



Send Hope



Winter 2014

Where is the Outrage



Lately in the news several stories have caught our attention and have received extensive coverage. Several of these stories involved college and professional football players. The outrage from the media and the public sent Michael Vick to jail for cruelty to animals. Ray Rice was suspended indefinitely from playing football after the outrage when the video surfaced of his knocking out his then girlfriend in an elevator.

But where is the outrage when a child on the Miskito coast dies from lack of food or a preventable disease. Where is the outrage when an eleven year old girl becomes pregnant after being raped by her stepfather or in the case of another eleven year old, raped by an unknown man. This year we have hosted 3 pregnant eleven year old girls at the House of Hope and have had 3 children pass away.

Another news story has been the 60,000 children at the US border wanting to come to the US to escape the violence in their country. The largest percentage of these children came from Honduras. People were divided on what to do with these children. Some said send them back to their country, and others said let them stay in the US. There was division as to why this sudden influx of young people was occurring. Some said it was due to the violence in their native country. Politics became involved and the blame went to our broken immigration system.

I think all would agree, however, that the children could have a better life if they lived in the US. So what is the solution? One answer is to improve things in Honduras. That is what those of us working with Send Hope are trying to do. (continued)



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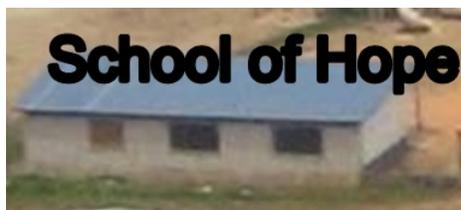
There are 50 children living in the House of Hope where they are fed, clothed, educated, and taught Christian values. The School of Hope has 50 students in grades 1 to 6, and we are currently building four new classrooms. We will go from 2 to 4 classrooms and each new classroom is twice the size of the existing classrooms. We will be able to have more students attend the House of Hope school. We also provide lunch for all of the students. None of this would be possible without your help.



One of the two current classrooms



4 new classrooms will be ready February 2015, for the new school year



The current classrooms will be remodeled into offices for the Feeding Program, Medical Program, and the Assistant Director.

Currently we need \$11,500 per month to operate the House of Hope. Only about 25% of the donations that Send Hope receives are from monthly contributors. Donations are down from previous years, and the building of the new classrooms has taken its toll on our ability to provide the \$11,500. If you feel led to help improve things for the children in Honduras, we could really use your donation at this time. Any amount, either one time or ongoing will help. Thank you so much for your continued support through prayers, donations, and trips to visit the children in the House of Hope.

God's Organized, Serious Side Or How I Met Dr. Marianne

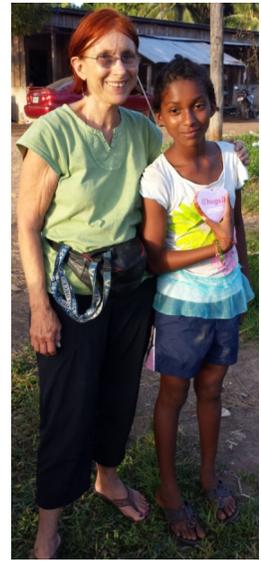
In our last newsletter there was an article entitled—"God's Humorous Side or How I Met Katrina", and I promised to write about meeting Dr. Marianne. I truly believe that it was God who put the three of us together with perfect timing.

Unlike the differences in age and family backgrounds that Katrina and I have, Marianne, a cardiologist, and I have several similarities. We are about the same age and both have professional health service degrees. Volunteering with the International Health Services (IHS), Marianne first came to Honduras the same year, 1991, that I made my first trip to Honduras.

After selling her medical practice in Minnesota, Marianne came to Puerto Lempira to support IHS. The House of Hope was up and running and she came to help Katrina who suggested that I ask her to work with us.

The timing could not have been better for two reasons. I had been having problems tracking the money that we were sending to operate the children's home. Being very organized, Marianne took on the task of recording the receipts in her computer. Second, Send Hope had just received a grant from Rotary International to transport children from Puerto Lempira to Western Honduras or the United States for medical treatment. Marianne's medical background helped as she evaluated which children could be treated in Honduras and which needed to come to the US. She would travel with a group of children and parents overseeing their treatment and taking care of their follow up appointments.

