

new life news

OCTOBER 2015



Honduras Mission Trip

By Kim, Hannah & Joshua Dixon

On July 25th, Scott Cromer, Diana Shaffer, Kara, Andrew and Stephanie Kistler, Sarah Johnson, Ainsley Ford, Hannah, Joshua and I left for a Missions trip to Northern Honduras. At the Columbus Airport, we were joined by two more team members; Rachel and Les (who is Stephanie's brother-in-law). We left at 6:00AM and were in Honduras by 11:30AM their time, 1:30PM Columbus time. We had to go through Customs though, and that took about an hour or so, so we didn't meet our team leader, Brenda Johnson, until close to 1:00 o'clock. We loaded up in two 15-passenger vans and, after about an hours' drive, we arrived at our destination in Omoa. As we were driving to our designated location, I received my first culture shock. With this being our family's first missions' trip outside the U.S., I was not quite sure what to expect. I knew there would be poverty, but I wasn't quite prepared for the extent that it would propagate. Needless to say, I was quite shocked by what I saw....the tiny, tiny one room tin or concrete shacks that families actually lived in (in 95 degree weather!!!), the mounds and mounds of trash that were heaped up and just thrown by the side of the road because there is no sanitary system in place. In order to try and get rid of the trash, people would burn it anywhere they could. The livestock were horribly emaciated because there is no sufficient pasture land to sustain them. Horses, cows, dogs, cats, sheep, and even some pigs ran loose on the dirt roads of Honduras. In effect, to try and get grass to grow, whole sides of mountains were burned, which created an atmosphere of acrid smelling smoke that was prevalent everywhere we went. In the medical clinics that were held that week, the majority of problems that were encountered and treated were respiratory ailments and worms.

October Church Events

- Oct 4 – Kindergarten Recognition
- Oct 7 – Comfort & Joy Sewing Ministry 9:00am
- Oct 11 – Birthday Bash 6:00pm
- Oct 21 – Comfort & Joy Sewing Ministry 5:30pm

Honduras con't

And the driving conditions? Don't even ask about them! I do not believe there are any traffic laws in Honduras and the people drove like there weren't!!! I was really surprised we only saw one accident the whole week! Our driver, Beto, who lived on the grounds (where we stayed) with his family year round, was able to skillfully get around all the obstacles (cows, children, horses and carts, pedestrians, street sellers, motorcycles, bicycles, and other vehicles) without any effort. Also, people honk at you, A LOT! They honk to tell you hola, and then to tell you to move, to tell you it's okay to cut in front of them, and also because they are aggravated at you. It got very confusing who was honking at what, so by the end of the week, we just ignored it. But it was so odd to drive in America where no one honked at us all the way home from the airport!)

Despite all of this, people will ask, would we take this trip again? The answer is a resounding yes! We would definitely take this trip again. Why? Because Christ was there. (Not that He is not here, but there, in that horribly poverty-stricken place, He became more visible, more real; because the people truly relied on Him to fill their every need.) He was there in the people we visited and the children we got to meet and love. He was there in the orphanage providing for every need of every child. He was there in the schools; His Word being taught by Christ-loving teachers; He was definitely there in the churches we visited and the pastors we got to meet, and he was there in our fellowship and the sweet, sweet times we had in our devotions and music. As a matter of fact, by Tuesday, everyone had dropped most of their walls and we were laughing and talking like we had been friends since we were in diapers. This was a big step for many in our group, but I so appreciate the realness and openness the group was willing to share. Even when others were mixed with our little church group, God was able to use and mold us that week so that we might further His kingdom for His Glory and Honor. During that week, we did not cease to be amazed by His protection and love for His people. (And a lot of His protection was definitely shown when we were driving around Honduras!) Several times, I knew we could potentially be in unsafe situations. But I also knew we were being protected because we were doing His work and no matter what situation we were dealt, we all knew Who was in control and Whose hands our lives were in. So with His reassurance, we went forth and did what we were called to do, and that was to be the hands and feet of Jesus back to a needing people who showed us Him in their lives as well. We thank God for the opportunity that was afforded us all and we DO hope to be able to do it again!

