



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Season's Greetings**
- **Lisa Becomes a Mother**
- **Groceries for Less**
- **Green Parrot Coffee Sales Increase**
- **Rotary Clubs Unite to Purchase Ambulance**
- **Cindy Graduates from High School**
- **Samira Goes to Medical School**
- **Midwives Receive Continuing Education**
- **FMI Foundation News**

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM HONDURAS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Honduras. We wish you abundant blessings as well as the love and joy of Christ during this special season. As the year quickly comes to an end, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the many churches, organizations and individuals who have given so generously to our project and the people of Honduras.

Because of the steadfast commitment of so many kind supporters, once again medical care, food and education have been available to the poor of this place. In the presence of so much poverty, strife and struggle, the love of Christ is ever present in the lives of the people we serve, appearing in the form of medical attention,

pills, syrups, creams, bandages, chicken meat and eggs, pork, vegetables, garden seeds and school supplies. Somewhere in the midst of so much chaos, faith and works have come together to give refuge to the poor in spirit providing the assurance that hope lives on and that the Lord has indeed seen the suffering of His children and has responded.

Mother Teresa believed that if one looked hard enough, you could see the face of Christ in the eyes of the poor. Thank you so much for searching deeply enough within yourselves to ask the hardest question of all, "Jesus how would you have me to respond?". It's easy to build, but keeping the doors



India Bonita or Pretty Indian contestant during Lempira day at school. **Xiomara Monterrosa**

open...that's the hard part. There will never be words enough to express our deep sense of heartfelt gratitude to all who have provided much needed support in the form of prayers, time, talents and monies. God bless you all.

LISA BECOMES A MOTHER— IS IT MOMMY OR MAMÁ?

Who would have ever thought the biggest blessings come disguised as tragedy? Me a mother...of two severely malnourished children? No way José!

It appears the Lord had other plans for me. Have you ever had the feeling that He just isn't listening or perhaps has put you on perpetual hold? Certainly as it pertained to my deep seated desire to become a mother, I felt I had been on

hold for over twenty years! None the less, it seems that God never arrives early nor late but instead exactly on time.

JUAN CARLOS



The pictures are still hard for me to look at knowing the degree of suffering my little boy endured. How he came to me is a story for another day. It suffices to say that it was an adventure. It was, however, horrifying to see a thirteen month old baby weigh in at only eight pounds, swollen with edema and in heart failure. My spirit broke as I cradled this shell of a little boy. His diaper was stuck to his

MOMMY LISA CONTINUED

skin. He was badly burned from his belly button down to his ankles by his own urine. He barely managed to keep breathing because he was in such a state of malnutrition. Infection had entered into his bloodstream through his open skin and he was very feverish. It was one of the worst things I have ever seen in my life. I might even go so far as to say between the filth, the smells and the severity of Juan's illness I was nearly repulsed. In that moment it would have been so easy to just say the case was hopeless and let nature take its course. Yet, there was such a spark of life in this little boy's eyes. There seemed no other thing left to do than to take him home with me.



Nearly two months passed before it became clear that little Juan Carlos would be alright. He was hospitalized with rotavirus. He was so severely ill that the

IHNFA (National Honduran Institute for Family and Children) refused to take Juan until his health stabilized. All the while, I fell more and more in love with the little boy who would sit on my bed and smile as I worked every night on my

computer. Finally, a home for malnourished children was ready to receive Juan. My stomach was tied in knots as I drove toward the nutrition center. I knew I had to leave him there, but somewhere deep inside I felt as though I was abandoning my own son. I cried an ocean full of tears as I drove toward home with an all too empty baby seat in the back of my car. My only consolation was that I would be permitted to visit. My heart was so broken though I wasn't sure I would ever be able to visit. Perhaps it would just be better to leave things as they were.

Not more than a week passed and I was back at the feeding center! I was devastated to find my once happy, smiley little boy sitting like a blob on the tile floor depressed and despondent. As I picked him up, he just laid his head on my shoulder and grasped my shirt tightly. For all my efforts, I could not get so much as a grin out of him. It seemed as though Juan missed me as much as I missed him. For the next five months I spent as much time at the center as I could. Although Juan gained weight, smiles were infrequent and half-hearted and he ceased to develop in motor skills. It was all he could do to sit by himself. He did not learn to turn over, much less crawl.

