



GOOD SAMARITAN BAPTIST MISSION, INC.

“A Mission with Compassion”

“And ye shall be witnesses unto me... unto the uttermost part of the earth.”



[/goodsamaritanmission](#)

Dear Faithful Friends and Supporters,

Wow. The time has gone by so fast since writing our last newsletter. There has been so much that has happened that I honestly don't know where to start. I'll let the pictures in this newsletter tell you most of what's happened, but first let me share something with you.

This year, we are celebrating 30 years since our Opportunity of a Lifetime Program started with the first child sponsored in 1988! Through the Opportunity program, God has impacted countless lives by providing an education, uniforms, shoes, school supplies, etc., but most importantly, by introducing them to Jesus. We have encountered so many people that came through our program that used to live in hopeless and poverty stricken situations. With the power of the Gospel and Opportunity of a Lifetime, they now live successful and Godly lives along with their families! It is fulfilling to see the results of this program so many years later!

*For 30 years, we have maintained sponsorships at \$30 a month (\$60 for dorm students). However, we all know that expenses are not what they used to be in the 1980s. Just like the cost of living in the US has gone up, it also has in Honduras and Nicaragua. In the past few years, we have found ourselves struggling to make ends meet and be able to provide all the children's needs. Minimum wage goes up each year in Honduras, the light bill is always very high, gas bills are higher in Honduras than the US, and food prices are higher every year. We have also been amazed to see how God has been faithful and always provides just enough to get by each month. However, it has become more difficult each month. After much thought and prayer (a lot of prayer), **we have decided to raise our sponsorship to \$35 a month (\$70 for dorm students).** With this said, we definitely don't want any currently active children to lose their sponsor because of this. **So if you are not able to go up to \$35/month, please continue to sponsor your child at \$30/month.** All new sponsorships, however, will be at \$35/month. For those who sponsor children, I want to thank you for investing in the lives of these children. I think you will never know the true impact you are making in their lives until we get to Heaven. **Please know that I don't take lightly asking you to give more than you already do.** However, the circumstances have changed through the years and that has forced us to rethink our budget. I want Opportunity of a Lifetime to continue to thrive and reach as many kids as we can, not just survive and struggle to meet ever-rising expenses. Please help us to pray for this program that God will continue to bless it and touch many more children and their family's lives. We also pray that God will bless every sponsor's life because you are helping to change another.*

For the annual MLC Ladies Retreat, we worked on a project last year that was so much fun and that blessed our hearts. We got in touch with several people who went through the Opportunity program and our schools and asked them to send us a short testimony about how the program impacted their lives along with an updated picture of them. Then we looked in our old files of their pictures when they were first sponsored. To see both before and after pictures, side by side along with their story, was just amazing! So we want to share one of these stories with you in this newsletter (see page 12). We pray that it will bless your heart just as it did ours. God is an amazing God and He continues to touch lives today!!

I could probably keep on writing and writing, but I'll let the pictures tell you the rest. Let me say that

Good Samaritan Baptist Mission is not just those of us here in Honduras. It includes all of you. Remember that the Good Samaritan in the Bible reached out and took care of a man that he didn't even know; a man that was rejected by others that just passed him by. All the Samaritan knew was that this man needed help. You all are investing and pouring into many lives that you don't even know. You are being Good Samaritans to the people of Central America. Thank you for being a part of our Good Samaritan family.

Let's continue to expand God's kingdom together!

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him... - Luke 10:33

In Christ,

Arold and Stephany

Would you like to come visit us on a Mission Trip?

We have two groups that we'd love for you to join in on if you're interested!

October Ladies Retreat Mission Trip

Dates: Oct. 9-16, 2018 (Tues - Tues)

Price: \$1500 out of Atlanta (call for pricing from other locations)

This group will host a women's retreat for our national pastor's wives.

Graduation Trip

Dates: Nov. 26 - Dec. 3, 2018 (Mon - Mon)

Price: \$1450 out of Atlanta (call for pricing from other locations)

You'll be notified by our office soon if you have an Opportunity graduate.

Call us at 770-459-4058 for more info!

Saved and Baptismal Report for August 2017– April 2018

	HONDURAS	NICARAGUA	TOTAL
Saved	304	691	995
Baptized	84	100	184

What's been happening...

