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Volume 6, Number 1

This is the newsletter for the ministry of Cristo Salva -- an ongoing, mission of mercy to Honduras, Central America. Founded in 1991 as a ministry of encouragement to the people of Honduras, Cristo Salva seeks to meet physical and spiritual needs through short-term missions.



Team week one



Team week two



Roger, Luis, and Yesinia leading worship



David registering patients



Patient care

Staying in Touch

We have continued to hear from many of you during our times away, and home. This is your newsletter. Please give us feedback! Email us at pat@cristosalva.org .

We also have a Spanish edition of our newsletter, if you know someone interested, please email us!

During our time away, the email list has been changed. If you know someone that is not receiving our mailings, please let us know so we can add them to our list. Thank you.

Would you like more pictures? We have limited space in our newsletter. Please keep checking our web site at www.cristosalva.org for more pics. If there are particular photos you are interested in please contact us.

2008-2009 Opportunities for Ministry

Contact David Vignali if you are interested. PLEASE do not take for granted that you will automatically be included. We need to hear from you! Many first timers are requesting slots, with many folks requesting to return. We have limited space available on some of our trips, so please before booking airline flights or before taking time off; check with David for trip availability.

A U.S. passport valid for at least six months from the date of entry is required to enter Honduras. If your passport expires in less than six months, and you are planning on joining us, please renew now to avoid last minute hurdles.

A reminder to PLEASE read the handbook on line, especially if you have signed up for a trip or if you are interested in going on one of the trips.

For all info regarding Cristo Salva's short term mission trips, scheduling and upcoming opportunities please contact:

David Vignali
david@cristosalva.org

There are one week and two week trips available.

April 2009

Week one: April 13th-20th (full)

Week two: April 20th-27th (full)

July 2009

Week one: July 13th - 20th

Week two: July 20th - 27th

October 2009

Week one: October 12th - 19th (no medical)

Week two: October 19th - 26th

News from Honduras

THE TRIP OF MIRACLES

You dance over me
While I am unaware
You sing all around
But I never hear the sound

You paint the morning sky
With miracles in mind
My hope will always stand
You hold me in Your hand

Lord, I'm amazed by You



Triage bus



Dental care



Doc Joe and Pat



Maria from La Flecha when we met her



Maria when we returned



Miss Dolores and Reina



Baby care



Amigas from Maine



Mobile clinic

Lord, I'm amazed by You
Lord, I'm amazed by You
How You love me

How wide
How deep
How great
Is Your love for me

Jared Anderson

We are so amazed by the awesomeness of His power. The trip started with snowstorms in New England, delaying flights, but all arrived in time for the flight to Honduras. If a plane was late taking off, the next flight was also delayed allowing us to make our connections.

Pre-team we had quite a bit of clean up to do. We had to leave rather rapidly in October, but we had managed to pick up most of what was needed. Over 100 new boxes had been delivered to the farm and clinic. It was necessary to inventory all the new boxes, taking quite a bit of time while straightening up. It is always like Christmas opening up the boxes to see what God has provided for us. By the time the first week team arrived, we had at least inventoried the boxes. From this point the team helped get the clinic ready for patients.

We were blessed with two full weeks of medical and one week of medical dental. God has given us such a blending of talents willing to take time off from their busy home schedules to help us in service in Honduras.

This year brought the new triage and charting system. Amazingly, both systems went pretty smoothly.

During the triage, several of us were up in La Flecha. We were visiting some very poor homes in the area. We encountered several needy people in the area. Maria, a woman with weight loss and chronic cough was told that she had spots on her lungs. We had her brought to the clinic where we planted a PPD, and prayed for her. On return to her home, she was well, looked well nourished, with a negative Tb test. Her X-ray showed COPD, but nothing major. We rejoiced with the family. Her daughter we had met during triage was heavily made up with very tight clothing. We knew that she was a "working girl". She came to us, removed her makeup and asked to be seen by the dentist. On her given appointment, one of our dentists felt strongly about us following up with her to talk to her about Jesus. When we returned, she asked for prayer for a different lifestyle.

Filipe a man we met in the village. He could not walk, only stand to drag himself from place to place. His mom came to the clinic but Filipe could not make the journey down the side of the mountain to get to us. We went up to visit him and prayed for him to walk... and FILIPE WALKED!! At first he took steps holding our hands around the yard, and as he did his foot and legs straightened. He then walked alone around his home. We returned on another visit with shoes and a wheelchair so he could rest and use it as a walker to strengthen his legs.

