

VIOLENCE IN HONDURAS



Ernesto and Marina Pinto work with Square One ministries in the "broadcasting ministry" and they work with C.E.O. Ministries in Church Planting, Mentoring Pastors, Ministering to Single Parents Feeding Children and supporting Christian Schools.

This past few weeks has been hard and lot of pain in our family. The street Gangs, raped and killed one of our girls who come to eat at our Children's Ministry in Lima, and then a week later in another part of the city, the gangs killed a nephew of Marina. The gangs had warned they would kill anyone on the streets after eleven at night but the nephew had not heard about it. Him and his friend were coming home late after a church service and were both shot in the head. Violence is claiming many lives in our country. But Marina and I believe he called us to this violent region to make a difference with the power of the gospel.

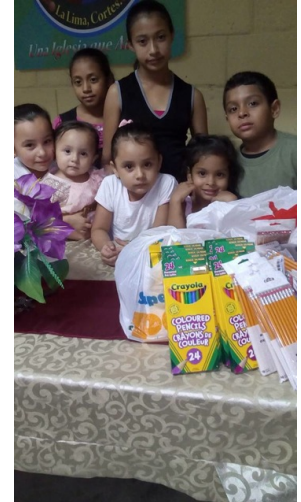
Feeding Centers

With your prayers and financial help we are helping two centers (one in La Lima, another one in Olancho and soon another group in Guatemala) In these feed centers there are attending some 200 children, with a full meal five days a week. We also supply school supplies for children.



Church Planting

And we are planting three churches in three different cities, lately I've been visiting The Church in Lejamaní, this is one of the country's poorest villages, but people are receiving with joy the gospel. (You can see the photos) of the construction of the church we have begun. The Believers are making the difference. We are helping to plant this church, Please Pray for the Pastors Joel and Lesbia. We help with the construction. Although the community is very poor, God has supplied. We still have to finish the floor and some details, but we are joyful. If you want to support or visit you are welcome.



Single Moms: Honduras

I thank God for keeping us with good health and for His protection. It's already being 2 months since we are back in Winnipeg, but the memories of what happened during the time we were in Honduras are still fresh when we think of the opportunities we had in connecting with the ministries we are involved in and serving in different areas.

We visited the Children Dining centre and the first group of kids attending school in the afternoon received their meal, while the second group attending school in the morning had their meal after coming from their morning class. It was good to see how happy they are; and receive the food with a grateful heart. It's good to see that when they arrive to the centre for their lunch, it was like a big family gathering there with so much excitement and screams and laughter. I witness lots of individual prayers before they eat.



Please pray for these groups of kids that are growing up in a dangerous environment were the kids from 12-18 are forced to join the gangs and if they resist they are killed like the case of Andrea Nicole a 17 year old girl who had grown up coming to the dinning centre and in the church. While she was walking by herself to her church service on a Sunday evening; a month ago (April) she was approached by a group of gang members and she was raped and murdered because she refused to join the gang group.

On March 12 we celebrated a Woman Conference were we gathered 71 Women and we had fellowship and ministered those who are struggling with their self esteem. At this moment we are sponsoring Rosa who is doing her practicum as Assistant nurse.

Prayers Request:

During the month of July and August we have Schedule to have sewing and cooking Workshops with Women from different cities, including la Lima, El Progreso and Lehamani, Comayagua.

Please pray for my family (Marina) in Honduras; who on May 8/16 just experienced the lost of my 21 year old nephew who was intercepted by 2 gang members along with another young man, who died instantly and my nephew was admitted to the hospital where he died 2 days later (May 11) from a bullet that penetrated the back of his head and went directly through to the front of his forehead.

We praise God that even though he's not with us on this earth any more; we know that he is with the Lord because the night of the shooting he was coming from a Vigil of the church he attended. The members of the congregation described to us that my nephew was on his hands and knees humbling himself and seeking after God in the moments leading up to the shooting. Thanks again for your help and prayers.





HAITI & DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ALIX & GERTRUDE JEAN-PAUL

SAM I AM CENTRE

FOR

CHILDREN EVANGELISM AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP
LOCATION: LECHARD, NORTHEAST OF HAITI
HAITIAN DIRECTOR: PASTOR NAMPHY TELUSMA

REPORT: MISSION TRIP APRIL 14 TO APRIL 26

Praise be to our God and thankfulness to our praying brothers and sisters in Christ. Despite the challenges facing Haiti, God is at work in a very tangible way in the lives of many. Very much so in Lechard where we drilled the well and are building the Sam I Am Centre. The testimonies of the people I have talked to revealed a strong Christian impact modeled by Pastor Namphy. The elder Jocelyn put it this way: we will not do anything without consulting with Pastor Namphy. If he said no, we will not do it. I sense a feeling of trust between the workers and a desire to do the best job possible as required by Namphy. The quality of the construction and the speed with which the work was done amazed most. I was very impressed by the amount of work that was done with the budget that we had. This is a small miracle taking into account the mindset of most Haitians and particularly most pastors when dealing with money.