As I told the story to my good friend Teresa Suazo, during their family's visit to

Honduras in July she said, "sounds like to me you love him...you have to fight for him". And so it was. The very next day I went to fight for the little boy whose smile I could not forget. On August 18th, Juan came home with me to stay. What a blessing and a gift it has been.



Juan Carlos at 23 months of age. He is a happy, healthy little boy full of life.

AND JESSICA MAKES TWO



Juan had been with me eight days to the letter when I heard a voice call to me from the gate. "The baby is dying", said a frail woman standing in the pouring rain. Anytime someone says something like that, it always sends chills down my spine. I never really know what to expect, though nothing could have prepared me for what was to happen next.

As I ran to the gate, I could see a dirty and tattered orange towel covering what I could only presume was the "dying" baby. I asked the woman to come in and took the baby in the towel from her arms. I could feel bones through the tread bare rag and knew that the tiny bundle weighed little more than six pounds. Another malnourished tragedy from the mountain had once again found its way to

my door. I wasn't sure that today of all days I could bear one more heartache.

As the woman began to tell the story, I felt overwhelmed by impotency. This woman, whose name is Moncha, as it turned out was actually a good Samaritan. Moncha had found this little girl in a tiny village very close to the boarder as she traveled throughout the mountains selling used clothing. The baby had been abandoned by her young mother to the care of an aunt at thirty days of age. Unfortunately, the aunt was very poor and had many children as well. According to Moncha, the aunt had been forced to raise the child with Kool Aid and nothing more. When she saw the condition of the baby, she pleaded with the aunt to give her the child so that she could be turned over to "good hands".

{ *"Children are the best of all home adornments" Rufina Erazo* }

As this Samaritan made her way in a fiercely driving rain in the back of a pickup holding the tiny package in her arms, she asked the other passengers if they knew of anyone who would be willing to take the baby. She was told to take her to the “gringa’s” house. The others assured her I would not refuse to help. “I am here to complete my promise to her aunt She’s in good hands now. You have to take good care of her.”

I thought to myself at that moment, “I will do my best, but I am afraid tomorrow I will have to buy a casket”. This little girl who I later named Jessica was so malnourished that her liver, kidneys and heart had begun to fail. I stayed up all night long giving her the best treatments I knew for children in this condition. I watched her labored breathing and prayed with each breath that it would not be her last. With every hour that passed

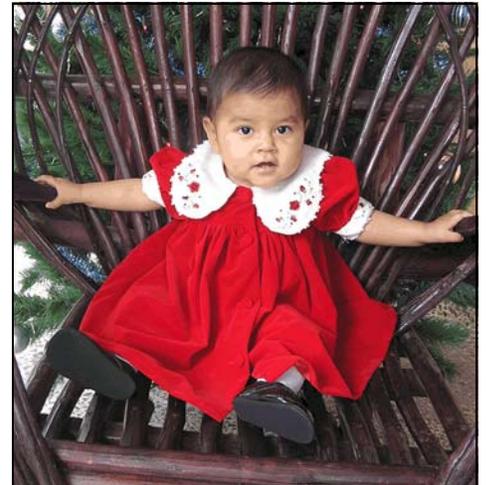
she seemed to get better. Yes, Jessica was a fighter! You could see it in her eyes.

In the morning, my friend and attorney Teresa Bu passed by to see how Juan was getting along. She had a vested interest in Juan’s well-being because she had relentlessly fought along side me to gain custody of him. I showed her the “surprise” package which had been left the night before. The now famous conversation went something like this. “Are you going to keep her?” “Oh no. I’m just going to help her get well and then turn her over to an orphanage. I am a single mother. I already have Juan. One is enough!” Teresa and I now laugh over cups of coffee and sweet bread about that conversation. She knew what I was going to do right away. It took me a little longer to admit to my head what my heart had known all along. Now, four months later, after many difficulties including a fourteen day hospital stay and a close brush with death because of septic shock, Jessica has made her way into my heart and my family.

in a most amazing and surprising way...all in the course of one week! How could I have ever doubted that the Lord who made all of creation, was incapable of finding a way for me to be a mother? I feel certain the only means to praise and glorify the God whose love is so generous is to continue to fight for the thousands of Juans and Jessicas of this place. Indeed, what a wonderful world it would be that no child should want for food, clothing, shelter or loving family. I pray His grace be sufficient to follow His path as Christ shows the way.