We met Miss Dolores and her daughter Reina as we were finishing triage in the area. We did not plan to stop, but were asked to go to this one last home. Miss Dolores is 80 years old and was suffering from colon cancer. She had a very large hard tumor on her abdomen. Through many tears and prayers, we prayed for a healing. As we prayed, the tumor moved under our hands. She was brought to the clinic, where on examination, the tumor had changed its shape was now soft and palpable. We again prayed and felt that now she could possibly have surgery to remove the tumor. But God was not finished. We returned to her home to find the tumor a third of its size and on the final visit before returning to the states, her tumor was barely palpable, and her abdomen was soft and no longer tender.

Doris, age 17 came to church with our Reina. We asked Reina if Doris was a believer and she said no, she was not. We prayed about an opportunity to share Jesus with Doris. With limited Spanish, we were able to lead Doris to meet Jesus. She prayed the prayer of salvation after the service. She returned to church with us the next night and we were able to give her a bible to read.

Week two's team came in on time, but the luggage did not. The luggage was to be shipped out to us and Pastor Ray was to meet the truck in El Virrey. The time past for the truck to arrive, David got out of the van and walked to the edge of the road just as the green van pulled up and inquired about directions to Macuelizo. They just "happened" to stop and talk to David, and in the back of that van was the luggage!

While in one of our mobile clinics a 90 year old man came in. We asked him what he was doing, and he said he was waiting to die! He only had a few aches and pains, nothing major. But no one in his 90 years had ever told him about Jesus. We talked to him and he too prayed the prayer of salvation!

We met Jorge (age 20), Maida (20) and Iris (8 mo) at the New Vision Church. He told us he had blood and bone cancer and that his little girl had it also. We prayed over them at that time. The next day several of us walked down to the house where we tested them for HIV. Jorge and Maida were positive, the baby negative. Through many tears and prayers we assured the family there was no shame, only hope in Jesus. They were believers. We kept the diagnosis to ourselves, as the family would be ostracized by the neighbors and church people if they knew. Several days later we received a call from Maida. Jorge was very sick with a high fever and not conscious, would we come. Several of us went to the home where we found Jorge near death. We prepared the family, and the church family prayed and sang in the next room as Jorge took longer pauses between breaths. His wife asleep on his legs, Jorge gently let go of life, taking his last breath. We checked his pulse and he had none. His wife woke up, sat up and said "he's dead!" She reached up to him, picked up his face, kissed him and told him how much she loved him. At that moment, Jorge's fever broke and he opened his eyes and softly said "I'm thirsty". We gave him water and medicine. We continued to rejoice as Jorge spoke gently to his wife that he was indeed ready to meet Jesus if it was His will. We had word before leaving that Jorge had been up and eating a little. We have given them a referral to the clinic in San Pedro Sula (that was a miracle alone just finding the clinic) where they will be retested. We are confident in our God who can make all things perfect.

The miracle of birth. We were called to assist with a woman in labor with a badly positioned baby. We arrived in the hut, and brought her to the clinic where with the grace of God delivered a beautiful and healthy 6 1/2 pound baby girl named Myrna Patricia. Many of us witnessed this wonderful miracle of birth, knowing God intervened for this baby and mother.

Our schedule this trip included:
Daily clinics both weeks, construction and village visitation.

- Churches-
1. Sula (Pastora Gladis) El Shaddai Church (twice)
 2. Casa Quemada
 3. House of Prayer (Adalaida)
 4. Theos Luis's family's church
 5. Church of God (Azacualpa) Pastor Jesus Lopez
 6. New Vision (Macuelizo) (twice)
 7. Las Varas (twice)

Clinics:
Bused to Clínica de Cristo Salva:
Las Varas
La Flecha
Sula



Servant's heart



Lois

A moment on the farm



Stan reorganizing the chapel



A moment in the pharmacy



More farm chatter



Kathy in the box



Soccer ball presentation



Tree hugging Pastor Juan



Free time at El Puente

Mobile clinic:
Casa Quemada
Local:
2 days of Macuelizo

Week one brought us a large medical/dental team. We instituted our new triage and busing system to expand our care to neighboring villages. We had great success with this new initiative! A triage team would go out into the village to assess potential patients, and on the day of their clinic, they were bused to the clinic. Many thanks to those who participated in the triage, especially to Roger Espinosa who spent many hours arranging transportation and the triage schedule for us.

We also started our new method of charting. This will enable us to have better follow-up of our families that we serve. It is still hectic, but we are seeing improvements in the system.

