



Marty Thornton, D.C.

Created in His Image?

...that person is created in God's Image

This past January I returned to Honduras for a short-term mission trip with the World Gospel Outreach (WGO) missions. This was my eighth trip to work with the organization. My first time was after I received an invite from our past President of the CCA, Dr. Charles Hollensed. At one of the CCA meetings, he told about the mission opportunities available with WGO. I said yes to his invite and have been going back every year since. I have been blessed in having my son August go with me on four different trips, the first time when he was only eleven. My wife, Dr. Sharon Thornton, has gone three times. She often stays home to keep the clinic going and graciously allows me to make the trip. On one trip, our pastor went with me, and I hope to have him go on another.

Frequently, people will ask me why I go on STMs and leave my family and business. Anyone who has gone on a short-term mission knows that there are as many reasons for going as there are people who have gone. I believe that there is a calling that in some way *"trips our trigger"* and starts the process. A stirring in our souls from the Holy Spirit is a good place to start. Many have had that calling yet don't respond. As a child, about nine or ten, I knew that I was somehow to serve Him in that way. Growing up in the late 50's and 60's, it wasn't real popular to follow that pathway, as there were many distractions. It wasn't until my mother had passed and left funds for me to go on a mission trip that I finally listened and responded to the call. My wife had been called to go to NYC after 9/11 to treat firefighters and workers coming out of the pit. After she returned, I couldn't put it off any longer and signed up. My first trip through the CCA was to Ukraine. Since then, we have been to Belize, Honduras and the Crow Indian reservation.

God has blessed my family and me in so many different ways. Short-term mission trips allow me in a small way to give thanks. On a chiropractic mission trip, we expect to treat a lot of people and present the Gospel of Christ, our Lord and Savior. Several times while on mission trips, the reality of the Bible and its insights hit me on the top of my head like a ton of bricks. A couple of years ago, while in Honduras, the Lord impressed upon me to be thankful for every person that I was able to touch while treating them. In Genesis 1:27 we are told, *"And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them."* As chiropractors, we are truly blessed in what we do. Whenever we lay our hands on someone, we are given the blessing of touching a different and unique image of God. When I try to put together all of those images, I am truly humbled and feel my insignificance. When Christ died on the cross for our sins, He was proclaiming that each image of Him was unique and special and that He would willingly sacrifice Himself for only just one and everyone just for the chance to save us from our sinful nature if we believe in Him and accept Him as Lord and Savior.

The next time that you treat a patient, hug your spouse or child, or even shake someone's hand, remember that person is created in God's image, and you have been given a special gift to come in contact with another image of our Creator and Savior.

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