Certainly single motherhood in a developing nation was not the plan I had made for myself when I was twenty years old and dreamed of the proverbial house in the suburbs with a white picket fence. Yet I feel confident that I bear witness to the immensity and depth of God’s wisdom and love. In entrusting me the lives of these two children, He has granted me the one desire that came from the depth of my innermost being...to be a mother. Twenty years of prayer for children were answered



GROCERIES FOR LESS



The trade store continues to expand its scope to help the poor obtain higher quality foods at a better price. As basic grains increased and daily wages remained below subsistence levels, villagers expressed the need for a local, well-stocked grocery store. The agriculture project and trade store now boast a booming grocery store business in addition to the trade/bartering activities. Supplies for the grocery store are purchased in Pinalejo to help

support local business who once served the mountain communities. Prices for foods and other provisions are based upon a ten percent increase above wholesale. Not only do the local people save money on transportation costs, but they are also able to purchase more food with their hard earned cash. Some interest free credit is offered to those who can provide evidence of a stable income. Since July, the grocery store has been earning a profit, including enough to provide for one full time salary for the mission employee who manages the store. This is one more way the Fellow Man mission continues to combat malnutrition while striving for project self-sufficiency.



Before the creation of the grocery store, people were forced to travel to Pinalejo to purchase their monthly food supply. Transportation costs alone amount to more than a days wage and sometimes as much a three to four days wages for the most remote of villages.

GREEN PARROT COFFEE SALES INCREASE

Green Parrot Coffee sales are on the rise! That is good news for the mission as well as the coffee workers who benefit directly from our profit sharing program. Last year's sales totaled \$10,882.58. While this may not seem like much, it represents some significant achievements in the life of this development project. Brochures were printed to help inform the consumer about our purpose and connection with Fellow Man International. Our product presentation is finally at industry standard with metallic green foil bags, integrated degassing valves, tin ties and professionally printed labels. Sample bags were also purchased with matching gold labels to help sales. Most important

of all is that nearly all of the Paz family coffee was sold through Green Parrot which enabled Don Danilo Paz and his son Mauricio to provide higher wages for their coffee workers living in the clinic's service area. Providing a living wage means better nutrition, health, housing and education for those who labor in the coffee fields.

HONDURAN GIFT SHOPS JOIN IN

Casa del Sol a prestigious gift shop chain in Honduras and the IMAPRO, a mahogany woodworking shop and tourist plaza have agreed to carry Green Parrot Coffee. They are selling the coffee along

with distributing coffee samples and brochures. Internet orders are up as a result of coffee sales which were made to tourists and mission groups while in Honduras. Goals for this year are to expand GPC distribution in Honduras and to export premium green coffee beans for sale to small gourmet coffee roasters in the United States.

We sincerely thank all of those who have been involved in both the sale and purchase of our coffee.



"Compassion In Every Cup"
www.greenparrotcoffee.com

HEALING LEG ULCERS INSTEAD OF AMPUTATIONS

Leg ulcers are no laughing matter for those who suffer from them. The clinic has become a center for the treatment of venous stasis leg ulcers. Many patients in Honduras have suffered for years with these horrific ulcers. They are painful and frequently emit a stench which can cause the patient to withdraw from contact with others. The degree of ulceration is oftentimes exacerbated by a general neglect of the wound that can be the result of poverty, little to no education, inability to access medical care and poor nutrition. Invading bacteria can grow resistant in reaction to antibiotics or topical antiseptics that

are used to treat the ulcer.

With the help of many generous donors who have provided monies to purchase necessary antibiotics and the gifts of bio-occlusive dressings sent by Salina hospitals and other medical centers, many patients have been successfully treated at the mission's clinic. The clinic's reputation for the successful treatment of "hard to heal" ulcers has brought patients from as far away as San Pedro Sula, Santa Rosa de Copan and even Tegucigalpa. Multiple patients were told their only remaining option was amputation prior to seeking help at the clinic.



