



## Changing Lives

Kevin lives in our Salvadoran neighborhood. He is a 14-year-old boy who hasn't been to school since the first grade. Kevin hasn't always been the friendliest kid, but SHIP's staff and the mission teams started looking at him as a soul in need of a Savior. We started inviting him to come into SHIP's facility to hang out with the teams and work on construction sites with us, and he began receiving tutoring at SHIP's facility earlier this year. We showed him the love of Jesus, and his life started to change.



It's kids like Kevin that keep everyone coming back to El Salvador. This year has been exceptional and one of the busiest in SHIP's 10-year history.

So far, six mission teams, with more than 100 people, have served. Four summer trips kept things hopping.

SHIP trippers came from all over this summer: Oak Hills Church in Edmond, Oklahoma; Granada Presbyterian Church in Coral Gables, Florida; Life Church in Ft. Worth, Texas; and Planetshakers in Melbourne, Australia (yes, Australia!). And from our home base in the Bryan/College Station, Texas, area, the following churches were represented: Faith Bible Church; Central Baptist Church, Grace Bible Church, Rivergate Church, Antioch Community Church, Bethel Lutheran Church, Parkway Baptist Church, Christ United Methodist Church, Emmanuel Baptist Church, and A&M Church of Christ.



In the pages of this newsletter, you'll hear from our SHIP

trippers about their experiences. We hope you'll be inspired and encouraged. And we hope you may decide to one day go on a SHIP trip with us.

Oh, about Kevin...on the first trip in June, Robert Horton felt led to invite Kevin to do something else: ask Jesus into his heart. With the help of translator/SHIP tripper Trevor Zimmerman, Kevin said "Yes" to Jesus. Kevin's smile says it all!



## Unexpected Blessings

by Rachel Lenz & Nelson Ingram



We arrived at the Houston airport early one morning in June, unaware of what God had waiting for us in El Salvador. Unaware of the great friendships that were about to be formed, the lifelong memories to be made, and the amazing work that God was already doing in El Salvador and would do in our hearts. The Lord immediately began humbling and softening our hearts once our plane touched down.

SHIP certainly wasn't exaggerating when they said the need in El Salvador is great. Any reservations we had about coming vanished once we arrived at the orphanage and saw the excitement in the children's smiles. It was amazing to see what God had already been doing through SHIP's ministries. As we got to know the rest of the team, the stresses of everyday work and life seemed irrelevant. Pictures of a country like this could never begin to describe what we saw with our own eyes and the need for the Lord and His love. It's so easy to forget how blessed we truly are. It's clear that God's hand is guiding SHIP for His purposes and His glory. It was amazing to see how SHIP's staff listens to the Lord and lets everyone use their gifts. (We never expected to be drawing up plans for houses, which definitely used some math that we were told we would never need for the real world, or even painting murals for the orphanage, or playing the guitar for an amazing outreach night.)

As the week progressed, getting attached to the orphanage and neighborhood children and their families became inevitable. We began

to see them as God sees them – not as a people lacking financial stability and means, but as people longing for a Savior. Matthew 5:14 never seemed to ring so true, "You are the light of the world, a city on a hill cannot be hidden." SHIP is a light shining bright and expelling darkness in a lost world. We went with expectations of serving and blessing the people of El Salvador, but never did we guess how greatly we would be blessed. God's love and spirit was abounding inside the walls of SHIP's facility.

As the trip was nearing its end, it was obvious as to why so many SHIP trippers return to serve there year after year. The fellowship on this trip was truly a blessing. It was so uplifting to be surrounded by people who have such a strong faith in



the Lord. The best part of this trip was just being used by God. He is using SHIP to be his hands and feet in El Salvador. We were blessed immensely by our trip and, God willing, it won't be our last!

*Rachel played soccer for Texas A&M University and had fun playing with the kids. Nelson was a Yell Leader at A&M and taught the kids some yells, much to the chagrin of Oklahoma University and Oklahoma State University fans on the trip!*

*"The children and young people are always smiling, happy, and thankful for what they have. And what they have is people who have chosen to love them and care for them and have made them part of their family. We all need a family, and at SHIP the circle grows."*

*- James Bedner, SHIP Tripper from Oklahoma*

## SHIP Trips in 2015

We're just barely out of the summer mission trips, but already people are asking, "When's the next SHIP trip?" Those who have gone often return again and again. But if you haven't been on a SHIP trip and want to know more about it, we'll have an **informational meeting on Sunday, October 5, 2:30 p.m.**, Room B200, at Central Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas.

