



Spring Break Trip

This spring break, 15 intrepid adventurers traveled to El Salvador to spend a week at the new orphanage. While there, we were able to paint the missionary housing facility and the learning center, cook some delicious meals for our kids, and participate in community outreach that culminated in a powerful night of preaching and praise at Jhonny Benitez's church.

While the week was amazing and one we'll never forget, it also almost didn't happen as planned. Our plan was to stay at the new orphanage. It was built; it was beautiful. It also had no water. And, much as our group came to love one another, I can assure you none of us had any interest in spending a week with a group that had been doing hard manual labor but had no access to showers. That would have gone

beyond the call of duty.

However, even without water, our group could have gone to El Salvador. The real tragedy was that no water at the new place meant that our kids were still living at the old orphanage building. So, an amazing new facility in the middle of a lush jungle filled with fruit-bearing trees sat unused because we had no water, and our kids still lived in a small, cramped orphanage just a 15 minute drive away.

But, with much prayer and petitioning (both to God and to local municipalities), we had water. The kids were able to move into their



new home, and, just three days later, we were there to join them.

Every trip we take is special, and every group is amazing and different. This trip was special because we were there, living *with* the kids. We played with them, worked with them, and (even with a language barrier) got to know each of them. We got to see them running and playing outside, and we got to see how proud they are of their new home.

If you ever feel the call to go to El Salvador, please let us know. We'd love to have you there, and so would our kids.



We're Leaving on a Jet Plane...

...to El Salvador, of course, for another mission trip to the orphanage! We'll board our flight on June 25 (19 of us as of today) and will be working and staying at the beautiful new orphanage, where the mangos and bananas are abundant. We'll enjoy our morning coffee on the patio, with its breathtaking view of the San Salvador volcano in the distance. You really should join us sometime – it's a trip you'll never forget – for many reasons!

Then we'll get busy and work shoulder to shoulder with our fellow SHIP Trippers. On this trip, we'll be planting gardens; building shelving for the kitchen and bathrooms; painting the new rooms; hanging out and cooking for 34 of the sweetest children that God ever put on His earth; continuing our neighborhood beautification project by painting and repairing houses; and conducting Bible school for children in the neighborhood. There's always a lot to do, but what a blessing it is to see things accomplished and lives changed. Please be praying for our team as we spend a week making a difference in the lives of these children.

Saul

Please pray for the orphanage family as they heal after losing Saul. Most of you didn't get to meet Saul, age 15. He had muscular dystrophy and had been in the hospital since November. In early April, he passed away. He was a sweet, gentle spirit, and we will all miss him. Please remember especially his two brothers, Manuel and Jesús, who live at the orphanage, and his sister, Emma. His body was brought to the orphanage for his memorial service. We are happy for Saul, who is no longer in pain and in a wheelchair. Praise God that Saul has a new forever home!

Ways You Can Help!

Learning Center

This summer we'll be working on getting our Learning Center in shape to the extent that we can. The kids attend school for half a day, so having a place where they can come and do homework or have more intensive study sessions will be a real benefit for them.

Right now, the Learning Center is a big room. It's an impressively big room, but it's an empty big room. We envision it having well-stocked bookshelves, study tables, and an area for our little ones to have story times. None of these things will come to pass overnight, but, little by little, we hope to see the Learning Center take shape.

If you have any learning materials in Spanish or know anyone who does, we'd be happy to receive them.

SHIP Shop

Located at 2905 Cavitt in Bryan, Texas, the SHIP Shop is now open for business. This resale shop (carrying everything from clothes to furniture) helps us raise funds for projects at home and abroad, and all profits from the shop go directly to our work.

If you have any items that are still in good condition but you don't need any longer, the SHIP Shop is the perfect place to take them. It's also the right place to go if you're looking for a great deal, so come on over to the SHIP Shop! Hours of operation are Monday to Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Monthly Contributions

Many of you contribute to SHIP on a monthly basis, and now it's easier to do that! We've enclosed an Authorization Agreement for Automatic Debits of Donations form with this newsletter that you can complete and return to SHIP so your donations will be deducted from your bank account each month. With this form, you may also choose to support Sam and Angela Brown, who are serving at the orphanage in El Salvador. (Be sure to read about their plans on page 3 of this newsletter!) We appreciate your continued financial and prayer support of SHIP's work in El Salvador.

Orphanage Dedication



What would you say if you got to a foreign country and were told that you had two days to paint the inside and outside of a large building? And you needed to get supplies as well. And only one member of your team had any professional painting experience.