Marianne could not have volunteered her skills and organizational abilities at a more perfect time. Thanks Dr. Marianne Serkland.



Sponsorships

Does Send Hope have a Sponsorship Program? I have often been asked that question. Many have seen TV ads and heard people speak at Mission Conferences about sponsoring children and think Send Hope should have the same program.

I have had reservations about a sponsorship program for several reasons. First, the programs that I have seen implied that for \$35 a month you could feed and educate a child. I know for a fact that this is not possible. I know how much we spend at the House of Hope, and \$35 per month does not come close to the actual cost. This fact was confirmed recently when I visited with a missionary in Honduras. He said that the education and food for the \$35 per month program, got a person to tutor the child as little as an hour on Saturday and at most 2 or 3 tutoring sessions a week. Feeding the student was a snack at these sessions.

I think the reason that organizations ask for \$35 or even less per month is because that is a small enough amount that many people can afford to give. Orphanages differ in the amount they spend per child, but we have figured our cost per child to be about \$180 per month. At first glance that seemed like a high number to me. However, I have been told by people who are familiar with homes for children that we are doing a lot for that amount.

Another concern for a sponsorship program is inequality. Some people send gifts, letters, and other items to the child they are sponsoring, while others send only the sponsorship money. We try to treat all children equally at the House of Hope whether they are a child who will live at the House of Hope until they are 18, or ones that live there while they finish their medical treatment, or the neighborhood children that attend our school but live at home.



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On the other hand; a sponsoring program helps donors identify with a particular child. Many of the people that visit the House of Hope see a child that becomes their “favorite”. We all have our favorites, and that is only human nature. So a sponsorship program allows that person who is moved to help a particular child. Sponsorship programs also allow a person to pray for a child by name.

Another positive aspect of a sponsoring program is having monthly giving. Send Hope only gets about 25% of its donations on a monthly basis, and the other 75% are one time gifts. It would help tremendously to know how much would be coming in each month.

So the answer to the question is, yes, Send Hope has a sponsorship program. We currently have sponsors sending students to a Christian school in eastern Honduras. There are also generous people who give each month in the name of a child living at the House of Hope.

If you want to improve conditions in Honduras by helping a child, then consider making a monthly donation of whatever amount you are able to give. (This can be done with a check, credit card, PayPal, or a monthly bank draw).

If you want the name of a child so you can pray for that child, we can send that to you. Just let us know. As stated earlier our donations are down so we are looking at ways to cut back on the \$11,500 needed each month. We are trying to decide which program to cut, or if we can send some of the children back to their homes. If you can help, please let us know.



Ways to Help

Upcoming trips

Dec 26—Jan 10 Allen FUMC
Jan 7—12 Men of Honor
Jan 16—23 Jillian Matthews
Jan 17—26 Dakotas Medical Team
Jan 30 to Feb 8 NCC Habitat
Feb 7—16 Dakotas Medical Team
March 7—13 S. Dakota Youth Mission
April 4—19 Bridget Moss group
April 7—11 Byron Beam Medical Team
June 7—16 Andrew Fields Team
June 15—22 Mabank UMC
July 7— 16 Allen FUMC
October 19—24 MEDICO



Contribute to Send Hope each time you purchase from Amazon. Go to org.amazon.com and select Send Hope as the organization for your donation.

Ongoing Needs

Kids Against Hunger®

For \$0.25 you can provide a child with a meal that contains **all** of the vitamins, minerals, and protein **needed** for the **day**. You can host a packaging or raise funds for Send Hope to sponsor a packaging.



Contribute each time you do an internet search. Go to www.goodsearch.com and select Send Hope Allen, Texas to receive your contributions.



Contribute each time you shop online. Go to www.goodshop.com and select Send Hope, Allen, Texas to receive your contributions. Look for special coupons from participating stores.

Baby: High Chairs, and Pack & Plays
Bath Soap
Bicycles—all sizes
Bras—(especially larger sizes)
Chalk and Erasers
Cloth Diapers and Diaper Pins
Clothes Pins
Children and Teens Underwear
Deodorant
Feminine Hygiene Pads
Kitchen Items
Lice Treatment
Nit combs
Outdoor toys and games
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Shampoo
Sheets: Single and Crib
Shoe Laces: all sizes, all colors
Shoes—all sizes
Socks—all sizes
Strollers—large wheel (jogging)
Towels