

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



GLOBAL MISSIONS - HONDURAS

A PARTNERSHIP WITH

MINISTERIO APOSTOLICO BETESDA
LEPATERIQUE, HONDURAS



INFORMATION & INTEREST BOOK

Table of Contents

Purpose & History **3**

Betesda **4**

Sponsorship **5**

Feed the Children **6**

Support of Student Education **8**

Team **9**

Mission Trip **10**

Contact Information **13**

Section I Purpose

The purpose of the Honduras Mission is to provide support and encouragement to our Christian brothers and sisters in Honduras as together we seek to share Jesus with others.

History - How it all started

In the late 1990's there is an engineer lying in a hospital bed in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. He has every reason to be mad at God. Family members have been murdered and he has been told he is dying. Instead he bargains with God. If God will spare him, he will serve anywhere God wants. God sends him to Lepaterique, a rural community of about 1,500 people. The man feels like Jonah – “anywhere but there, God”. Then the man meets the children. It is all about the children. Omar Macias becomes Pastor of Betesda Church.

In 2003, Holy Cross Lutheran Church wants to establish an ongoing relationship with a church for the purpose of global mission work. God provides an opportunity through Compassion International, a Christian child development organization, to introduce Pastor Omar of Betesda to the first travel team from Holy Cross. The partnership begins.

“This partnership is an answer to years of prayer” - Pastor Omar



Pastor Omar and Guisel

Section 2 Betesda is Compassion International Project HO – 226



where children receive instruction in Christian living, a warm meal and the love of Jesus through the staff. The need for a latrine and additional classrooms is met during the early trips.

A larger church building was built in 2012. Over the years

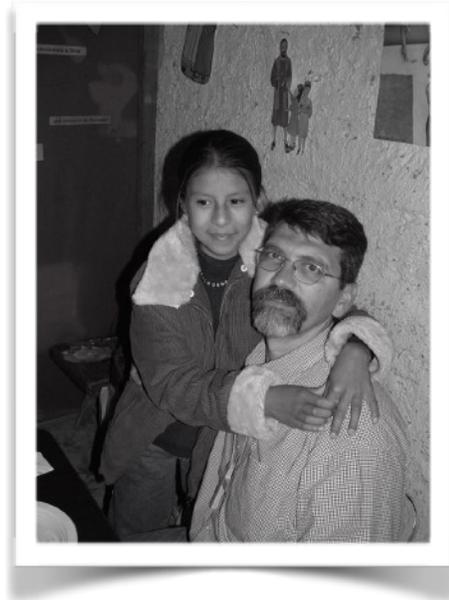
Holy Cross has provided funding and (sometimes) labor for various special projects. Examples of such work are clean water to a village church, the concrete floor of the new sanctuary, painting, and materials to cover a dangerous drainage ditch that ran through the playground. The team will continue to work with Pastor Omar and Betesda to identify ideas for future projects.



Section 3 Sponsorship

Several families from Holy Cross have relationships with families from Betesda through the sponsorship program of Compassion International. Lives have been and continue to be changed in the name of Jesus!

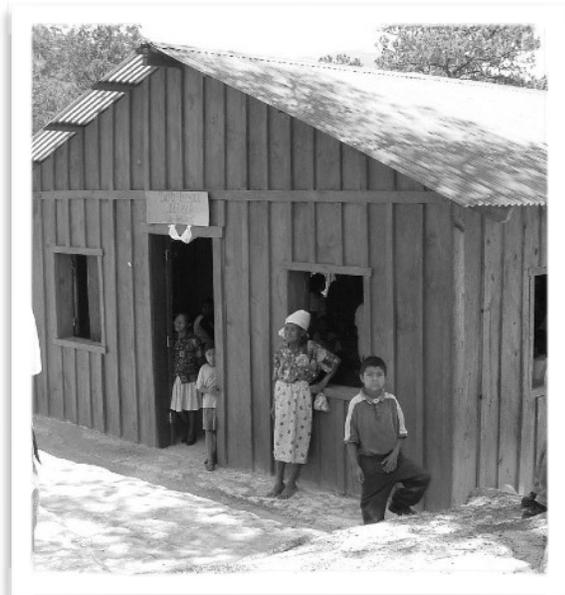
Presently about 70 children are sponsored by Holy Cross families at Compassion International project HO-226.



Beginning in 2006 Holy Cross, at the suggestion of Compassion International, started to visit other Projects. Since that time, the teams have established ongoing relationships with Projects

HO-222 and HO-223. Both are located in Tegucigalpa, the capital city of Honduras, and represent the much different problem of poverty in an urban setting. Ministry groups and families within Holy Cross have established relationships with children at these locations through sponsorship. God is busy in Honduras. All praise to the Lord!

Section 4 Feed the Children



In the countryside outside of Lepaterique people were hungry for God's Word and for food. God gave Pastor Omar the vision to plant churches in this outlying area.



