

A TOUCH OF HOPE



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Our Timing Vs. His Timing

Many of us have a plan all laid out for our lives. Certain events should take place at certain times to coordinate perfectly with our outlined life. However, in reality even when you are living under God's leadership and direction, things don't always happen when you expect or want. It is important to remember that God's timing is perfect and ours is not. He knows exactly when something needs to happen for our very best. He sees everything before and after each event and knows all the circumstances surrounding it; we unfortunately do not. So, if there comes a time when you are frustrated waiting on God, remember He knows you better than you know yourself and He truly knows what is best for you. "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose". (Romans 8:28) Relax and let God keep His schedule for your life and you will have peace knowing that the all knowing and loving God is in charge of each event in your life and its timing.

How Do Kids Make a Difference?



Four of the 2007 Walk-a-thon participants

Each year A Touch of Hope sponsors a minimum of three fundraisers in the Longview, Washington area giving kids an opportunity to help change the lives of children around the world. Rain or shine, kids come out for our spring walk-a-thon around Lake Sacajawea. It is a 7.11 mile walk in a tranquil setting. Tranquil at least until some of the participants decide to compete and turn the walk-a-thon into a race-a-thon. Nevertheless, the kids and adults have a good time.

Each year in the fall, A Touch of Hope initiates a Koins and Kash for Kids drive, and a Basketball shoot fundraiser. These events bring in funds to purchase supplies for the next trip. This is only one part of the fundraising process as additional events are held in Northern California and in Mexico. Another large percentage of funds is donated by generous people all over the country. These people share a common dream with A Touch of Hope to help needy children.

Funds raised in the last four years have enabled A Touch of Hope to send over five hundred children to school with uniforms and supplies. Several hundred other children have received food, clothes, shoes, and miscellaneous materials necessary to go to school. 100% of the funds raised by kids are used to change the lives of needy children around the world.



Matthew is a sixteen year old living in Mexico. He fabricated beautiful pens to sell as a fundraiser. Matthew was part of the team for both Honduras 2005 and 2008.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

February 15-25, 2008



Team members, back to front and left to right: Matthew, Garrett, Doug, Brittney, Ashley, Sandy, Tracy, Connie, and Ian

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

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Ian speaking to the children at the government orphanage

This team was made of five students and four adults. After arriving in Honduras, the team participated in a fun night with a church youth group. The next day they took the bus into San Pedro Sula to visit a government run orphanage.

The walls were twenty feet tall with barbed wire across the top. The doors were locked and it resembled a prison. Inside the facility was clean

but the children looked sad and destitute. Many of the children had shaved heads with a multitudes of scars from repeated beatings. Upstairs at the facility, the team spent an hour just holding babies from three months



Garrett teaching English class

to three years old. There were sixteen babies with one lady to care for them. Many of the children did not respond in any way to affection. They are referred to as "crib babies". They have given up on crying and on life in general because no one cares. These beautiful children are rarely held and have virtually no stimulation. It is an extremely sad situation.



Ashley teaching letter sounds and recognition with Bingo

The next several days were spend at the Heart to Heart orphanage in Tegucigalpa. The environment here is warm and caring.

The team put on their program with puppets and skits on three occasions, once at the government orphanage for 50 kids, again at a Sunday school service for over 200, and a third time for another 200 at the Heart to Heart orphanage.



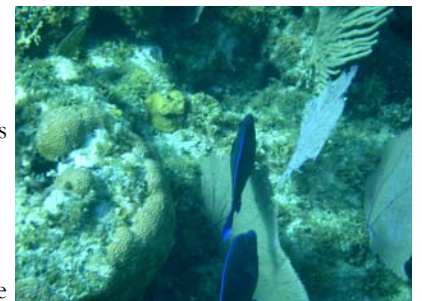
School supplies for 200 kids



Brittney entertaining the kids

Two days were spent teaching English, crafts and PE in Tegucigalpa. During the trip 200 pre-selected children from the orphanage and nearby villages received uniforms, shoes, textbooks, and other school supplies from A Touch of Hope. The gift-giving was a real fiesta with clowns and candy.

Each trip brings new joys and challenges. It was wonderful to share God's love with the children at the two orphanages. It feels great to provide a child with the means to receive an education. The great sadness for the team this trip was leaving the babies at the government orphanage. It seemed like there was so much need yet the team was limited in many ways in what could be given. In retrospect, the trip to that orphanage was a success as the team brought each child there a touch of hope. God's love was displayed through the love of another child and the adults in the group.



Snorkeling in Roatan

At the end of each trip the team spends a day or two debriefing. This time is for fun and reflection. This trip debrief was held on the island of Roatan off the coast of Honduras. This is a simple island with a beautiful reef just off the beach. Everyone on the team enjoyed their time in the sun.

A team going to Thailand is in formation for February 2009. Donations and children are needed!