En el Nombre de Dios Nuestra Jesucristo

Senior Moments Update

The Sr. Moments Fellowship participants have been enjoying some terrific times together and are looking forward to some very enriching events. On October 22, we are planning a road trip to Cincinnati, where we'll visit the "Cincinnati Museum Center At Union Terminal." This all day trip will be a car pooling event costing around \$35 to \$40. Our next fellowship will be on November 11, (Veterans Day). We will meet at the church for a Panini Sandwich and homemade soup lunch. Our program will have a patriotic theme featuring guest speaker, Eric Ellis. Then, on December 10, we will have our Christmas gathering at the Der Dutchman Restaurant. Our guest speakers are Roy and Dianne Kehl, presenting "Reflections of giving the gift of opening our home and our hearts to Monica, a high school exchange student from Shanghai, China."

Looking out into early 2016, we are planning a road trip to Dayton, Ohio, to visit the Wright Patterson Air Force Base Museum. Then, we'll have a field trip to the Gorman Rupp Nature Center, with instruction guide, Abby Bramlage (granddaughter of Betty Lou Woodward) who specializes in injured bird rehabilitation. Lunch will be at a nearby restaurant.

We have been having some wonderful groups of sweet-spirited folk, and hope we can inspire you to participate. You'll be blessed and a blessing to us.

Steve Says...

On Ramps, Off Ramps, & Intersections

While driving to Florida this past spring, I followed the directions given by the GPS device we had in our car. In general, it did a great job of telling us when to turn and what roads to follow to get to our destination. There was one time, however, that it told me to exit from the highway in a place that made no sense at all. Being the mindless (and obedient) driver that I was, I took the off ramp even though I knew it wasn't what I really wanted. A moment later the GPS instructed me to continue straight and merge back onto the main highway. You see it was one of those intersections where a lane breaks off from the road and then off ramps and onramps merge onto that lane before the lane rejoins the rest of the highway. I have no idea why the GPS wanted me to get in that lane, but it certainly confused me for a few minutes and had me searching for a map so that I could make my own decisions rather than trust some machine.

As we travel the pathways of this life, sometimes we get confused about which direction to take. Sometimes we take an off-ramp only to realize later that it was a mistake. Sometimes the circumstances of life change so that the path that was good and right before, is no longer the right path. We find ourselves at an intersection and don't know which way to turn. Yet we are not helpless because as followers of Jesus, we have help in finding the right way.

God has given us 3 major "tools" for helping us find and stay on the right path. The first of these tools is the Bible. In it we are taught TRUTH. This TRUTH is the foundation for our lives and forms the framework of our decision making process. Our morality, our actions, and our beliefs are all based on TRUTH as found in scripture. The second "tool" is the Holy Spirit. I must apologize for calling Him a tool, but he serves as a helper, and a counselor in our life. He gives nudges and pushes and speaks to us of the way we are to go. If the scriptures are the timeless TRUTH that define the lay of the land, then the Holy Spirit is the real time voice, nudging us in the way God has chosen for us. The third "tool" is our Christian family, your brothers and sisters in Christ. They serve to encourage us and to share their experiences with us and to grow with us and to walk beside us in our journey of life.

At New Life we have Discipleship groups for the purpose of bringing together people in their journey through life. (to promote the effectiveness of the third tool) The groups are meant to be places of support and growth and challenge and accountability and friendships and so on. But what we have come to realize is that as time passes, the roads of people in any given group may diverge as offramps and intersections come along. Sometimes this means that the discipleship group that worked so well before is now not quite a match now. So we are trying to create new opportunities for people to join and leave groups gracefully. The idea is that when the path of life changes drawing us from one group, it should lead us to another. This is why we are creating 3 periods a year to emphasize the groups and to create a chance to leave a group and join another, or to just jump in and join a group. We are all on the narrow road and can use the help along the way!



