

# Hope Found In Misery

Which would you say is the most dangerous country in the world to live or to minister? The answer for both is: Honduras. While the covid lockdowns might have stopped others from continuing in their ministries abroad, this has not been the case for Ernesto and Marina Pinto. As soon as travel restrictions were lifted, they were on the first flight back to their home country to continue serving those in need.



Covid in Honduras has only been a secondary problem compared to the drug trade. Two category four hurricanes – Eta and Iota, the last two named storms of a record-breaking hurricane season – made landfall in Central America on Nov.3 and Nov.17, leaving nearly 7 million people in a zone stretching from Columbia to Mexico in critical need of assistance. Though both hurricanes initially came ashore in Nicaragua, it appears Honduras has suffered the most damage and the most deaths.

Floods, mudslides, destruction, and countless people, some of whom being dangerous criminals, all crowding into small, centralized emergency shelters during a pandemic with not enough medicine to go around. “Overwhelming” would be the understatement of the century. Yet when Christ is involved, Hope is Found in Misery.



One of the innumerable tragedies the country has experienced is the rerouting of many rivers to where streets and homes used to lay rendering them useless. This includes “El Comedor” one of the children’s centers used in feeding programs funded by donors like you.

However, during trouble when all seems bleak, God is at work. Well before the disaster hit Honduras, a church in Morden had already given funds to purchase of a building with a fenced yard and now we are able to relocate the Honduran children’s ministry.

Situations like this are not isolated cases either. During a time when the world is in chaos, where millions of people worldwide were without work and even without hope, you have empowered the CEO teams to provide hundreds of thousands of dollars designated to rescue programs, disaster relief, and literally keeping people alive.



Marina, Pastora Marielos, and Pastora Norma at the Women’s Conference

## Vessels of Honor and Divine Favor

We just celebrated our first Women’s Conference since the lockdowns. Even though we were uncertain of how many women would attend due to the covid restrictions a group of 80 women attended. It was a wonderful hearing from our guest speaker who spoke on “Vessels of Honor and Divine favor”, a much needed message bringing our sorrows and difficulties before God. Many lost loved ones from Covid and others are recovering from the Hurricanes and floods.

We gave the women opportunity to respond to God. Some of the women made an eternal commitment to Jesus and others encouraged. We prayed, and cried together. Then we enjoyed sharing some food which, under their circumstances, was a real treat.



For Ernesto and me, it has been a blessing to come to Honduras, but also overwhelming, seeing with our own eyes the debris left by the hurricanes and how entire communities have disappeared. Some of the rivers have changed their course and have claimed the streets and neighborhoods where houses used to be.

Thankfully with the help of CEO partners we have been able to continue feeding the children with Pastor Roberto. Without this program many of the children would have no food at all. Please pray for Roberto's wife Vicky, as she is still recovering from Covid and is currently unable to continue as head cook. This trip especially has been a reminder that God is our refuge and strength in times of difficulties - Psalm 46:1. Thanks for your prayers and financial support that enable us to serve our brothers and sisters in Honduras. There is still much work to be done. *Marina*



### Ukraine/Israel: Grant and Roberta

The other side of the world continues to have amazing struggles both economic and political but good work is still being done on the ground. We have been blessed to help the elderly who have been displaced by the Russia/Ukraine war as Ukraine threatens to take back Crimea by force. There are programs focused on feeding the widows and widowers in this area.



We continue to work in Israel where children with physical and psychological trauma get to participate in feeding programs, extracurricular activities that give them as much as a normal childhood as possible. Our teams there have gained access to a special pool that allows them to move with ease and have fun, but also provide a little bit of physiotherapy.



The kitchen program we have mentioned previously is still being developed enabling children to learn how to cook for themselves (of course the children who are able to do this). Our hope is that perhaps these children can gain a skill that might get them a job in a restaurant in the future, and for those who wouldn't be able to work, to at least have a skill to help care for themselves.

***And glory to God we are not the only ones that are supporting these ministries. Many people around the world have been teaming up with God's work in serving these children. Thank you for helping. We are all God's family, (each person, each ministry) empowered by Him to help others.***



### **Alix Jean Paul: Haiti, the Land in need of Redemption**

In a small way, with the generosity of many, the SAM I AM CENTER, through its programming will allow the next generation to experience the AUTHENTIC GOSPEL OF CHRIST as He answered, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”* (John 14:6 NIV).

As requested by the parents, Pastor Namphy and his team are in the process of building a new Elementary Christian School to house about 250 students from kindergarten to grade six. The parents want their children to learn for a full year what they are learning in a few hours at the camps. God has answered their prayers because Pastor Namphy has asked his Canadian parents: Waldo and Edith Fast to extend their generosity in helping him to build the school. The new Christian school is planned to be open in September 2021.



