



A BI-MONTHLY NEWS RELEASE OF THE CHRISTIAN CHIROPRACTORS ASSOCIATION

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Fact-Finding Short-Term Mission to Honduras



Dr. Hollensed, his wife, Lorna, looking on, adjusting a military officer who was on hand for security.

Joining a WGO Multi-disciplinary Team to Honduras

My wife, Lorna, and I recently had the opportunity to serve with a World Gospel Outreach (WGO) team in Honduras. WGO had several chiropractors on teams last year, and one of our CCA members who had participated called me to share WGO's invitation to include Christian chiropractors on future teams. It sounded like the ideal short-term mission (STM) trip. The Lord opened the door for us to go on the second team of the year with a group from a church located ten minutes from our home, so we could experience first hand what the ministry was like.

WGO hosts teams from local churches in North America at a mission house in Tegucigalpa. They have slots for 40 teams per year of 15-35 people each. Their program involves multidisciplinary teams of medical, optical, dental, construction and children's workers to serve in two-day outreaches at two churches a week. Last year they reached 56,000 people with care and the Gospel. They also offer leadership and discipleship training. The local believers serve along side of the team. Construction is done to replace dirt floors with concrete to permanently improve living conditions. Our team was blessed to be able to lay floors in three houses. Special sessions take place for the children where songs, the Gospel, and hair washing are emphasized. With all the activities involved, there is a place for anyone who is willing to serve.

WGO provides everything including room and board, local transportation, translators, and teaching at a cost of about \$700 plus airfare per person for the week. A visit to www.goreach.org has much more information. Teams arrive on Saturday and go home on Saturday, so the investment in time is a minimum. Honduras, with its location in Central America, is easy to reach.

The trip was everything anticipated and more. Since WGO has been doing this for 25 years, they have all the bases covered. The two churches we served were cultivating growth by evangelizing their neighborhoods. While practical care is offered, the focus of the effort is spiritual. The evangelism team prayed with every person who came to the outreach. Christians were encouraged in their walk with the Lord. They witnessed to those who thought they were going to heaven by means of something other than God's gift of salvation. Many came to accept Christ for the first time, and a number rededicated their lives, while some heard the message of God's love and salvation without responding. Numerous copies of the Bible and the New Testament were distributed. The local churches will follow up on all who were reached.

My purpose in being there was to decide from first-hand observation if this was a destination that we should promote for CCA members. The first night, I told the team that I hoped to send two chiropractors on each

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Honduras concluded,

500 patients and was actually invigorated by the week of work and fellowship. This trip is an excellent experience for first-timers, whole families (with children over 14 years old), and others who seek to serve the Lord in a well-planned and effective mission outreach.

The highlight of the week was when my wife, Lorna, was working in evangelism. A young mother with a small, crying infant sat down to talk with her about spiritual matters. The baby was crying incessantly, so Lorna held him to give the mother a bit of peace. After talking and learning about each other's families, they began discussing spiritual matters. The mother indicated that if she died, she had no idea where she would spend eternity. They looked at the Romans Road and Ephesians 2:8-9, after which the young mother asked to pray and accept Christ as her Savior. Before they parted, Lorna asked if she could pray for her and her family. The young woman shared about her back pain, the baby's constant crying, and how very weak she felt. When Lorna asked if she had seen the chiropractor, she said no. Lorna had the joy of taking her directly to me for care after they prayed. She told me the lady had become a new believer, and the team members around rejoiced! Lorna held the baby so I could examine and adjust him. The baby stopped crying immediately after his adjustment. The mom received chiropractic care, and the two went home. I told the team later that the baby had been experiencing constant nerve interference from problems in his neck, which without care, could lead to a life of illness. It was a delight to send the mom home with Christ as her Savior, the full Bible to read, and a calm and sleepy child. It was a blessing to give this gift of health, as well as the invitation to eternal life.



The team had a daily routine into which we soon settled. We awoke early for private devotions and then joined together at 6:15 A.M. for group devotions and prayer. At the conclusion of devotions, we were served breakfast before boarding the bus that transported us to our clinic site. The two churches we served were in the valley, and the mission house we stayed in was on the side of the mountain. Our WGO American team had 32 people: one MD, two nurses, one optometrist, one chiropractor, a leader for children's ministries, five construction workers, and the rest were willing workers for wherever needed. An MD, three dentists, local believers and several translators from Honduras joined us on site. Each evening after dinner the team again met to have devotions, to share the events of the day, and to be given our assignments for the next day.

Wednesday was supposed to be a day of rest for the team. We rode the bus up the mountains and visited the WGO facility, Rancho Ebenezer, which is where children who had previously been abandoned or abused are being raised in single family Christian homes. The staff was waiting for us when we stepped off the bus. I had taken my chiropractic table, and instead of relaxing and touring the facility, I gave 22 adjustments.

After working with WGO and seeing their ministry first hand, I can heartily recommend going. The food was wonderful, and our accommodations were good. The week had a good rhythm and a fast pace. The cost of ~\$700 plus airfare makes this one of the best-priced short-term missions that anyone offers. The CCA is looking to the Lord to provide one or two chiropractors on each weekly team. There is a possibility you can go with a church in your area, and it would be great if you can find a colleague to fill the second chiropractic slot on your team (or others to be a part of the team). This need is great, so we would like to see as many CCA members serve as possible. This very effective ministry has opened the door to chiropractic, and our goal is to see the need met. Please pray about your involvement in this STM. If the Lord is calling you to go, I need to reserve your space as soon as possible. Contact me if you are ready to schedule or have questions. You will not be disappointed with this trip.