Cost of a trip is \$675, plus airfare. The fee covers your transportation, lodging, food, and travel insurance; it also offsets the cost of projects we work on in El Salvador. We even throw in a t-shirt!

- The Winter 2015 trip will be January 3-10. Projects are to be determined, but you definitely will NOT be bored. **Minimum SHIP trippers required for the trip: 10.** Application and deposit of \$250 due Sunday, November 2, 2014. Final payment due Wednesday, December 3, 2014. (Your deposit will be refunded if the trip does not make.)
- The Spring Break 2015 trip will be March 14-21. It fills up fast, so make your plans NOW! Application and deposit of \$250 due Sunday, January 11, 2015. Final payment due Sunday, February 15, 2015.
- Summer trip dates are still being determined but will be on our website by early October.



Application packet:  
[shipinternational.org/  
applications-forms/](http://shipinternational.org/applications-forms/)

## Coming Home

by Shonnie Moore

I'm no stranger to ministry work and mission trips. I was raised to serve the Lord by serving others and went on several mission trips as I grew up. I also worked in several children's ministries as an adult. It's always been a great passion in my heart, especially for the Latin American people. In 2005, while working in a local children's home, I was in a car accident and suffered a catastrophic injury that caused me to be paralyzed from my chest down. My life completely changed in that moment.

I'm forever grateful for my most amazing parents, Leon and Noralee Moore. They sacrificed everything to care for me the year I was in the hospital and then moved in with me to continue tending to my overwhelming needs. After living with me for six years, they moved back home when they began traveling to do short-term mission work in El Salvador with SHIP. I saw them fall in love with the people, culture, and ministry of SHIP and enjoyed hearing their stories of our new "family members" who adopted them as their mom and dad/grandma and grandpa. This summer, I went on my first mission trip since my accident, and I instantly saw why my parents loved it so much: it felt like coming home.

I enjoyed getting to know my new family members, and it was easy to fall in love with them. They're friendly, kind, and loving people. My heart especially went out to the three boys at the orphanage who are in wheelchairs. I cried as I watched one of the young boys struggle as he reached to pick up something from the table. I can't fathom what it must be like to be so young and to live inside of a body that is slowly deteriorating. It's so



much worse than the hardship I live with. However, it was such a blessing to see the love of the other children at the orphanage as they took care of these three boys.

While in El Salvador, I had the privilege of sharing my testimony of God's faithfulness and goodness in my life in the midst of the hardship and difficulties that I face. As a result, two of the young men who assist my parents in El

Salvador shared with us their own stories of God's work in their lives. It was an honor to have them open up and share this part of their lives with us. The week in El Salvador ended far too quickly. I came home and told my friends, "I would move there tomorrow!"

I absolutely loved it! It's my hope and desire to return there for a longer period of time – and soon!



Below are a few quotes from 11th grade students at the KOR school in Bryan/College Station, Texas, who went to El Salvador in May:

*"I have traveled to this lovely little country twice and both times fell in love with the environment, the people, and the change these trips initiated in my life.... I thought I was a hero going to rescue sinners from a life without Jesus and ultimately from hell. Thankfully, God softened my heart and, although I helped accomplish amazing things, my pride was transformed into gratitude. I was grateful that God had used me as His tool to achieve great things. I was grateful for the lesson I learned – life is not about money or achievements; it is about serving others."*

- Rylan Fowler

*"To be honest, the poverty made me uncomfortable. I felt guilty because I had so much and was so ungrateful, while they had so little and were grateful for everything."*

- Molly Barnby

*"A people I expected to be despondent in their poverty could not have proved me more wrong...I had expected them to be as emotionally poor as they were physically; they were the exact opposite. As Americans, we equate happiness with "stuff," but my new friends were not dependent on material possessions. Joy and unselfish love poured out from their smiles."*

- Katie Coyle

## Obeying God's Call

by Kevin & Taylor Deal



We served on our first SHIP trip this summer, and we had no idea of what we were getting ourselves into! All we knew was that God was telling us to go. So, that's what we did, and boy did God have some amazing things in store for us!