ROTARY CLUBS JOIN FORCES TO PROVIDE AMBULANCE

Fellow Man International is anxiously awaiting its newest team member. The Salina Noon Rotary Club, the Rotary International Foundation and the Santa Barbara Rotary Club of Honduras have joined forces to provide a new pickup truck which will serve as an ambulance and multipurpose vehicle to the mission. When Lisa first arrived in Honduras nearly eight years ago, she received a 1987 Isuzu Trooper as a donation from the First Presbyterian Church in Hutchinson. The Trooper has been a real "trouper" but now boasts over 287,000 miles

and was desperately in need of replacement. The Rotary clubs are purchasing a new Mitsubishi 4x4 utility truck to take the place of the Isuzu Trooper. The truck will be converted into an ambulance that can travel the mountainous back-roads to transport critically ill patients to the public hospital in San Pedro Sula. It will also provide the daily transportation of staff and patients to the clinic in Buenos Aires. Salina Noon Rotarian Charles Weathers wrote the

grant for the new vehicle last year and has diligently pursued the arduous process of achieving Foundation approval for the necessary project funds. Salina Noon Rotarian Roberto Garcia graciously initiated and maintained contact with the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara to ensure that the conditions of international cooperation set forth by the Rotary Foundation were met.

CINDY SABILLON GRADUATES FROM HIGH SCHOOL



Many of you know Mimi Sabillon for her delicious typical Honduran dishes frequently served to mission team visitors and trade store clients. Three years ago, Mimi's teenage daughter begged and pleaded with her mother to help send her to high school to receive an education. Mimi looked worried as she contemplated the high cost of sending her daughter to San Pedro Sula to earn her high school diploma. "I don't want for my daughter (Cindy) to be forced to make tortillas for the rest of her life like I have." Still, the cost of such an education was well beyond reach.

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of Ted and Valerie Rock and members of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Downer's Grove, Illinois, Cindy was able to graduate with a high school degree in Computer Science and Technology. Cindy received her education at the Ana Bechtold Institute, a prestigious high school administrated by the Association of Evangelical and Reformed Churches in San Pedro Sula. It was an amazing thing to witness, this much anticipated event in the lives of Cindy and Mimi. Mimi watched with tears in her eyes as her daughter received her diploma. Cindy is the first in her family to receive a high school education. She plans to work and continue her studies at the public university in San Pedro Sula.

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Graduation Day
Cindy Jacqueline Sabillon

"Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change. Education is essential to change, for education creates new wants and the ability to satisfy them." Henry Steele Commager

SAMIRA GOES TO MEDICAL SCHOOL



As far as Alfonso Villeda was concerned, his twenty-three year old daughter Samira was already a failure at life. Perhaps that sounds a bit harsh, but because she had not married and given birth by the ripe

old age of twenty-tree, by her family's standards Samira was doomed, having been

dealt a fate worse than death...a life as an old maid! Samira had other ideas though. She dreamed of becoming a professional, having choices and steering her own course. What she most wanted in life was to go to college, study medicine and then, maybe later have a family.

Against the wishes of her family and swimming against the strong current of cultural norms, Samira entered into her first semester of medical school this fall. This was made possible by some very generous donors in Salina, Kansas. Not only is this an

investment in one very deserving and brave Honduran woman, but is also an investment in the future life of the mission. Samira plans to return one day to the Fellow Man International clinic to work, committed to serving her neighbor in need. Samira wishes to express her gratitude to all of those who are making her dreams come true!

Donations Still Needed



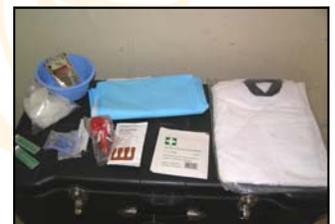
MIDWIVES RECEIVE BIRTHING KITS AND TRAINING

Fellow Man International has teamed up with the Honduran Ministry of Public Health in an attempt to help educate and assist local midwives. On a monthly basis, midwives

from all over the area gather at the region's Center for Public Health to receive continuing education and to document birthing activities in the area. Some of the current topics for continuing education include the following: pregnancy monitoring and control, identification of high risk factors and early detection of common complications, facilitating the birthing process, and care of the newborn. Since transportation in the majority of the remote villages of the mission's service area is extremely limited,