October Birthdays

- 1 - Charlie Dome, Lani Snyder
- 2 - Korbin Rogers
- 4 - Mary Carroll, Karen Maglott
- 8 - Isaac Kistler
- 9 - Regina Jones, Matthew Clark
- 10 - Taylor Ramey-Wolf
- 11 - Greg Sharp
- 12 - Mason Noe,
- 13 - Rod Shofner, Ron Johnson, Sam Armstrong
- 14 - Kara Kistler
- 15 - Mary Jane Riddle, Kaitlyn Sharp
- 16 - Phyllis Hughett, Vic MacTavish
- 18 - Kerry Hart, Hannah Dixon
- 19 - Don Wilson, Brent Dudgeon, Jodi Ramey, Whitney Cromer, Rhett Dudgeon, Keith Rogers
- 22 - Bill Smith, Linda Tucker, Ruth Ward,
- 23 - Katelynn Lucci
- 25 - Heidi Ehret, Stephanie Kistler, Joe Kindt, Carolyn Shofner,
- 26 - Arik Beveridge, Joel Twedt
- 28 - Garrett Carroll
- 29 - Olivia Hickerson, Hudson Sharp
- 30 - Jay Thompson
- 31 - Stan Rhodes, Rhonda Tetlow

New Clothes for the Emperor

It's the heart that makes the man, not the clothing. Princess Chenille is the only one in the royal family who knows that clothes can't fix the kingdom's problems. Poverty, hunger and neglect simply cannot be 'cheered up' by silk or taffeta! The power-hungry Prime Minister, Count De Gauche, has convinced the emperor he should wed Princess Chenille, even though she cannot stand him and loves another. Luckily, the narrator comes up with a plan to postpone the wedding-a royal clothes contest for the Emperor's wedding outfit! You won't forget the two ruffians posing as tailors as they weave their scheme with finesse, fervor, and invisible fabric! By the end of this down-to-earth story, the good-hearted Emperor realizes the error of his ways, demotes the crooked Count De Gauche to work in the stables and welcomes Captain Herringbone Faircloth as Princess Chenille's husband.

New Life Theatre wants you to be involved as our community event returns to the stage on November 6-8, 2015. Preparations are being made to *provide a fun theatrical experience that will introduce people to Christ while also equipping individuals to build relationships that lead to discipleship.* There are several ways that you can participate in this outreach event:

- We need enough homemade pies to serve at all three performances.
- We need kitchen help in plating pies and serving drinks.
- We need servers who will interact with our guests and help them with any needs as well as make them feel welcome.
- We need volunteers to serve as ushers and registration table assistants that will show hospitality to our guests at each performance.
- We need people to help with decorations in the New Life Center as well as table centerpieces.
- We need individuals to take care of publicity and help get the word out about our event by posting flyers and handing out invitations at the parade on October 29th 7:00p.
- We need individuals to help set up tables and chairs on Tuesday, November 3rd at 3:00p.
- We need everyone to invite individuals in order to build relationships with them for the purpose of discipleship.
- We also need people who would be willing to follow up with our patrons after the event by contacting them regarding their Event Survey Card.
- We need prayer warriors who will take New Life Theater before the Lord throughout the production process.

If there is a specific area mentioned above where you would like to serve, simply indicate the area of interest on the *Connection Card* so that we can contact you with more information. Thank you in advance for helping us to succeed in our mission.

Our hope and desire is that every person attending our production is, or will be, involved in discipleship with someone from our church. Please consider joining us as we pray for God to change the hearts of people. Call Ryan Mowry if you have any questions about volunteering for New Life Theater.

