

Salt & Light Ministry Foundation

An International Partnership of Faith

www.saltandlighthonduras.org

Summer 2014



A Word From Our New Director...

I am blessed and honored to be the third Director of the integrated ministries of Sal y Luz (Salt & Light) in Honduras. Ministerio Sal y Luz continues to demonstrate its devotion to help and bless the poor in Honduras; with Love, Faith, Conviction, Perseverance and Professionalism.

We are at the beginning of a new chapter in our work together. It is a beginning filled with exciting possibilities and faith. This is made possible by the unwavering support and guidance of our Board of Directors in Honduras and the United States. It is the

valuable partnership and active participation of volunteers, donors, teams from the USA and a committed Honduras staff that gives life to our shared mission in Honduras.

THANK YOU GOD!

I am looking forward to joining hands with all of you for the salvation, activation and restoration of our nations.

Thank you for your love, faith, trust and support.

Gissella Perdomo, Director,
Ministerio Sal y Luz



New Beginnings...

This year, 2014, begins a new era for Salt and Light as we welcome our new director, Gissela Perdomo. Gissela (pronounced He-Sell-A) began working with teams this past February.

The Sal y Luz Board of

Directors in Honduras also has newly elected officers who will bring new focus and energy to the ministry this year. The staff of Sal y Luz continues their day to day hard work. We are very blessed to have these dedicated individuals working tirelessly for the ministry.

We have several interesting testimonies in this newsletter: From stonecutters to prison ministries, and a father/daughter missionary team, you will enjoy reading about their varied experiences.

We need your help. I ask you to prayerfully consider making a donation or pledge to Salt and Light for 2014. The staff, clinic, vehicles and programs of Salt and Light Honduras are paid for with donations and pledges from people like yourself. We have no other major source of income to keep this ministry operating. Your donation is tax deductible and you will find a donation/pledge card printed in this newsletter.

May God bless you and the Salt and Light mission as we move forward with our new director Gissela Perdomo.

Your brother in Christ,
Bobby Blake, Chairman
Salt & Light, USA



Rocks to Crosses...

By: Steve McFarland



Three years ago when I joined a local lapidary club and began learning to cut and polish rocks, I never considered that it could be used to help other people. It also had never occurred to me that God could use this new hobby to help people in a foreign country.

In November of 2013, while at a monthly club meeting, Mrs. Carolyn Thornton walked in the front door of our club. I have known Mrs. Carolyn for several years as we attend the same church. I also knew that she headed a ladies ministry in Honduras, but I had no idea why she was at our club meeting. As I approached her to say hello, she told me that she hoped that I would be the answer to her prayers. Confused I listened to her as she said that she had an idea of using native stones from Honduras as an opportunity for the Ladies Ministry. She told me that it was her hope to find someone who would be willing to go to Honduras and teach the ladies there how to make crosses and jewelry from the native rocks, to be sold to help the people there make a better life for themselves, while also spreading Gods word. She had gone online looking for information on cutting, shaping and polishing stones and stumbled upon the website of our club. She had contacted someone there who invited her to our monthly meeting. She had not expected to know anyone there, but was praying that God would provide. I have always believed that there is no such thing as coincidence, and I now believe that my presence at the club the night Carolyn walked with a need was God's will for me to assist with this ministry. I made my decision that night to go to Honduras and do my best to teach what I could.

Things started moving in the right direction for this to be accomplished. My church graciously donated the funds to purchase a rock saw and polisher for me to take to Honduras. I had also been saving my own money to purchase a rock saw and polisher, but now felt that the money would be better spent buying my plane ticket to Honduras.

On my first day in Honduras, I really did not know what to expect. I cannot speak Spanish, and I knew that I would have to work through an interpreter. Mrs. Carolyn explained to me that she would like for me to teach a

group of handicapped men how to use the equipment and then teach the ladies how to make the jewelry. Never having tried to teach anyone the techniques of using this equipment, it was a great relief to me when a member of my church's mission team, Buck Roberts, volunteered to go and assist me. We decided that the first thing we should teach was the maintenance on the machines. This took a couple of hours to demonstrate. Because of this time used teaching maintenance, I had only a short period of time to teach about the cutting and polishing of the stones before Buck and I were picked up for lunch. I was still afraid of how much of what I was telling the men was making sense to them, although they were very attentive. I cannot describe the overwhelming feeling

when Buck and I arrived back from lunch to discover not only had the men cut several rocks, but had also made a template and had made a beautiful cross while we were at lunch. I don't know who was the proudest, Buck and I or the



men themselves. For the rest of the week I only made technical suggestions while the men took the project and succeeded beyond my wildest dreams. I was to be just as astounded the following day when I began to show the ladies how to use wire to create bracelets and pendant jewelry. After only one short lesson they proved to not only have grasped the concept, but to be so much more creative than I have ever been. Truly this was what I had prayed for before I had even left my home. The best way to describe my feeling is this must have been the way the little boy felt the day his mother packed him a lunch of loaves and fishes and Jesus took the small amount and fed the multitude.