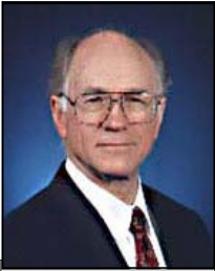
most women give birth at home with the assistance of a midwife. It is our common goal to help decrease maternal and newborn mortality by assuring the proper education and training of the area's midwives. As an extra incentive to come to the continuing education classes, each midwife has been given a birthing kit which contains the necessary items to attend a normal delivery. At the beginning of each class, every midwife reports important data to the Region's coordinator and then receives

replacement supplies to keep the birthing kit well stocked.



Each birthing kit contains a protective gown, gloves, gauze, iodine, umbilical clamps, scissors, bulb syringe and sterile drape.

A WORD FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT



Marshall Stanton
President
FMI Foundation

Creating a foundation for Fellow Man International marks a significant step for the Mission. Lisa's passion to improve health care for poor Hondurans led her to Buenos Aires and forms the basis of all that has followed. An essential step in the organization of the Mission is to achieve stability. A foundation can help accomplish that task.

The sole purpose of the Foundation is to provide financial and other material support for FMI. Oversight of operations lies with a non-government organization in Honduras composed of local professionals.

Fulfillment of the apothegm, "Institutions are lengthened shadows of individuals" has begun with FMI. The Mission that Lisa began doesn't now solely belong to her. Fourteen employees can now claim ownership in that vision. Hundreds of supporters in the US have a spiritual and financial investment in the Mission. Dozens of people have traveled to Honduras to assist in building mission facilities. Thousands of Hondurans have received medical assistance from the Mission. A cadre of local professionals have gathered to provide advocacy,

support and direction as an advisory committee. Rotarians in the US and in Honduras have joined to fund an ambulance. Doctors from the US have given medical service on location in Honduras. A quantity of medical equipment and supplies have been shipped from the US to the Mission.

As the Mission's service and effectiveness has grown, its needs have multiplied. They won't diminish, rather, they will grow along with the addition of services and increase of persons served. Every living organism that grows requires more and more resources to sustain life. So it will be with FMI.

The creation of the Foundation will help attain stability in order for FMI to function effectively. Within 30 – 45 days the papers requesting not-for-profit status will be filed with the Internal Revenue Service. With good fortune the status will be granted and the Foundation will then have the authority to receive funds that can be deducted from individual's income taxes. The Foundation can simplify the way in which contributions are directed to the Mission, because they will no longer need to go through local churches to attain deductibility.

The members of the Foundation live in three different states. Four live in Salina, Kansas: Marshall Stanton, President; Don Schroeder, Vice President; Bruce Moore, Secretary; and Doug Stein, Treasurer. Inasmuch as the Salina Rotary Club has been quite supportive of FMI, it was a sensible thing to draw leadership from a group of persons who

already knew each other and had a common association in addition to their relationship to FMI. These four have served as presidents of the Salina Rotary Club.

Occupations of these four are Marshall, retired college president, Don Schroeder, retired Presbyterian clergyman and church executive, Bruce Moore, attorney and judge; and Doug Stein, investment counselor.

Other members of the Foundation Board are: Ted Rock, Downers Grove, IL, retired information technology manager for airlines and Harris Bank, Eugene Faut, Tower Lakes, IL, retired from Sun Microsystems; Cindy Finely, Chanute, KS, Youth Director at First United Methodist Church; Dee Holman, Great Bend, Kansas, dentist; Rene Suazo, Ft Collins, CO, Honduran native and salesman for an unusual fuel pump supply company. The main means of communications among the Board members is electronic, using e-mail and Skype voice media.

The first task for the Foundation and for all FMI supporters is to provide a stable steady income for operations. Every part of the Mission depends on stable financial support. The Foundation Board will soon develop suggestions to every church and individual in how to achieve this necessary goal.

Respectfully submitted,

Marshall Stanton, President
Fellow Man International Foundation

KEEPING YOU INFORMED



If you or someone you know would like to receive electronic mailings from our organization including newsletters and short stories regarding mission activities, we would like to add you to our mailing

list. Please send your name and email address to the following:

webmaster@fellowmaninternational.com

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