I did have to apologize to Namphy for having put so much pressure on him. Until then I never realized the extent of the work he was doing. Being the construction manager, the pastor, managing his family and the expectations of the communities are too much for one person to carry. My prayers are to find him a North American partner who has a heart for mission, people skills and a willingness to work for the Glory of God. An individual who has some construction knowledge, landscaping skills, enjoy gardening and capable of getting some financial support.

The purpose of the mission trip was three fold: to assess the construction of Sam I am Centre for Child Evangelism and Youth Leadership, to set up the stage for Vacation Bible Camp for summer 2016 as a transforming spiritual experience for the children. Over all it was a timely mission trip at a critical juncture in the construction of the centre. I was able to share the vision with the leadership team. To the extent they fully understood it remains to be seen. There is a lot of work to be done yet. A highlight was the meeting with the older children of Pastor Lain: Rosemond who is more involved in the church and Kethlene who is very involved in the school. They represent the future of the ministry in Saint-Marc.

What are the next steps?

The continuation of phase will install the tin roof on the two buildings. It is possible that Ted, Sam's dad and Walter, Sam's uncle, both experienced builders will go with me to Haiti at the beginning of June to share their construction skills with the local workers. Our urgency now is to be able to raise the necessary funds to complete the buildings. We covet your prayers.

We will keep not only quantitative data based on parents and children testimonies; we will also keep qualitative data to measure our impact. However, the most important data will be kept by our Holy God as He welcomes each one of us by saying: well done my faithful servant. In doing good, let's be mindful of this spiritual truth: that God needs one faithful person to save a nation. Jonah is an example of this but there is also the concern of Ezekiel 22:30.

Your support and financial contributions have made it possible to reach that far. Each building will have two dorms 20 x 20. Each dorm will have its own modern washroom. We will be able to fit 10 bunk beds in each. We have completed phase 3 of the first building, the roof. The second building is next.

When we bought the land, it was a semi-desert like environment. The region was experiencing the longest drought season ever. The well that we drilled is providing clean water to the community and beyond. Where there is water, there is life. Can you imagine what the Gospel of Jesus Christ will do? If the well can turn a semi-desert like environment into an oasis, the light of Jesus will bring hope for eternity.

Your partnership IS BUILDING it. Many children and young people will hear about the Saving Grace of Jesus. They will experience salvation. They will become the light of their community as they will be ready to share their faith in Jesus with others. The center will welcome many children for years to come. We believe that God needs one person to save a Nation. We might be grooming this individual for Christ. An investment for ETERNITY!

On behalf of CEO Ministries Inc. and Pastor Namphy and his leadership team, Gertrude and I want say thank you for your continued support. Our partnership is making a difference. Let us continue to labour together. *Alix and Gertrude*

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9





TOGO, AFRICA: LEWIS AND NAOMI SWANN In his shoes...

The evening sun was finally out and the breeze seemed to cool the heat of the day. After another day of the heat, the evenings were something to look forward too. I have been to Africa four times and this was by far my hardest trip. I'm not sure why, given that I have always liked the excitement and adventure of Africa. But this trip wore on me a little more than usual.

One hundred degree heat, no air conditioning, food challenges and no running water for a few weeks took their toll. These things that would typically not bother me or at least bother me less but they seemed to just dampen my spirit and ultimately twist my outlook. But one thing was for sure, the children were always happy to see us and thankful that we came.

And one child in particular would come to steal my heart and put things in perspective. The children always arrived in the evening to either kick around a ball, blow bubbles or just see what we were up to on the farm. We organized a game of Duck Duck Goose, which all the kids found very entertaining. And then I saw him, covered in dirt like most of the other children, clothes that were dirty and worn with holes and little flip flops that barely stayed on.

But unlike the other children he was severely malnourished and the whites of his eyes had a yellow hue. He did not look well. When it was his turn to be the "Goose" he barely made it around the circle before he collapsed to the ground, out of breath and fleeting energy. This was not a boy that could play with children his own age. He gashed his knee and without a tear he let me clean and bandage his wound. I would soon find out that little time had been taken in this young boy's life to nurture and care for any of his bumps and bruises. Intent on finding out more about this boy, I asked to find out who he was and where he lived.