Never in my life have I witnessed more the hand of God at work within a people. To Him be all the glory!



The Prison Experience...

By: Adelia Byrd Bush

As a layperson I began EFM (Education For Ministry) classes at my home church Chapel of The Cross in Madison two years ago. Last year we studied the Old Testament; this year we are studying the New Testament.

I was offered the opportunity to travel in a small group to Honduras this February on a Salt and Light Mission with the understanding we would be installing a water filtration system and teaching clean water to the 250 plus prisoners at the Prison in La Paz. In addition I was called upon to share my testimony with the woman prisoners. To say I felt inadequate with taking on the task is an understatement. Then I got quiet and still and listened to that small voice within us all that assured me it was the right thing to do and it would all work out the way it was supposed to. After all, these women

had never met me and would most likely never see me again. Little did I know my team leader Julie, and co-leader Lillian who was our interpreter, would get to know me in a way that I don't share with most folk until they have had the opportunity to spend some quality time with me.

We had a clean water session with the seven women, and then I went to the men's group for several more clean water sessions that afternoon.

Thursday I again worked with the men but came back to the women to talk about the importance of acceptance of self and accepting God's forgiveness. I peeled away a few layers of my personal onion by qualifying who I was under the headings of:

Sinner

One who has repented and submitted to the saving Grace of Jesus Christ

One whom Jesus has redeemed

One who continues to fail

One who still feels guilt

Then I sang the song 'Forgiveness' by Matthew West. The most powerful portions of the lyrics are:

It can even set a prisoner free

There is no end to what its power can do

So let it go and be amazed by what you see through eyes of grace

The prisoner that it really frees is you.



Then I shifted gears and was back with a group of 20 plus funny, friendly and entertaining male prisoners, but I had left a piece of me with the women and it hung heavy on my heart as we traveled back to our safe, quiet, comfortable cabins for the night.

Friday morning I was back with the women to talk about forgiveness of others. Now I was pretty sure I had forgiven EVERYONE for EVERYTHING, but I was reminded of a near catastrophic event that occurred when I was in my early twenties. I had pushed this so far into the recesses of my brain until it had only surfaced recently. I shared this with a couple of trusted friends and felt some relief, but my brain cells were still haunted by the memories.

The Forgiveness Ceremony entailed writing the names of those we needed to forgive on a piece of paper, placing it in a clear bowl of water, saying a prayer for our transgressors and watching it dissolve in the water as we prayed. I went first and was so tearful Julie had to stir the water for me. She washed and dried my hands and Lillian placed a pearl around my neck.

We continued this ceremony with Julie, Lillian and each of the female prisoners.

It was my privilege to place the pearl around each woman's neck and say, "You are a pearl of great price, a hidden treasure, be blessed, go and sin no more".

And these words from the Forgiveness song still ring in my ears;

The prisoner that it really frees is you.

Mission Experience in Honduras...

By: Elizabeth Gordon



As I reminisce on my missionary experience in Honduras, a few things come to mind. First, it was one of the most gratifying experiences I have had. Being able to help others in need, with no expectations of reward, tested my selflessness and giving nature. Second, this missionary trip was a very humbling experience.

As I witnessed how less fortunate people are in other parts of the world, I thought how blessed I am to live comfortably with access to food, healthcare, and transportation.

Third, it taught me how life can be beautiful in its simplicity. As I saw how the Garifuna people of Honduras are so

family-oriented with beautiful and joyful spirits and yet have just the basic necessities of life, I realized that there is more to life than material possessions.

I can't finish without saying how beautiful the country of Honduras is. Watching the sunset on the beach front while the Garifuna children played was a moment to capture. Getting our hair braided and watching the Garifunas barbeque was a familiar experience since many African-Americans in the United States often do the same things. Capturing the moment of Garifuna children getting their lesson on a Saturday morning brought joy to the educator in me.



The New Hope Baptist Church missionary team made this trip even more memorable. Listening to their missionary experiences made the trip even more exciting. Most notably, experiencing this trip with my father, Raymond Gordon, made the trip very special to me. I not only enjoyed working with him as a part of the medical mission team, but I also enjoyed growing the strong father daughter bond we have as we visited the most beautiful sites of Honduras. Overall, this mission trip to Honduras will definitely be one of the most memorable experiences in my life. I look forward to more missionary trips in the future.

Education Program Update

By: Carolyn Thornton

In 2012, the Education Director for Salt and Light Ministry determined that the children in their program needed extra help with the basics in elementary school. In 2013, four tutoring sites were started to help the children in the education program with fundamentals of Mathematics and Spanish. Many children in the public school in Honduras have very little knowledge of basic skills when they finish high school. Many of the villages have one or maybe two teachers for all six grades. Many of the teachers are not thoroughly educated and do not have the knowledge to teach the children what they need to know. Many families do not encourage, and some do not allow, their children to attend school, especially after seventh grade.

