

ship

SPRING 2022



Finding answers in our unexpected work

Smiles like the one in this picture aren't the only reason SHIP International does the work we do, but they're definitely a big part of it.

When SHIP started in 2004, we had some questions:

- What can we do for these children who have just captured our hearts?
- What if these children we've just met had someone to invest in them, financially and spiritually? What would their lives be like?
- How can we take this on?
- How can we not?

One of the reasons we started SHIP was to answer those questions. We already knew the answer to the last question: We couldn't imagine not helping people when we had seen the need.

What we didn't know is how many more questions we would have: questions about access to clean water, education, building in a country we didn't know and often didn't understand.

What we learned is that God already had the answers to our questions, and His answer often came in the form of people. He put people in our path who knew answers.

He even brought us a Salvadoran Aggie engineer who drilled our water well. These unexpected answers, in the form of people, also have been the answers to our prayers.

Nothing about our work in El Salvador has been expected, but walking into a world of unknowns has shown us the goodness of God in ways we never had seen before.

We see that He is the answer to our questions and that He uses His hands and feet on earth—His people—to help shoulder burdens and to share joys while we work.



Want to help?

You can be a part of SHIP's work by sponsoring a child.

For more information about our sponsorSHIP program, visit shipinternational.org.



SPRING BREAK



What a blessing to be a part of God's work in El Salvador

When our Spring Break trip was over and we had a chance to catch our breath, we just had to say:

"Wow, that just happened! And it was so good."

Spring break was our biggest trip since before the pandemic—38 trippers. It was good to have so much help and to see so many people connecting with our Salvadoran neighbors.

It's a little unreal to think of how much was accomplished during that time, but we'd like to share some of what happened this Spring Break.

- The Gospel was shared. Dozens of children attended children's church and VBS; the teens' and women's Bible studies saw big numbers of attendees, a lot of learning and engagement, and so many people asking for prayer. People came to know Christ, and people who weren't yet ready started to ask questions about knowing Christ.

- Our evangelistic outreach service truly reached out. We had 359 guests; 98 of those were children who attended our children's church. In addition, we had numerous Salvadoran staff and volunteers who weren't counted. Including our mission team, we had more than 400 people—the largest turnout we've had at an outreach. All the things we worried about were taken care of: We had more than enough food for everyone, and people showed up (both to attend and to help). It was a LOT of work, but it got done and done well, and it gave us the confidence that God can bring us through many more large events.
- So much work was accomplished. Our team worked hard to make our classroom building (which is an active construction zone) into a place to host services and Bible studies. They moved lumber, painted walls, and hooked up electricity to give us light. They made our building a beautiful place to gather with our neighbors and praise God. Then they spent the rest of the week working even harder.

SUMMER TRIPS

We can't wait to see you in El Salvador!

If you're looking to make difference this summer, our SHIP Trip dates are open and ready for you to sign up. Spend a week getting out of your comfort zone and being the hands and feet of Jesus in El Salvador.

Basic Info: The SHIP Trip cost is \$750 + airfare. That includes all transportation in El Salvador, food, lodging, and an excursion. Find out more information at shipinternational.org. Available trip dates are listed below:

June 18-24 | July 9-15 | July 16-22





PRAYING FOR SHIP

Three prayers for SHIP

When people think about helping SHIP, financial gifts and donations usually come to mind first. We accept those! But, what we always need is prayer.

The words of 1 John 5:14 tell us: "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." And we believe these words.

Sometimes we don't know what to pray for or about, so we feel lost in our prayers. If you want to pray for SHIP but aren't sure how, below you'll find three areas we need prayer.

Our years of work have shown us that we truly can be confident in our prayers because God can do mighty things when we come together and pray.



LOCAL LEADERS

that SHIP leaders in El Salvador will continue to grow in their faith; that they will have people to disciple them and to help carry their burdens; that their families will have the support they need; and that SHIP will be able to provide the help they need



PEACE

that there will be peace and an end to the surge in gang violence in El Salvador; that El Salvador will know the lasting peace that comes from Christ; that, even in the midst of the violence, people will have peace



REVIVAL

that those who know Christ will grow in deeper relationship with Him; that those who don't know Him will come to know Him; that those who know Christ will share His love and truth with others; that God will bring revival to El Salvador



ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Mark your calendar for October 11, 2022!

Our theme for this year's luncheon comes from Isaiah 43:19,

*Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.*

We can't wait to see you there and tell you all the wonderful new things God is doing in El Salvador.

October 11, noon, College Station Hilton, 801 University Drive East, College Station, Texas

Where two or more are gathered...

In early December, our young women's and young men's Bible studies, along with some volunteer leaders from the US, took a retreat. This marked the second retreat for both groups, and, though the pandemic kept us from hosting the retreats for a while, we're grateful to continue this new tradition.

Over the past two years we had some initial fears that the Bible study attendance might wane, But, both Bible studies have been expanding, with new members joining and with deeper engagement by the members. They truly are coming together to glorify God and to help each other along in the faith.

Both groups are living through some difficult times, because of their ages and because of where they're living. They face the difficulties all teenagers and young adults face: understanding faith, dealing with social pressures, and moving from being children to being adults.

They also live in an area where gangs are prevalent, and that affects the guys and the girls. The guys can't move safely from one neighborhood to the next (even to attend a church service) if it means crossing gang territory lines. The girls might have less fear of gang recruitment, but the gangs are known to prey on girls.

This was a real retreat from all of these troubles. The girls gathered around a bonfire and talked, shared joys and heartaches, struggles and victories. The guys encouraged one another in the Christian walk, discussed areas where they needed God's help, and helped each other to see God's plans for their lives. Please pray for these groups as they grow in their faith and love of God, and pray for our 2022 retreats and what they might bring.



A time to sew

Our El Salvador ladies' sewing group has been hard at work. Under the direction of Janise Crumpler, more ladies are learning to sew and finding that this skill can help them provide for their families.

Currently, their bags are sold in stores around Texas under the brand name Liberty + Luz. However, two of our Spring Break trippers, Laura Fernandez and Laura Burris, asked if they might take some bags to upcoming events (like Bible studies and social clubs) to tell their friends about SHIP and to sell bags. We said yes!

What a great "yes" that turned out to be. The bags are selling fast, and more people are learning about SHIP's work. Because it's worked so well, we've decided to put out a call to see if anyone else would like to join in. We keep a stock of bags at SHIP's local office. If you're interested in selling bags to help SHIP and our sewing ladies, give us a call at 979.260.7447 or email us at contact@shipinternational.org.

When you purchase a Liberty + Luz product, you're getting a beautiful, well-made bag, but you're also providing hope.