His name was Chris and it turned out that he lived in the neighboring village with his grandmother. I asked if I could meet his grandmother and invited them to stay for dinner. His grandmother arrived, a frail woman in brightly colored clothing and a walking stick. She was skin and bones. This explained why Chris looked so malnourished. The grandmother was malnourished too. The more I learned about Chris, I wondered how he had made it this far in life.

Diagnosed with Sickle Cell Anemia as an infant, he was then taken to a witch doctor who did a horrific treatment to try to "bleed out the bad blood" and left about thirty scars on his stomach. He also told Chris' parents there was no cure and to just let him die. His family left him with the grandmother and carried on with life without him. He never saw another doctor or received any treatment during this time. He was now ten years old but looked more like he was seven.

The grandmother agreed to let Chris come back morning and evening to be fed. In the beginning he could only take a few small bites but as time went on his appetite grew and so did his personality. **After two short weeks, this boy with little expression now started to smile.** We spent the next few weeks going to doctor's appointments, feeding him, playing with him and building a relationship. Its not to say that he wasn't given love by his family. It was obvious that his grandmother cared for him the best she could, but I am sure he experienced many feelings of neglect and rejection from his parents who relinquished their care of him for reasons we may never understand.

He became my little buddy. He would smile as our van would drive up to the farm and he would often arrive first thing in the morning, long before I woke up, to have breakfast together. The boy who had trouble eating more than a few bites in the beginning was now eating more than most of us would put on our plate for one serving. We started him on folic acid and Vitamin B12 and started him on a plan where a doctor would see him once a month. The first appointment we went to, he sat on my lap as we got the news from the doctor regarding his blood work and the progression of this disease.



Because Chris had not received treatment during the course of his life, several organs had been damaged and the doctor felt that he would not survive as long as those who had had treatment. He had a life expectancy of eighteen. Had I known these would be the words that would come out of the doctor's mouth I would have found a way to shelter this young boy from these words. Here was a boy told his whole life he would die. If there were anything that would kill one's spirit I would imagine it would be this. What it must feel like to be a kid and not know what it feels like to just run around with other kids, to dream of the future or have the warmth of a parent hold you when you are scared. I would hate for any child to be in his shoes.

But Chris now has a family that loves him and cares for him. Although we are a mixed family of the team members on the farm, Beth, Lewis and myself, we just love him. He will never go another day in his life without one of us showing him his value and making sure his needs are met. And so as I reflect about the dampened spirit I experienced on this trip in missing the comforts of home, here was a boy that put it all into perspective. Sometimes we have to put ourselves in someone else's shoes to know how much we have to be thankful for.

Chris has a quite the journey ahead of him and we just recently learned that he will have to have surgery because of a large mass that was found in his chest. Please pray for Chris as his surgery approaches. He needs a big miracle.

Written by: Naomi Swann

Caribbean BBQ Thursday, June 23 @ 6:30 pm
Lewis Home: 10 Sunny Hills Road, NE Winnipeg

Multi-purpose Event:

- Commissioning of Grant and Roberta Kurian
- Friend and Fund-Raiser
- Meet with Missionaries from the Caribbean
- Good music, good food, great fellowship

Bring a friend, Bring a Lawn-Chair, Bring a Salad or Dessert, Pray for good weather.... See you there.



These lovely two pieces of jewelry have one of the most significant symbols for evangelism and counseling. Read the enclosed tract. Both are made out of sterling silver. You can also get them gold plated. The cost for the pendant is \$100 and you get a \$25 tax-deductible receipt. The cost of the ring is \$150 and you get a \$50 tax-deductible receipt. Make sure you give us your ring size and whether you want it in Silver or Gold plated.

We also have people who have planted Corn for Kids and we will sell them in the fall to raise money to feed kids in Haiti, Honduras, Dominican Republic, and Guatemala.

Dr. Lewis will be taking a team back into Cuba on June 12th and then Alix, Brian and Dr. Lewis hope to be in the Dominican Republic and Haiti in July. Continue to pray for the health of Terry as his energy levels are very low.

WE ARE A TEAM...

Empowering Ministries to ...

Reach the Lost, Revive the weak, Rescue the fallen, Restore the broken, Reconcile the offended, Release the Disciple

CHRISTIANS EMPOWERING ORGANIZATIONS
Box 283 ST. VITAL, MANITOBA R2N3X9