God never ceases to amaze us! We were in desperate need of a new bus for our American groups that come visit us and God supplied the money in a miraculous way! Thank you so much to everyone who had a part in helping us get our new bus!!



We have had many baptisms in the past few months!

Pastor Danilo Hernandez baptized 7 people in El Triunfo, Honduras.



In our last letter, we told you about the revival going on with Pastor Belarmino in Azacualpa, Hon. As a result, 33 people were baptized from his church! Since Pastor Belarmino had recently had surgery, then Pastors Oscar Vallejo and Rodin Sanchez baptized.



Pastor Stan Berrong from Glen Haven Baptist Church in McDonough, Ga. visited us with a group from the church. He baptized 10 people from the Duyure church pastored by Santiago Colindres.

During our Graduation Week in November, Pastor Stephen Peeples from Roopville Road Baptist (Roopville, Ga.) and Pastor David Richmond from Grace Baptist (Evans, La.) spoke at our graduations. They, along with Pastor Mark Taylor, baptized 8 people in a river in El Puente, Honduras.





In Honduras, we are blessed to openly celebrate the translation of God's Word in Spanish! The last Sunday in every September, we celebrate Bible Day, which is a national holiday declared by the government in 1988! Hundreds of Christians in different cities and villages march in the streets with their Bibles in hand and with signs that have Bible verses on them. As we march, we sing, our pastors will preach, and we hold our Bibles up for all to see. This year in the village we visited, we all ended up in a local basketball court for a service after the parade. This is one of the biggest spiritual events of the year for us. ***This year we celebrated 448 years of the Spanish translation of the***





Last November, we had Graduation Week! We had over 60 Kindergarteners, 90 Elementary Students, 110 High School students! It never gets old to watch our students, whether they are 5, 12, or 18 years old, to walk with their proud parents and sometimes with their sponsors as they achieve a huge goal in their lives. Also, 6 men graduated from our Bible School after 3 years of studying theology. We were so happy to have Bro. Stephen Peeples and Bro. David Richmond from LA to speak at our graduations.





Thanks to your donations, Children's Christmas 2017 was a success! God supplied enough funds so that approximately 13,000 kids in Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Mexico could receive a toy for Christmas! I think the toy store in Choluteca doesn't know what to think when we come in and buy all their toys! You'll see a few pictures of the buying, packing, and giving out toys in the previous and current pages. One day, we went to a very remote village way back in the mountains of Honduras to give out what we had left. We literally had to climb and go down mountain paths to get to people's homes (pictures on this page). These are children that do not have electricity, they probably have never even left their village before, and they only go up to 6th grade because there is no high school there. When we reached one of the homes, we found out that the mom and dad had 3 sets of twins, besides two other children! That made up 10 people living in a small adobe home (upper right picture). It was a joy to give each of them a toy and let them know that we do this because Jesus loves them and He was a gift for all of us! Thank you to all who helped make this possible!

We had the opportunity to visit one of our churches that is 12 hours away up in Northern Honduras in the city of El Progreso. Pastor Jose Zamora and his son Moises are doing amazing work there. They took us first up a very, high mountain where they've started a new church. We had a service there under a big shed that a member of the church is letting them use (upper left). They are trying to buy a piece of land so they can one day build their own church building. While there, we learned that the village is very close to the Guatemalan border. They deal with a lot of human trafficking and even witchcraft in the area. In spite of the difficult and sometimes hostile circumstances, Pastor Jose and his son brought the Gospel in by showing God's love to the people. After the service, we headed down the mountain but it got very dark and rainy, which made it very slippery. There was a van traveling in front of us with some members of Pastor Jose's main church. At one point, they had to squeeze by some trucks and suddenly we saw it go sideways. You can't tell very good by the picture (upper right), but the front left tire of the van is hanging in the air off the side of the mountain. Any more and the whole van would have gone over! Thankfully, the pastor was driving a 4 wheel drive car and was able to pull the van out safely! Moises regularly visits the people in the village to serve them in anyway he can and pray for them. He sent me pictures later of an elderly lady he visited who lives all by herself. He showed me her bed which was just a wooden frame with rope tied across it and clothes thrown on top for a little cushion (bottom left). Thankfully, we were able to get her a decent bed to sleep on (bottom right). That is her house behind her in the picture. We are so thankful for Pastor Jose and Moises' faithfulness and passion for God's work! Help us pray for them, their ministry, and their many needs.