This year, we were able to add four more villages to the after school tutoring program for a total of eight villages. To accomplish this, additional help had to be obtained. There are now four women helping to teach the children. We have also added a class for seventh and eighth grade students on Saturday. The transition from elementary school to high school is difficult for the students and many of the students were not able to overcome the obstacles of going from a village school to a larger high school in seventh grade.

There were many failures of our students in seventh grade. Not only are we trying to teach basic skills but we also want to teach them spiritual and moral values. We want them to learn the value of an education and how important it is for them to stay in school.



Doctors and other health professionals are teaching them about their bodies and hygiene for themselves and their families.



The tutoring program is in the initial stages and there is still room for improvement but we hope the program will have long term effects on the children and future generations in Honduras.



VIDEOS NOW ON THE WEBSITE!

By: *Vicky Edwards*

Hola to you all! Your Executive Committee for Salt and Light has worked with the staff in Honduras to get all of the 2013 and year to date 2014 videos posted to the Salt and Light website, www.saltandlighthonduras.org.

If you get nostalgic and want to watch your team’s video, just go to www.saltandlighthonduras.org, click on the ‘Video’ tab, and then the ‘Photo/Video Gallery’ line.

We hope to keep this updated as the year progresses. If you see any videos that are missing, please let me know at vickyed@comcast.net. Enjoy!!!

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me. Matthew 25:35-36*

Costs for 2014

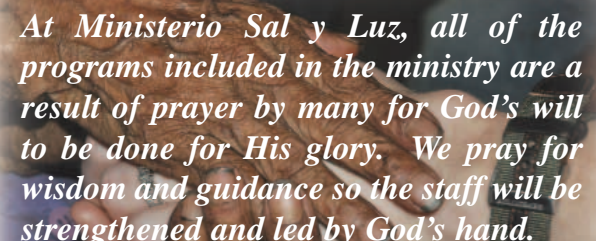
2 bedroom house	\$6,300
3 bedroom house	\$7,300
Church Building	approximately \$5,900
Complete Stove	\$120
Sponsor an Elementary School Child for 1 Year	\$240
Sponsor a High School Child for 1 Year	\$360
Feed a child one meal a day for one month	\$14
Provide Medical Care per person, one time	\$4
Provide Dental Care per person, one time	\$4

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN SERVING on a mission team, here is the schedule of teams for 2014.

2014 Mission Teams and Contact Information

TEAM NAME	DATE	TEAM LEADERS	
Galloway UMC	January 16-21	Leslie Bingham	601-326-3443
Woodland United Presbyterian Memphis, TN	January 20-24	Robert Followell	901-378-9030
New Hope Baptist Church	February 5-9	Ray Gordon	601-942-7655
Woodlands Church Houston, TX	February 15-21	Steve Helms	
Covenant Presbyterian	February 19-23	Slade/Susan Exley	602-992-9681
Meadow Grove Baptist	March 8-15	Marie Montague	601-825-1231
COCHUSA	May 22-29	Lillian Brown	601-613-7144
COCHUSA	May 29 - June 5	Lillian Brown	601-613-7144
St. Mark's UMC & Madison UMC	June 12-19	Bobby/Julie Blake	601-397-8880
Covenant Presbyterian New Hope Baptist	June 19-26	Slade/Susan Exley Ray Gordon	602-992-9681 601-942-7655
Woodlands Church Houston, TX	June 26 - July 3	Steve Helms	
Clemson Baptist Church South Carolina	June 29 - July 5	John Welter	
Bellwether	July 10-17	Tabor Weissinger	601-832-7299
Bellwether	July 17-24	Cherry Duckworth	601-941-9103
Episcopal Group	July 17-24	Sandra DePriest	
Northminster Baptist	July 24-31	Victor Smith	601-932-2223
St. Matthews UMC	September 13-20	David Smith	601-720-8806

Please keep all our teams in your prayers



At Ministerio Sal y Luz, all of the programs included in the ministry are a result of prayer by many for God's will to be done for His glory. We pray for wisdom and guidance so the staff will be strengthened and led by God's hand.

**SALT AND LIGHT
MINISTRY FOUNDATION
808 Audubon Point Dr
Brandon, MS 39047**

The Impact of Your Financial, Volunteer & Prayer Support is Truly Immeasurable

We all expect donations to charities to be used to efficiently fulfill the mission of the organization receiving the gift. Your financial help is particularly significant to the **Salt & Light Ministry**.

Sal y Luz Honduras works in partnership with the **Salt & Light Ministry Foundation** in Jackson, Mississippi. The **S&LMF** is tax-exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is eligible to receive contributions deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.

I Donate/Pledge \$_____by December 31, 2014

I will pay my 2014 donation/pledge: (circle one)

One Payment • Monthly • Quarterly

___I will pray for the Salt and Light Ministry.

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY:_____STATE:___

ZIP:_____

PHONE:_____

E-MAIL:_____

***Contact us and/or
make your check payable to:***

**SALT AND LIGHT
MINISTRY FOUNDATION
808 Audubon Point Dr
Brandon, MS 39047**