Due to a glitch in shipping, our medications for our chronic care patients did not arrive. But God provided! Dr. Carlos brought extra meds, plus Rob Turner and Pastor Ray made pharmacy runs for us. We were able to treat everyone with their medications. The state clinic in Macuelizo came not only to observe us this trip, but worked side by side with us in our building. Filipe, the new doctor in Macuelizo is a medical student from Tegucigalpa. This is his community service rotation and he will be in Macuelizo until June. He was a great asset to us, and worked with us during the two weeks of clinics.

We now offer rapid testing to our patients. We have the ability to test for: HIV 1 / 2 , syphilis, gonorrhea, Chlamydia, H pylori, Hgb, rapid strep, cholesterol screening (complete with triglycerides, LDL, and HDL) blood glucose, pregnancy tests, and urine dip sticks. We are grateful for this method of testing. Our pregnant women are now able to have the screening that is ordered from the state clinics, and our "working women" can now be tested for STDs. By proving that they have negative tests, they can apply for jobs in the factories.

In all, the Dental Team treated 121 patients. The totals are as follows: 61 cleanings, 72 extractions, 55 fillings, 8 sealants and 1 occlusal adjustment. Patients received toothbrushes, toothpaste and oral hygiene instruction.

We also saw 858 + medical patients (we still have a few to place in charts, it should be close to 900 when the count is finished!). We saw the run of the mill cough and cold, to tropical ulcers, pelvic exams, and even a bug in a boy's ear!

Delivered one baby
Several home visits for medical care and spiritual encouragement.

We again distributed food to area homes, at least 60 food bags were passed out in the communities.

Clothing was taken to Pastora Gladis for distribution in the mountain villages. We also, with the help of Rob Turner from Idaho, were able to send supplies to Anna Smith on Roatan, Miss Dolores in Santa Barbara, Lavearn in La Esperanza, and the children's home in Copan Ruinas. We also gave supplies to the children's home on the road to Azacualpa. Shoe box gifts were distributed here along with the Laurels. What a wonderful gift to the children of the Laurels to receive a present designated for their age! School supplies were distributed to local children, with school opening this week.

Luis was a wonderful asset to us in the pharmacy, where he worked with us for several days, labeling bottles, and helping us with our Spanish. Papa Luis continues with dialysis, and has some good and bad days. Tina's asthma has been acting up and we were able to place a nebulizer in her home as well as with Miss Lydia. Yesinia plans to marry in April. Luis is working on some music projects. Continue to be in prayer for the two of these very talented young adults on God's guidance with their lives.

Reina and baby David are doing well. He is now 20 pounds and becoming mobile. Mabel has asked us to continue to pray for her and the family for decent work and spiritual growth.

Noemi has her hands full now with Bryun. He has become a very handsome and active little boy. He keeps her pretty busy these days.

We did not see Isaiah this trip. His grandmother said he has not had surgery, but he has good head control at this time.

Adelaida is as feisty and energetic as ever. She went out several times while we were there to visit with the sick and needy. Please keep this wonderful woman in your prayers as she continues to minister. She states she is 93, but according to her birth date that she gave us she is 90. We are not about to argue with her!

Stan was able to bring Sunday school material and supplies to Pastor Tito in San Pedro Sula. Please continue to pray for Pastor Tito's inner city ministry. He has a strong ministry among former gang members in the area.

VITAMIN AND DEWORMING PROGRAM

The micronutrient and deworming school based program is progressing well. Vitamins are ready for distribution as soon as school opens. Teachers continue to report that the children are more attentive in class, and much healthier. The Azacualpa schools not only have school gardens, but they are now starting fish farming, raising tilapia! We plan to visit them in an upcoming trip.

The Albendazole is being sent to the clinic from PAHO for upcoming distribution, and Bexa and her aides continue to distribute to the local schools and superintendents.

We distributed toothbrushes to a school in San Pedro Sula, and Azacualpa. We also sent first aid kits to the schools in the area.

CARE KITS DISTRIBUTIONS

A HUGE thank you to all of you that have been making our care kits. We can use all kinds of kits. Kits available to be made are:

School kits

Family Care Kits

Baby Kits

Safe Delivery Kits for home deliveries

Baby knit and crochet hats

Diapers from t-shirts

We also distribute the infant mosquito nets and aprons as they become available.

Plans are to produce patterns for baby slings and belly bands, and a new mother kit.

Please visit our website at www.cristosalva.org for directions on these kits and patterns. Please remember when making the kits to follow the contents exactly. Please especially remember the bulb syringes in the baby kits. These are very important to the health of our infant population.