To date ten village churches have been started with lay pastors serving as their leaders. The children of these villages are fed a few meals each week depending on the resources available at Betesda. To help, Holy Cross has begun designating a portion of its Missions budget to supplement this effort. The staff of Betesda uses these funds to frugally shop for additional sources of protein to increase the nutritional value of each meal.





In 2009/2010, under the direction of Pastor Omar, the people of Betesda and the villages began raising crops to help feed their families. In that same year Holy Cross conducted a special fund raising event for

the purchase of seeds, tools and fertilizer to jump start this project. Thanks be to God for the generosity of the people of Holy Cross - \$8,000 was collected for this need.



This increase in self sufficiency is an answer to prayer and extremely encouraging to all involved in this ministry.

“It is good that they can bring their own tortillas” - Pastor Omar



When the families of the village churches come to a community meal, the adults can now hold their heads high because they are able to contribute to the meal.

Section 5 Support of Student Education

In 2005 Holy Cross began sponsoring an annual golf tournament for the purpose of raising financial resources to support promising young people of Betesda with their continuing education. Many young people in these communities simply need a modest amount of assistance in order to have the opportunity to change their lives and the lives of their family.



“The success of these young people gives me an example to show those coming up. They can have hope for their future in their own country. If it is possible for them, it is possible for you too.” - Pastor Omar

God has used these resources as follows: Elvis - nurse; Diana - physical therapist/nurse; Erick - electrician student; Alex - electrician student; Kenndy - microbiology student; Edgar - electrician student

Section 6 Team

God has placed the people of Holy Cross and the people of Betesda in a ministry partnership. In a broad sense each individual of Holy Cross is a part of this partnership by supporting the travel team. They provide prayer, transportation, supplies or cash for a specific project. In a more specific sense, individuals may choose to become involved by joining the travel team.



Section 7 Mission Trip

The objective of the annual trip to Honduras is to send a team of 20 members to support this mission. The trip is generally scheduled for ten days in March coinciding with the week of spring break (according to School District 11). These dates may occasionally change to accommodate the needs of the mission or its team members. The cost is approximately \$1,800.00 plus the price of a passport and the suggested immunization shots. Several fund raising opportunities are available to team members to help defray these expenses.

Team Requirements.

Team members are required to be of the Christian faith

Individuals 13 - 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

Participants are required to attend the team building and planning meetings held during the months prior to the trip



Mission Trip Goal #1

Develop and nurture relationships with children, their families and the adults in ministry.

Vacation Bible School Fair. During our time with the people of Honduras we present an abbreviated version of Vacation Bible School including a skit, songs, and carnival games. This provides an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with them formally. Informally we spend time loving the children by simply spending time with them.

Youth Retreat. At the request of Pastor Omar, the team began facilitating a youth retreat in 2012. The retreat regularly attracts over 100 young adults from Lepaterique and surrounding villages.

Home Visits. Team members make visits to the homes of Compassion International sponsor children. These visits greatly strengthen the relationships between sponsors and children.

Just Being There. Individuals from Holy Cross continue to develop Christian friendships with the people of Betesda. These relationships serve as a source of encouragement for those both here (Holy Cross) and there (Betesda) as we carry out the task God has called us to do.



Mission Trip Goal #2

Provide financial and physical support to assist Betesda in their ministry.

Holy Cross sends financial support to assist in feeding the children throughout the year.

We bring other desirable items including Christian teaching materials, personal hygiene items, school supplies and medicine.



We recently began the purchase of coffee grown by the people of Bethesda. Proceeds from this project support the employment of families in need.

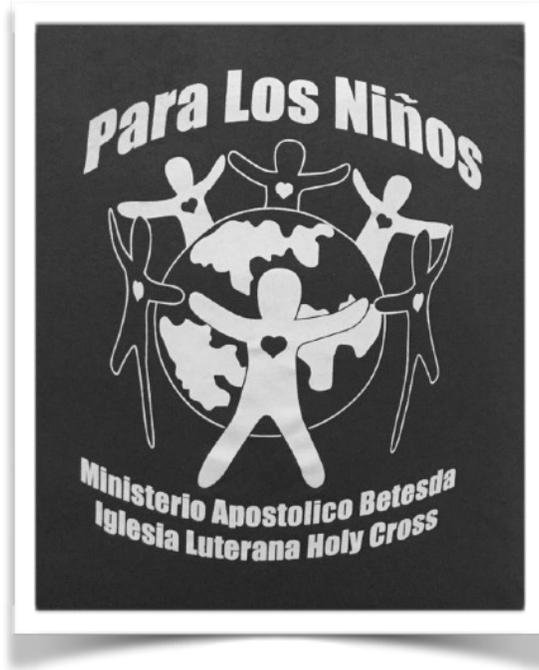
What will our great God do next?

**For more information
about the
Honduras Mission please contact:**

**Jeff / Lorrie Faunce
719-593-0035
fauncej@comcast.net**



**Holy Cross
Lutheran
4125
Avenue
Colorado
80909-1688
Phone:**



**Church
Constitution

Springs, CO**