

Feed My Sheep Team Member Comments, 2017 From Team

Leaders CD & Linda Tripp

Mission trips mean different things to different people. Some people return exhausted; others return refreshed. Many return humbled. Some are filled with facts: who was served & where; others are filled with emotional experiences; others are in awe of God's provisions. Hopefully everyone returns healthy; some don't. But everyone returns with memories and touching experiences. Such was our team, Feed My Sheep, to Yorito, Yoro. Thirteen is considered an unlucky number but our team consisted of 13 wonderful people and we were very lucky because it was one of the very BEST teams! I mean that seriously. With four new members, no one could tell it was their first trip to Yorito. Things fell nicely into place and personalities meshed wonderfully.

Our local host, Fanny, coordinated in which villages we would hold clinic. They were: Yorito, Santa Cruz, Jalapa, Rio Abajo, Ciruelito, and La Sierra. More stories coming soon from some of our team members.....

From Janet Espinoza:

Honduras was again incredible due to the people on the team and the people in Yorito. Twelve members of the AHMEN medical mission team flew in to San Pedro Sula where I met them and we were joined by six bilingual Honduran missionaries who would serve as translators. Fanny and several others from Yorito brought a large van to help transport us and all our luggage, everything that wouldn't fit in three large rented pickups. First stop was Pizza Hut, then delicious fresh fruit at a road side stand, next gas before another four hours on bumpy roads in order to arrive in Yorito. Part of the group I knew and some were new (I like that both those words are in the same sentence), and we had

rooms in two separate hotels. Tina and I met in the van and paired up as roommates in Hotel Los Angeles. I can't imagine a more compatible person to work and share with during the week. We ended up together by default, and I would choose her on a future trip.

Six locations in four days allowed us to see more than 1200 individuals for consultation. The first day we saw only a few at a mini-clinic in the church while we were sorting the many large containers of medicines and vitamins that people were so happy to receive each day. After breakfast and devotions each morning we were off to a different community, all part of the municipality of Yorito. Most were closer than often visited and had never had a medical brigade serve their community. The furthest away was two hours. But a group of us walked back via a different path and arrived in only an hour, even with a short break at someone's house while the rains poured down. Hondurans are so friendly.

What is really amazing is to see the degree to which the Hondurans are assuming responsibility for projects in their area including the medical missions or brigades. The facility setup, intake registration, triage (blood pressure, etc.), crowd control, and special touches (like coffee, donuts, lunch) are all done by local community members. Through empowerment training with AHMEN-SIFAT over many years and project commitment from Peace Corps and others, they now have a group of community agents that are the volunteers who make all happen while we are there and when we are away. With bilingual translators from the coast, I was freed up much of the time to meet with these community agents who are improving the health of the families in their communities.

I was able to see the gardens thriving, the latrines and pilas being used daily, and the happy faces of those who have zinc roofs or cement floors. Now with added training, they are constructing water filters for the various communities and

hopefully have purchased an incubator to test water filters yearly. Thanks to donations from Gilroy Presbyterian Church and other individuals we were able to give 1000 lempira grants to ten Honduran volunteers who helped at clinics outside their own communities. They are now each using that money to start one small project in their community, something that will be completed by local labor and local donations. What is ahead is much more of the same with an added component of the sewing of school uniforms, some to sell and some for those who can't afford to buy. We will buy the fabric and the recently trained women will do the sewing. Little by little the women are gaining skills to support themselves and their families.

The day we were leaving we were able to buy from local artisans. The pine needle baskets are beautiful and the jewelry made of paper so unique. Locally grown coffee was also among the products brought home. At Gilroy Presbyterian Church we will have a Mission Faire featuring products from Honduras, Ghana, and Cameroon. Join us for food, music, and great crafts to buy on Sunday, December 3rd

From Nestor Martinez (translated)

I very personally and my family are very grateful to the medical Brigade Tripp especially with you Linda and with cd for great humanitarian aid q somehow or other we have solved some of our difficulties. And we ask God to continue giving health to each of you so that you can continue to support us with these brigades that change lives. Every time is a new experience, THANK YOU !!

Yo muy personalmente y mi familia estamos muy agradecidos con la brigada médica Tripp en especial con usted linda y con cd por gran ayuda humanitaria q de alguna u otra manera nos han solucionado algunas de nuestras dificultades. Y le pedimos a Dios que les siga dando salud a cada uno de ustedes para q puedan

continuar apoyándonos con estas brigadas q cambian vidas. Cada vez es una experiencia nueva, MUCHAS GRACIAS!!

From Marlen Bodden, one of the translators:

I was invited to go with the AHMEN Mission Group that goes to Yorito. It was such a blessing to be there. We got to serve lots of villages, some areas no one had ever gone to before. Everyone in that group demonstrated the love of God to each other, to us the translators and to the people that came seeking medical attention. And they were presented to Jesus also if they didn't know. I enjoyed myself. This group is such a blessing. I hope they keep coming and keep inviting me to be a part. God bless each and every one who were a part of this trip.

From Peggie Hurlson:

As always, this year was a blessing to work on the F M S medical mission team, as general and medical translator to the doctors and nurses, with Mr. and Mrs. Tripp. Doctors and nurses worked tirelessly, as always. Without complaints, to attend the needs of each village we visited. Many benefited from this medical brigade like every year. As for many of them, this is the best medication they receive until the next year.

Another great experience for me, I learn a new thing each year. Thanks for loving and coming to Honduras.

From Melanie Ford:

Yorito was my first mission trip. To say I was overwhelmed is an understatement. I didn't anticipate the heartbreak and genuine sadness I would feel for the people of this community. Yet, the appreciation, humility, hospitality, and general happiness of Yorito was uncontested. I felt sick to come home to an unworthy population. I was told I would experience these feelings by all the people that so kindly helped me fumble my way through this trip.

They weren't wrong. I feel like God granted me these kind folks to show me humility in exchange for the tiny amount of service I had to offer. I will forever be grateful for the experience. And I will, without a doubt, be looking forward to going back next year. Thank you Yorito! God Bless!

From Natalie Budd:

This was my first of what I hope to be many mission trips to Honduras. It was a life changing experience, where in feel I came out a much better person than what I went in as. Throughout the week I was blessed to have been able to meet so many amazing people and care for the people of several different villages. It was a truly humbling experience. The patients came in with aches and pains, as well minor infections, and despite all that they all had a smile on their face, and an abundance of appreciation for what we had to offer. Our days were long, but our team worked until every patient was cared for, and at the end of the day, I felt renewed and excited to help the next day. I am forever thankful for the experience and I hoped to be welcomed back next year.

From Florence Brice

I truly love all the hard work in attending to the welfare of each family. I love to see God giving us the people to accomplish the work that is on your heart. The needs of many, many families were met.

I LOVE the experience on the mountain reminding us that God is with us!!