PRENATAL CARE/WOMEN'S HEALTH

A major thank you to Lois, who not only did female exams, but instructed us on how to do them properly. We now offer pelvic exams to our women. Many of these women have never had this type of exam. We now have a designated area for these women and exams.

We had many pregnant women, but we were surprised to have one in labor and delivered Myrna Patricia during our visit. We have several babies due in April.

Jasmine, who was an extreme help to us, is due March 19th. Please pray for her as she struggles with just the issues of daily living as she brings a small child into this world.

Our prenatal vitamins are low. Please pray for a continuous source of these precious vitamins for our expectant and nursing women.



Traveling up the mountain for hut to hut



Mobile clinic in Casa Quemada



Food bag distribution



Cuddle time!



Home visitation



Painting the wall



90 year old meeting Jesus

Life at the Farm

We are so very thankful for the men that came just to be servants. So much work was done around the farm and clinic to make things run more smoothly for us.

We broke ground for the new men's bathrooms next to the chapel. Currently it is just roped off and the grass dug. Future teams will continue the project.

We had electricity most of the time, and water was available via our back up system.

Three of the banana trees have survived and are growing, plus the avocado tree. The new papaya trees and a lime tree are growing also. We visited our neighbor up the road to see her pineapple fields. Her pineapples are sold to Dole. Next time you eat Dole pineapple, think of the little homes without electricity and the folks that labor there.

Clinic Update

The dental cabinets were installed in the dental rooms and the two operatories are fully functional. We used the ER and the women's room for the hygienists the first week. We continued with repair projects in the clinic. Our private quarters are functional, with office space, a private bathroom, complete with a shower and toilet and sink. We had no problems with the electricity this trip!

The bodega is completed and painted. Electricity was installed inside the bodega. Many of the supplies are now in the bodega with more new shelving. This has allowed us to prepare the clinic for the large medical and dental teams that come. We utilized every available space this trip for all the medical and dental folks to work.

We continue to need funding to complete the security wall around the clinic, gates and ground cover around the bodega. We will also be adding more shelving as money allows in the bodega and in the clinic.

If you would like to help financially with our building, please contact Pastor Ray for details at pray@cristosalva.org or by phone (305) 233-2885 (office) or (786) 402-9686 (cell).

Well, Well,

WELL PROJECT UPDATE

WE HAVE PURE WATER!!! Rob Turner from Idaho tested our water and it is purer than the bottled water we buy. We thank God for this gift, and special thanks to Rob and his family for testing our water.

We are starting plans to dig the well on the farm. It has become more of a crucial issue with the shortage of available water to us with large team. We will keep you updated as the plans unfold.

CLEAN WATER PROJECT

Rob Turner and his family were with us during this trip. We are deeply indebted to him for all the hard work he has done all over Honduras. He continues to have a heart for the people in our area and strives for all to have clean water. We are thankful to Rob for all the education and support he has given us to continue this project when he cannot physically be in Honduras... Please keep Rob and his family, in your prayers as they try to find funding for this project. With all the recent flooding it is more important than ever to supply a means for our families to have safe drinking water.

Asociación de Cuidados Infantiles Hogar Angelitos Felices

COPAN RUINAS CHILDREN'S HOME

God has once again given us a small children's home to support. The Hogar Angelitos Felices is a new home in Copan Ruinas that currently houses 35 children, newborn to 18 years old, boys and girls. This little home is run by Dona Delsey, a former nurse and owner of a local restaurant. Dona Delsey is a strong believer and has her hands full with all the children! We were able to send supplies up to Dona Delsey and she continues to ask for prayer for her little home in Copan Ruinas.

Cristo Salva - on the air

RADIO STATION UPDATE

We are currently in the midst of bureaucracy for licensing. We plan to finish other ongoing projects before we proceed with the radio station.

If anyone would like more information or have any questions concerning this project, please call Pastor Ray Marco at: 786-402-9686 OR email at: pray@cristosalva.org.

We praise the Lord for another opportunity for spreading the Gospel and addressing the needs of the people of Honduras.

Upcoming Conferences

There are a couple of upcoming events that may be of interest to those of you interested in continuing in the mission field.

MISSIONARY MEDICAL INTENSIVE MARION, NC

March 29 - April 9, 2009

May 10-21, 2009

Sept. 13-24, 2009

<http://www.equipinternational.com/courses/mmi.htm>

In the Western world we have excellent medical systems, but, as a worker in a Third World setting, you may well need to be prepared to diagnose and treat a wide variety of injury and illness. This course is a must for missionaries who will be very isolated from good health care and/or medically treating nationals as part of your ministry.