Well, that is exactly the situation our spring break SHIP Trippers found themselves in, and they handled it like champions. You see, we needed to get the Learning Center building ready for the dedication ceremony – the same dedication ceremony that the El Salvador SHIP Board, the mayor and City Council of Ciudad Delgado, and who knows how many other very important people had been invited to. No pressure.



With the building readied – and with a podium fashioned out of a cardboard box, string, and a curtain – the dedication ceremony was underway. And, it was beautiful.

SHIP's El Salvador President, Astrid Zavaleta, spoke, as did orphanage directors Jhonny and Elena Benítez. Ann and Robert Horton spoke with a little help from our long-suffering but always energetic and upbeat friend Manuel Zavaleta. The littlest children (los pequeñitos) sang, and, of course, there was not a dry eye in the house, though there might have been a little

laughter as a mango hit the metal roof above us.



We would like to thank all of you for your prayers and support. You gave us that beautiful day of dedication, and you have given our children a beautiful place that they can call home, a place that they can be proud of.

God Showed Up

One of the highlights of our spring break trip was an evangelistic outreach. On Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, mission team members accompanied by church members went into the neighborhoods near the church and invited people to a service on Friday night, with dinner to follow. We had gone prepared, with Bibles and Jesus films to hand out after the service. Because this was our first evangelistic outreach there, we weren't sure what to expect. Jhonny told us to expect 160; we prepared for 240; 340 came. Central Baptist Church's (Bryan, Texas) mission minister preached and when the invitation was given, seven



people accepted Jesus as Savior. We had hoped to have enough Bibles and Jesus films for everyone, but we were short by quite a bit. So, in a move that we would never try in the states, Pastor Jhonny asked for a show of hands of those who didn't know Jesus as Savior. Those people – almost 80 – received Bibles and DVDs. And we had enough to go around. And those 240 hamburgers – God multiplied those, too. We cut the big burgers in half for the children and had enough of the full-size burgers for the adults. To God be the glory!

Meet the Browns!



Sam and Angela Brown and their family are moving to El Salvador! Recently, God called them to full time service for Him. In 2010, Sam and Angela visited Egypt. It was there that God truly opened their eyes and hearts for the nations. Sam knew about the work in El Salvador, so he and Angela began to pray for God's will for them there. Sam went on the SHIP spring break mission trip and knew God was confirming that El Salvador was to be their first field of service.

Sam has a degree in horticulture from Texas A & M University, which he will put to good

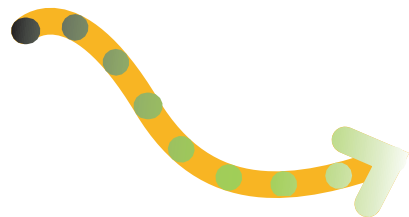


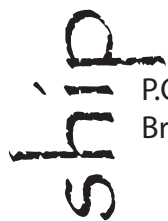
use training the children and those in the neighborhood to grow vegetables. The plan is to feed the big Jehova Jireh family and perhaps develop an operation that will help make the home more self-sufficient. Ultimately, planting the gospel will be Sam's focus.

Angela is a physical therapist. She will be able to help with the physical needs of the children, particularly those who have muscular dystrophy. Already she is planning how to win the neighborhood children to the Lord through Bible study, drama, and other activities.

Their children are son Morgun (14 years), daughter Madison (14 years), and son Garrett (10 years). They love Christ and the outdoors, and will doubtless find many adventures in El Salvador!

SHIP welcomes the Browns to our growing family in El Salvador. We believe they will be valuable assets and great partners in reaching the lost and working to make a better life for the children. Please keep them in your prayers.





P.O. Box 3003
Bryan, TX 77805-3003

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Shelter the Homeless International Projects

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3003, Bryan, TX 77805.3003

Phone: 979.260.7447

Fax: 979.260.8589

E-mail: ahorton7@msn.com

Website: www.shipinternational.org



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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Impacting Lives for Christ

SHIP is already having an impact in the new neighborhood. It's a very poor neighborhood, so a new home – one with more than 12,000 square feet – attracts a lot of attention.

On Monday of the spring break trip, a distinguished-looking gentleman came to our gate and visited with Robert Horton. "I have a vacant house down the street I want you to have," he said, handing Robert the keys. "But you don't know us," said Robert. "No, I don't,"

was Dr. Flores's reply, "but I know what you're about."

Dr. Flores has donated the use of his house, which SHIP will use to minister to children in the neighborhood. As Dr. Flores put it in a recent e-mail, "our children need to know about Jesus...it's an emergency!!!! These boys and girls are needing the light of Jesus."

We agree with Dr. Flores – it is an emergency! Please pray for the mission teams and for the Browns

as they minister to the children of the street in this home.