Kevin worked on the construction sites, while I, Taylor, helped with Vacation Bible School and the teen girls Bible study. What we both loved most was getting to know the wonderful families and children who fill the SHIP building every day. The children who live in the orphanage and neighborhood are truly beautiful. You can tell that they just want to be loved and known, and that is what we had the privilege of doing: loving and serving these people.

For myself, I was overwhelmed with humility. It's so hard to describe the condition of the surrounding neighborhood; it's one of those things that you have to see with your own eyes to truly understand. But what amazed me is how joyful the children are despite what they have and where they live! It's pure joy, and those smiles and giggles leave a lasting impression on your heart.

Kevin had the opportunity to have conversations with the older guys from the neighborhood and orphanage. His intentions were to speak truth and encouragement to them, but what he didn't realize is how encouraged and moved he would be by them!

This experience was so incredibly strengthening and refining. We saw how God is moving in this community, and we are honored to have been a small part of that work!

## Take a Break & Hug a Kid!

by Trevor & Sara Zimmerman

My wife, Sara, and I went on our first trip with SHIP in June. We've both been on mission trips to other countries, and while each mission trip and country is unique, we have some observations about this trip.

We first observed that there were a variety of ways to serve. Any trip participant could be involved in construction, painting, Vacation Bible School (crafts, devotion, song, etc.), building relationships with neighborhood families, or participating in a community worship service. The team leaders made it a point to find out the team members' talents, which gave everyone an opportunity to use their God-given gifts to bless others. I was specifically blessed by the opportunity to help tutor math. I'm a math teacher, but I rarely get the opportunity to combine my ability to speak Spanish with teaching math, allowing me to build relationships with the kids. Sara used her photography skills to set up a photo booth for a birthday party and her love of calligraphy by painting a verse on a wall as part of a mural project.



We also observed that the focus of the trip was very relational. It was important to form relationships with other team members as well as with the local families. Importance was placed on forming these relationships as ways to encourage others and to spread the Gospel. It was said more than one time during the trip that, "There will always be work to be done. Don't be afraid to take a break to hug a child." This mindset made it clear that construction or painting was not the focus of the trip. Those activities were merely ways to open doors to relationships and to show the love of Christ through service; the

main focus was to form relationships that were God-centered and would provide eternal benefits of growing in the Lord and mutual encouragement.

As with most mission trips, we met many Godly people and felt like we had been blessed more by those around us than we had done for them. God truly moved in our lives as we saw that He was moving on that bumpy dirt road in El Salvador. We encourage those with a heart to follow the Lord to pray for this ministry and to consider participating in future mission trips.



## Serving as a Way of Life

by Cesar Calderon

It was exciting to come back to SHIP's facility again this year with my family. We were here two years ago, and it's amazing to see all that's been accomplished during our absence. The work SHIP is doing captured my heart, soul, and mind on our first trip, and we were so glad to return.



I was born in El Salvador but migrated to Australia in 1992. Our first experience with SHIP was my wife's idea, and I just came along. I quickly came to love what SHIP is doing. It's a fulfilling experience to serve the Kingdom.

We're so blessed as a family, and we want to be a blessing to others by serving them – something I hope my children will continue to do throughout their lives. God is using SHIP's efforts so others will come to know Him as their Savior, and I love being a part of that!

## Faith Moves Mountains

by Maria Martinez, SHIP Vice President

When I was first asked to write about my trips to El Salvador this summer, my first thought was, what am I going to write about? Then I realized that



I was on a balcony surrounded by a mountain full of lush, green, tall, beautiful trees of all kinds: avocado, banana, and mango. It was the same balcony where I stood only a few weeks earlier and told a mission team of how I was amazed at the changes since my last trip in 2010. To my surprise, I did have something to write about after all.

In 2010, the mountain where SHIP's facility now stands was just that, a mountain full of trees and only a dream of what it could be. Four years

later, I see that the dream has come true, and the mountain has not only been moved, but it continues to be moved. It's moved by faith. I see a change in the faces of the orphanage children – how they happily interact with those who visit them, no longer with the fear of being hurt. I see a difference in their level of trust, ability to receive love, and their acceptance of ordinary people who come to SHIP's facility dressed in ordinary clothes and who have traveled to El Salvador from faraway places they've only heard about – people who have come to serve the Savior's purpose on this mountain.