Whether you are a doctor with very little experience in tropical medicine, a nurse or a lay person, your two weeks in MMI will give you that preparation. The course textbook, the Village Medical Manual, was written by Dr. Mary Vanderkooi, an Equip missionary and a specialist in tropical medicine. This unique diagnostic tool, in conjunction with 200 sample case studies, will prepare you to use logical, step-by-step methods to diagnose hundreds of diseases that you may encounter.



Presents for the Laurels



Well water results



Myrna Patricia



Maida and Iris



Friends



Dr. Filipe from the state clinic



Dr. Carlos and Carla



Clinic day



Luis the pharm tech

Lectures, which are presented by various instructors with experience in Third World medicine, include Patient Evaluation, Logic of Diagnoses, Infectious Diseases, Common Diseases, Lacerations and Midwifery.

Labs will give hands-on experience in physical examination, suturing lacerations, injections, calculating dosages and rehydration fluids, stomach tubes, splinting, bandaging, improvisation, sterilizing and developing personal medical kits. MMI could literally be a lifesaver.

MMI is an intense two-weeks of lectures, labs, homework and Christian fellowship.

Prayers and Requests

1. For those that do not know Jesus.
2. For the many ministries of Cristo Salva.
3. For those that are planning to travel with us to Honduras during the 2009 trips.
4. Our ministries with Rob Turner, well projects, the children's home in Copan Ruinas, the future radio station ministry, Honduran Micronutrient Project and our prenatal project.
5. We have several children that we are working with to receive improved medical care. Please be in prayer as we try to find the best suitable care for these children.
6. For the Flores family. Papa Luis continues to need dialysis and Luis is currently jobless to help support the family.
7. For Honduras as a nation as they struggle to survive.

Thank You

A special thank you to the following:

To all of you that contributed to the writing of this newsletter, English and Spanish.

To those of you that have taken on special projects to further the work in Honduras, from care kits, salvation bracelet projects, well projects, dental pods, and donations. Special thanks to Margarite Sylvester and Celia Briggs for the beautiful aprons that we were able to give to the women.

To the Kamberger's for sharing their family and home with us. A special thanks to Markus, Maria, and Markito for all the translating and for the support that they give us as a ministry. They make great labor coaches too!

To Pat N. and Nellie for the long hours in the kitchen at the farm.

To David V for his invaluable service as the front man in the clinic.

To Doctor Carlos, Filipe, Luis, Jasmine and others that helped us on the busy clinic days.

To all of you that have gone, prayed and shown concern for the ministry of Cristo Salva. Thanks also to our Ham radio buddies who keep us in contact with the world.

How You Can Help Us

NEEDS LIST:

Minor projects:

We are very low on the following:

1. Money for shipping supplies to Honduras
2. Baby aspirin
3. Creams ... antifungal, antibiotic, anti itch and vaginal
4. Saw Palmetto
5. Evening Primrose

Major projects:

1. More metal shelving for warehouse
2. 2 truck-loads of gravel between clinic and warehouse
3. Front and side walls for clinic property
4. Front gates for clinic
5. Iron works for side wall
6. Pump house, PVC line, and underground electric for farm
7. Driveway to the farm

DREAM LIST

If there is a project your group would like to help us with, here's a list of ideas:

1. More bathrooms and showers for the farm
2. Workshop for the farm
3. Farmhouse and chapel painted
4. Purchase of "Pepsi" pulperia for clinic in Las Varas or similar building
5. Sponsor for electric bill for clinic



Dental care

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6. Sponsor for shipping
7. Purchase a 4-door truck for ministry
8. Sponsor for internet access (approx. \$50 a month)
9. 2 inch Styrofoam to insulate ceilings in clinic (approx \$20 a sheet)

Please contact Pastor Ray at pray@cristosalva.org if you are interested in any of the above projects.

Please visit our website at www.cristosalva.org for ways you can help us. For website information please email development@cristosalva.org

If you have any questions regarding Care Kits, Diapers for Honduras, or medical team information, please contact Patricia Havener RN by phone: 207-475-7031, or email: pat@cristosalva.org or Pastor Ray Marco by phone (305) 233-2885 (office) or (786) 402-9686 (cell), or email: pray@cristosalva.org.

For all info regarding Cristo Salva trips, scheduling and upcoming opportunities please contact David Vignali at david@cristosalva.org.