We need to build a well that will provide clean drinking water and flushing toilets for the students, a cafeteria for the students to eat, a kitchen for cooking, and a library. The well will cost \$5000 US plus another \$2000 to build the washrooms.

Onetime gifts are welcome. You can dedicate a classroom on behalf of a loved one. It will cost about \$2000 Canadian to furnish a classroom. Each class will need seating for about 40 students. We need blackboard, teacher’s desk, small storage.



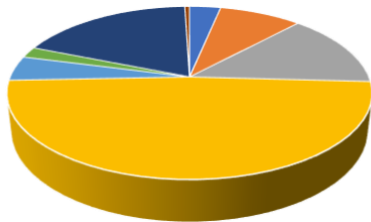
### **Dominican Republic – Your Prayers Have Been Answered! School for 70 Students Provided**

We have acquired a suitable building. It is a 5-minute walk from where we are now. It has a yard for recess for the student. Our students are excited about the upcoming school year and are looking forward to being in the classroom with their friends and teachers rather than under the mango tree in a back yard as it has been for the last year and half due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.



We are very thankful to all our supporters who enable us to provide an education to our students who could have been down the street selling items to generate income for the family. Young boys and girls, between the ages of 8-12 face many challenges when selling on the streets. Thank you for your support which enables us to pay the rent, to acquire school materials and to provide breakfast at their arrival in the morning and a substantial lunch before they leave the school in the afternoon. CEO is blessed to have a partnership with the Dominican Vision which makes it easier for us to operate the school. Thanks Pastor Walter and Carol Warkentin and to Pastor Chala for being our eyes on the ground in DR. May God bless you for you have blessed many.

## Global Missions Distribution of Resources \$ 517,133.12 January - July 2021



- Africa
- Canada
- Central America
- Cuba
- Dominican
- Ethiopia
- Haiti
- Peru

### FOCUS ON PRAYER AND

- Budget for 2021 is \$ 845,000, so in the next 5 months we need to raise \$ 328,000 or \$ 65,600 / month.
- You can feed 10 Families for 2 weeks in Peru for \$100
- You can join others in supporting Brian & Sandra @ \$50-100/month so we can make greater use of their gifts, talents, and time.
- You can support Pastor Joseph Bagaza @ \$50-100/month as he goes into full time ministry supporting Congo and Rwanda
- Pray for Vicky; Roberto's wife who is the cook at our Feeding Centre as she recovers from Covid. Pray for Honduras & the Pintos
- You can sponsor a classroom in Dominican Republic and Haiti.
- We are praying for monthly supporters for Kenson in Haiti to manage our facilities.
- Additional funds are needed to put a cement roof on our new school in Haiti as we open in September for 250 students.
- We need urgent support for those fleeing genocide in the Congo/Sept. Mission Trip.
- You can watch Joseph Bagaza on Youtube by looking for Encountering Jesus Hour.
- **Above all, we need PRAYER; we are overwhelmed, and our national pastors and missionaries are doing much with little. Please pray!**

## How you Feeling ?

How are you experiencing life these days? Can I be honest. I must admit I am often experiencing a heaviness and a sense of being inadequate for the challenges I am facing. It seems like so much is out of control with global politics, pandemics, economy, and a loss of a sense of normalcy. So, I wonder, how are you doing?

I realize my focus is often misplaced. I know God uses imperfect people because there are no perfect people but such platitudes do not do much for me. I can identify with Paul in 1 Timothy 1:15. It seems like when a person's outer world seems to be in such a negative place, that negativity turns inward and focuses on our failures. God clearly tells us we are inadequate, but that He makes us adequate. His Word clearly points that out in 2 Corinthians 3:4-6; 4:1,2. So, I find help by not focusing on either my outer world or my inner world but, as He enables me, to *focus on His Word*.

I then begin focusing more on God than upon myself. I do not understand much about all the chaos in the world and how Romans 8:28 works but I know enough about God to believe that it works. As I dwell on Romans 8:31-39 I start to feel the heaviness lifting and a sense of "grounding" that seems to empower me to look at the "giants" in my life and know that my God is able.

From this vantage focus, I can start looking at the needs of those with whom I am in contact, and have a sense of confidence. Like one of Aesop's fables of a mouse and an elephant crossing a bridge and the mouse says to the elephant, "Boy did we ever make that bridge shake." Let's team up with God and shake up the world to build His kingdom. *Terry*

**We are on one of God's Teams... Empowering Ministries to... Reach the *Lost*, Revive the *weak*, Rescue the *fallen*, Restore the *broken*, Reconcile the *offended*, Release the *discipled***

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