

ships

CHRISTMAS 2023



Standing on the Promises

*Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,
Through eternal ages, let His praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.*

The old hymn, “Standing on the Promises,” isn’t a Christmas song, but it fits this season. Christmas is the fulfillment of so many promises—the promise of a baby born to save the world, born so that we might have not just life, but life “more abundantly,” life eternally. At Christmas, we celebrate the fulfillment of those promises, singing “Glory in the highest.”

This year at SHIP we stood on the promises. We chose the words of Deuteronomy 31:8 to be our focus:

“The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

Being discouraged and fearful comes easily, especially when we’ve been called to do things completely out of our comfort zone. Going to a country we’ve never been to? Learning how to construct houses and buildings on mountainous terrain? Starting a school in El Salvador? These weren’t things we ever thought we’d be doing.

These weren’t things we were prepared for.

But the Lord himself went before us, and He has never left us nor forsaken us or the work to which He’s called us. Those are His promises, and we stand on them firmly because we can believe the promises of the God who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

When we look at our sweet students, how can we feel afraid? We see their boldness and courage; we see the promises that God has made to us and know that those promises are for our little students, too. We know that His promises are for the mothers and young people in our Bible studies, for the families for whom we help provide safe housing, for a small mountainside in El Salvador from which we want to hear “His praises ring.”

You are part of that promise. When God called us to this work, He graciously went before us and prepared the way. We’ve seen His provision in your gifts to this work. Thank you for being a part of His promise.

As we enter this Christmas season and as you make your end-of-year giving decisions, we ask you to give to SHIP and help continue God’s work in El Salvador.

WHAT SHIP IS DOING

50

attendance at our first evangelistic services

250+

average attendance at our most recent evangelistic services

5

weekly Bible studies & prayer groups

100%

of scholarship students having access to Bible teaching

34

conversions / rededications in 2023

63

mission trips & work trips since 2012



A place to call "home"



The little guy above, Daniel, was a Kinder-4 student when our school opened in 2019, and he always had the biggest smile on his face. That hasn't changed one bit.

Daniel lives with his parents, older sister, and little brother. Not too long ago, they came to us to ask about renting one of SHIP's duplexes. For several years, we've been building safe, affordable homes with electricity, water, and indoor plumbing for our Salvadoran neighbors. We want the houses themselves to be safe, and we want to ensure that the community we're creating is a safe, loving place for families to grow. We knew Daniel's family would be the perfect fit.

Watching his family become part of the community has been a beautiful thing. They play soccer together. Daniel's mom comes to Bible study. His dad, mom, and big sister all pitched in to help when our shipping container arrived this summer, while Daniel made sure little brother was entertained.

But, the best part of this family becoming a part of our little Salvadoran community is that, this summer, Daniel's mom, dad, and big sister all became part of a bigger community—the family of God. We're grateful for the small part we've had in pointing families like Daniel's to the One who gave us this work.

Join us!

four ways to support SHIP International

PRAY FOR SHIP

01

Sign up to receive our weekly prayer emails, stay up to date on SHIP's praises and prayer needs.

SPONSOR A CHILD

02

Give the gift of hope and education, foster a relationship with a child in El Salvador.

MAKE A ONE-TIME DONATION

03

Designate an area to fund, or ask that funds be used as needed. Help SHIP's evangelistic, education, building work.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

04

Commit to giving to SHIP throughout the year and provide funding to support SHIP's work.



Plans to give you hope and a future

When our 2023 luncheon wrapped up and we'd added up all the donations, we were blown away to see that over \$200,000 had been given.

Another number stood out even more though: two.

That number doesn't seem very impressive, but, for us, **two** was a big deal. That number meant that, of our 157 current sponsorSHIP students, only two students were completely unsponsored.

We hope to find sponsors for those two students and for the 15 students who'll be starting school with us in January 2024, but we're just overjoyed that so many of our students are sponsored.

We started our sponsorSHIP program with the words of Jeremiah 29:11 in mind:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." We wanted our students to know that God cared for them and would provide for them.

Being a sponsor means so much more than giving money. It means that a little girl or boy who may not have any close family actively being the hands and feet of Jesus in his or her life now has someone showing the love of Christ.

Your sponsor child will never know how much you give, but she will know that someone cares, that someone is praying, that someone believes she can accomplish big things.

If you want to sponsor a child, contact us at 979.260.7447 or sign up online at shipinternational.org/sponsor.

See you in El Salvador!

We love nothing more than introducing people to El Salvador, and we'd love to have you join us there.

On each trip we spend a week getting out of our comfort zones and being the hands and feet of Jesus in El Salvador. If that sounds like something you're interested in doing, we want to talk to you about going.

Basic Info: The SHIP Trip cost is \$850 + airfare. That includes all transportation in El Salvador, food, lodging, and an excursion. Find more information at shipinternational.org.

2024 SHIP Trip Dates

March 9-15 | June 1-7 | June 8-14 | July 13-19 | July 20-26

157

students in our scholarship program

7

university or professional school grads

86

students in SHIP's school

15

students joining SHIP's school in January 2024

90%

of students at least partially sponsored

1

new grade added to SHIP's school each year

WHAT SHIP IS DOING



Soaring on wings like eagles

A few years ago, a new girl started coming to our young ladies Bible study. Her name was Fátima, and she was quiet and shy and very withdrawn. Fortunately, she didn't let her shyness stop her from attending the Bible study.

She kept coming back; she got into the Word; she made friends. And, then we started to see her change. Instead of being withdrawn, she was outgoing. The sad expression was replaced with a beaming smile. Fátima was becoming a "new creation," and we were blessed to see the beautiful changes God was making in her life.

Then we learned something about Fátima. She is absolutely brilliant and so very capable of doing what she sets her mind to. We started to get a hint of this when she graduated third in her high school class and then went to university to study aerospace engineering.

But, when Fátima started attending her university classes, she learned something about herself: She's not the kind of person who wants to sit and work. She wants to go, go, go. Realizing that, Fátima decided that her real passion and calling in life was to be an aircraft mechanic.

If you ever visit us in El Salvador, be prepared to meet this amazing young woman. She will tell you everything about airplanes, and her bubbly personality will leave you feeling better just for having met her.

2022 FINANCIALS

At SHIP, we take financial responsibility seriously. We are grateful for the gifts you give, and we strive to use those gifts in a way that helps further SHIP's ministry and gives glory to God.

For that reason, we aim to put the bulk of our contributions back into helping people.

REVENUE

Contributions	476,373
SHIP Shop Resale	150,740
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	\$627,113

\$0 DEBT

\$1,275,288

net assets as of 12.31.22

EXPENSES

Program Services	505,187
(community outreach, education, construction, evangelism)	
Administration	54,952
Fundraising	32,525
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	\$592,664