Every year, a group of men called Team Impact from Glen Haven Baptist Church, visits us to do construction and maintenance work on all of our buildings, churches, vehicles, and more. We can't express our appreciation towards each of these men, along with their leader, Jon Troutman, who show so much dedication, hard work, and over all, the love of Christ, every time they come. This year while here, they gave out water filters and buckets in a poor village to help provide clean, purified water to drink (upper left). One of their biggest construction projects this year was putting a new roof on our mountain church in Caire. This was a challenging project because it was so windy. However, they worked together as a team and now the church has a new roof and can stay dry during their services! Later in the year, we also had their pastor, Stan Berrong, to visit us with a group from his church. We visited a church back in the mountains of Chupadero, Honduras. After service in the main church, the pastor took us to visit his mission churches. One of them was only made up of a shed and no walls (bottom pictures). One of the church leaders told us that many members walk over an hour to get there. But he also told us of some members that live across the river. He said that when it is rainy season, the water comes up to their waists and someone has to cross first, throw a rope over for them to tie around their waist in order to pull them across safely. This is what they have to do to get to church every week and they do it! We were blessed to see the love and passion of these people for God's Word!





We had a crazy but amazing adventure with a group from Strong Rock Christian School in Locust Grove, Ga.! We decided to visit a church that we had never visited before in a village called Jicaral. If you saw the picture on the cover of this newsletter, you'll see Pastors Santiago Colindres and Mario Sanchez pointing to a place past the mountains. That is where we went. The pastor in this village, Renato Lopez, has walked 3 hours to get to this village for church 2 times a week for 12 years without one complaint. We drove there in three 4-wheel drive cars for about two hours and some in the group even went on horseback! I have never seen worse roads in my life! It looked like a roller coaster! But when we got there, the happiest people and the happiest pastor was waiting for us. They had so much joy and it made the rough ride worth it. The biggest blessing was that God touched hearts to provide the pastor with a 4-wheeler so now he can ride there with his family and save energy and time to go pastor his people!



If you'd like to get involved and help change a life, here is your opportunity! To sponsor a child, it is \$35 a month and this pays for their tuition, school supplies, uniforms, etc. If a student lives in our dorms, he/she needs \$70 a month (or two sponsors paying \$35 each) because of living and food expenses. If you'd like more info, please call us at 770-459-4058 or write us at office@goodsamaritan.ms.

Opportunity of a Lifetime Story (Dina Izaguirre)

I am 32 years old and married with two children, Alvaro and Katherine. When I was 7 years old, my mother told me that I had to change schools because we lived in a small village and we were moving to a bigger town. It was sad at the time because I was leaving family and friends but my mother was just looking out for the best interest of me and my siblings. When we got to our new home, I felt uncomfortable and I asked my mom if we could go back to my father. She told me to just wait until I got to my new school the next day because I would love it. My mother was right because when I went inside, I loved it and I started to smile. My mother said to me, "Honey, this school is paid for you by people in the United States. They, without even knowing you, are helping you so that you can go to school. The only thing you have to do is pray for them at every moment and write them letters." I was very, very happy. From that day, I knew that Wendy and James Harmon were my angels. I learned there were many of us students who were part of this program. This couple sponsored me for 12 years and because of that, I learned about the Word of God and I grew spiritually. When I graduated from high school, I graduated as a teacher. I felt very blessed because now I could serve other families by teaching their children. At the time, my mother worked at the Good Samaritan School as a cleaning lady and at times, I would go with her to help clean. I had been looking for a job during this time but wasn't able to find one. After a few months of helping my mom with the cleaning job at the school, I was given the opportunity to teach at Good Samaritan. I have been there now for 12 years! God blessed me greatly in allowing me to be a student here and now I am a teacher here! We are even more blessed because my son is also in the program and in him, I see the same happiness I had many years ago. I give thanks to God for the Opportunity of a Lifetime program which has been a great blessing in my life.



