to another if you couldn't walk – have someone carry you, crawl, use crutches or a wheelchair – or you could get a P.E.T.! And that's just what two boys at the orphanage received in December – their own P.E.T., or personal energy transportation vehicle.



The **Brazos Valley P.E.T. Project** (<http://petbrazosvalley.org/>) built and donated two P.E.T. vehicles for Tomás and Manuel, who have muscular dystrophy and have been wheelchair bound for a long time. According to its website, this worldwide organization “seeks to reflect the love of Jesus Christ by bringing mobility

and dignity to those in developing countries who are unable to walk” – and they certainly have done that with this donation! It is a faith-based, volunteer-powered, humanitarian organization, operating as tax-exempt 501(c)(3). They began producing these vehicles in Bryan in 2009.

These sturdy vehicles are hand-cranked and have proven to be successful in most conditions. They use wheelbarrow wheels and solid rubber tires so there are no flat tires. They also have a front wheel brake that can be used

for parking or slowing down when going downhill.

Manuel and Tomás were delighted when they received this gift and learned how it worked. The P.E.T. allows them not only to get from one place to another with their

own upper body strength, but it provides them with needed exercise and increases their flexibility and stabilization. As you can see in the pictures, there is a place behind the seat where they can carry things – and sometimes, those “things” are little kids who live at the orphanage! The boys are certainly enjoying this new mode of transportation.

Thank you to the **Brazos Valley P.E.T. Project**. You've given these boys a gift that is making such a difference in their day-to-day living, and we are grateful for your generosity.



70+ Inches of Rain Yearly?

With or without the current drought in areas of the U.S., it's hard for most of us to imagine that amount of rain in one year! But that's the annual rainfall in El Salvador, with most of it falling during their rainy season, which is from June to October.

The orphanage grounds contain lush fruit trees (avocados, bananas, mangos, and others) that produce an abundant amount of fruit each year. However, due to their height, the fruit has been too high to reach, and most of what fell was bruised or busted when it hit the ground. Last year, Sam Brown and the boys at the orphanage

But back to that 70+ inches of rainfall each year...it would come in handy if it was available during the drier times of the year and the excess didn't run off of the property! With that in mind, the **The Rotary Club of Aggieldand** donated funds to SHIP last year for the construction of two rainwater



started preparing the orphanage grounds for food production – cutting the existing fruit trees so they will produce fruit that can be harvested and utilized, creating beds for vegetable gardens, and ordering 1000 coffee trees that will be planted in May. All of these food sources will help to feed the children at the orphanage, provide food for the poor in the neighborhood outside the orphanage gates, and provide income for the orphanage when the excess is sold. Sam's expertise in horticulture is such a valuable asset at the orphanage!



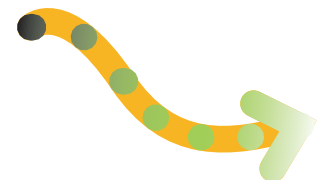
harvesting systems. Each system will hold 14,000 gallons of water, which will be collected through guttering and downspouts on the buildings' metal roofs. The project is underway, with men digging by hand the two large holes to contain the water – one at each of the buildings. Both systems should be complete and operational in time

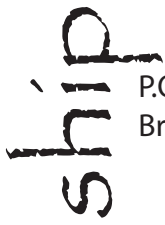
for the rainy season. Once they are filled with water, they will provide irrigation for the crops and clean water for both kitchens on the site. Additionally, the systems will provide some drinking water for the orphanage because of a filtration and UV light system that will be installed. We still need to drill a well to provide consistent, clean water for use in

the orphanage, but this rainwater harvesting system will help with some of the needs in the meantime.

We thank the **The Rotary Club of Aggieldand** for its generosity in donating funds to SHIP for the construction of these rainwater harvesting systems! We are looking forward to having a reliable source of water.

How you can help: Please help us complete the second rainwater harvesting system by contributing toward the \$1600 needed for its purification system (filtration and UV light).





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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.”*

The Browns



Sam and Angela Brown and their family will be returning to the orphanage in February. Please be praying for them as they follow God’s call on their lives. They are a vital part of SHIP’s ministry in El Salvador, and God is using them in mighty ways.

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, you may contact them by e-mail at: onthego910@gmail.com, or visit their page on the SHIP website: www.shipinternational.org/sam-angela-brown.

Do you “like” us?
Find us on Facebook (facebook.com/SHIPinternational) and “like” us by clicking on our “Like” button! It will allow you to easily see updates to our Facebook page.
Would you like to receive e-mail updates and prayer requests regarding the work in El Salvador? We will never provide your address to anyone outside of SHIP. To be included, send your e-mail address to: contact@shipinternational.org.