The way the children have been touched is amazing, so amazing that only God could have made it happen. The neighborhood has been changed as well. Our neighbors accept us as family and have connected in a manner that is only bound together by faith. The work of this ministry is proof that we can all make a difference. No matter how

small the task seems, how involved it is, or how much time it takes to accomplish, God uses His people to achieve amazing things. I see what He has done on this mountain, and it gives me great joy to be a part of this organization.

There's only one explanation for the incredible changes I see, and it's our faith in Jesus, which binds us together. It's the same faith that will continue moving this mountain as we serve and make a difference in the lives of those who don't know our Savior. Our Salvadoran friends and neighbors see Him as we share our lives with them and as we show the love of Jesus to those whose physical needs are great but whose spiritual needs are even greater. I thank SHIP for the opportunity to serve alongside them, and I'm thankful that its mission is strong and doesn't waver even when God's plan calls for more faith than we know we can muster when we're faced with great challenges.

## It's All about Those God Places in Our Path

We recently heard Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse, quote the organization's founder, Bob Pierce, who said:

*"You cannot help everybody, but God will bring across your path those that you can help. And God will hold you responsible for those He brings across your path."*

That quote exemplifies what we at SHIP believe and fires the passion in our souls to reach the precious people on the mountain in El Salvador where God has called us to serve for the past 10 years.

As we've listened closely for God's direction in the work to be done over the years – even when it hasn't made complete sense to us and when the funding wasn't there to accomplish what we believed He was telling us to do – He has shown Himself to be faithful time and time again.

We've seen amazing changes in the lives of our Salvadoran friends.

Hearts have been softened to hear the Gospel message. Where once there was darkness and little hope of anything better in their lives, we see people who are coming to know the Lord and have hope for the future!

As a result, we're bursting at the seams, and we strongly sense His direction to accomplish more by constructing another building – a new 4,000-square-foot building and reconfigure parts of the existing education building. It is needed for:

- Dedicated classrooms to use for after-school tutoring for the 20 neighborhood children SHIP sends to a challenging private Christian school.
- Larger retail and storage areas for SHIP's women's work center, which currently provides jobs for more than 115 women in the neighborhood.
- More living space for long-term workers and mission teams.

The original orphanage and education buildings looked huge when first built. But the ministry continues to expand, and we are out of room. We've maximized the current space, and we must have more room to reach those He brings across our path. Once again, we're not completely sure of all God has in mind in this new phase of our work, but we trust Him, because He is faithful.

Please join us in praising God for this incredible growth and in praying for our fundraising goal of \$200,000. With God's help and yours, we will reach the goal. We can't wait to see His plan as we're obedient to His calling!



## 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: [contact@shipinternational.org](mailto:contact@shipinternational.org)

Website: [www.shipinternational.org](http://www.shipinternational.org)



[facebook.com/SHIPinternational](https://www.facebook.com/SHIPinternational)



[@SHIPintl](https://twitter.com/SHIPintl)

ship

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

## Board of Directors

Robert Horton, President

Maria Martinez, Vice President

Marjorie Morris, Treasurer

Jack Adams

John Lawrence

Ann Horton, International Services

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BRYAN, TX  
PERMIT NO 77

**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."*

## God Is Moving

by Dennise Treviño

I've always wanted to go on a mission trip. My friend came back from a trip to El Salvador with SHIP in 2011 and convinced me to go with her the next year. I was hooked, and I made my third trip to El Salvador this summer. I've been blessed to share the love of Jesus and my giftedness with the people there. During these three trips, I've witnessed many changes in what is going on at SHIP's facility and in the neighborhood. It's exciting to see what God is doing there!

With each trip, I see many physical changes to the facility and neighborhood, but the biggest change I see is in how God is moving. His favor is on the land, people, and projects. The people may come to SHIP for free food, clothes, and work, but they continue returning for the love and hope that we can only find in Jesus.

I've worked as a translator on these trips, and I've been blessed to get to know so many of these people and to share God's Word. What has touched me the most is watching them come into His Kingdom.