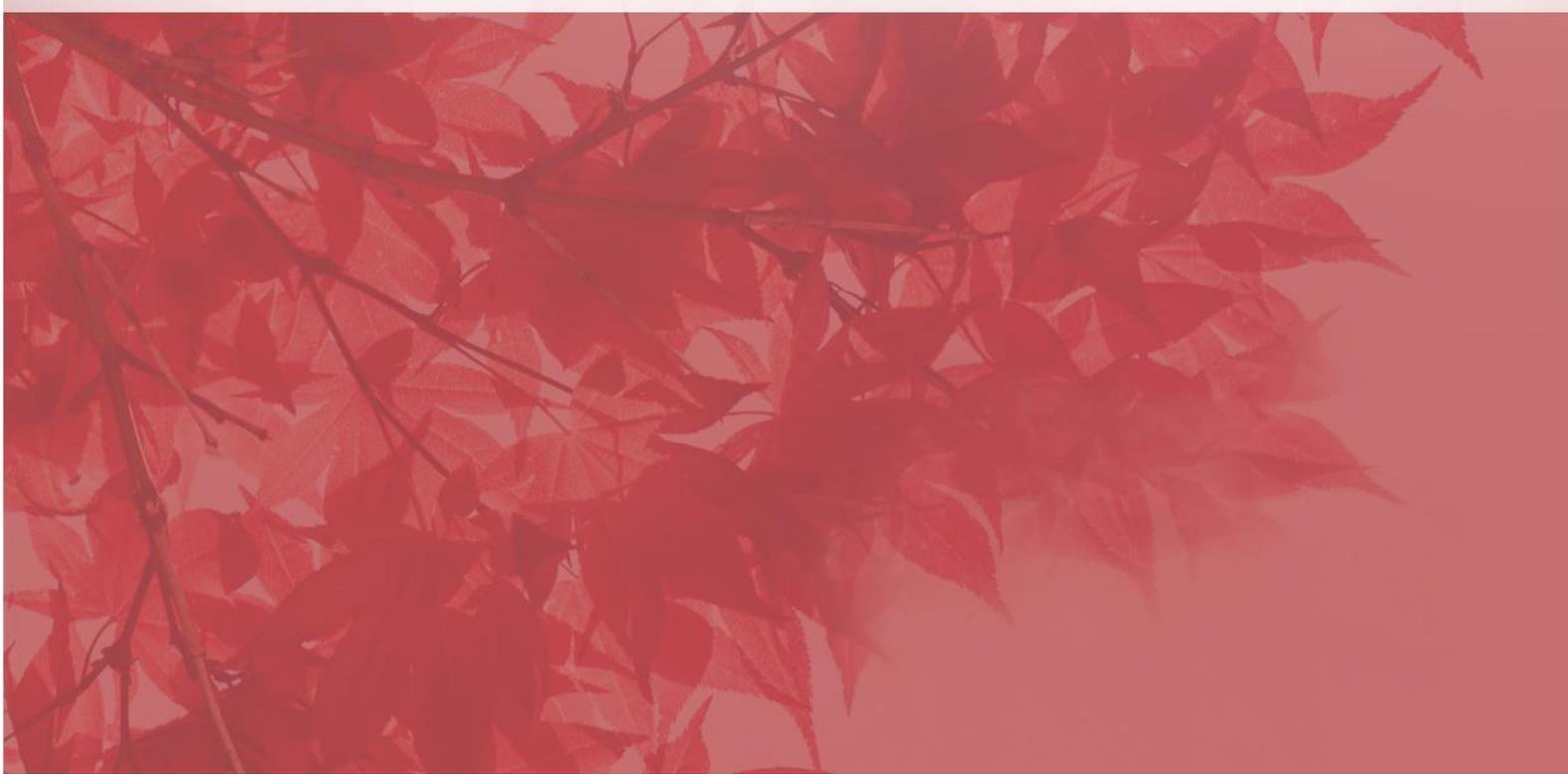
Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 11 – Birthday Bash

Join us for an evening of celebration as we wish a happy birthday to everyone at New Life. There will be ice cream sundaes, cake and a corn-hole tournament. Come be part of the food, fun and fellowship as we wish everyone the best. There are sign-up sheets on the New Life table for volunteers that are willing to make cakes. You may also sign up in teams of two for the corn-hole tournament. See you there!!

Jason's Jingle

My name is Jason Sharp. A lot of you already know me as I am 28 years old and I have gone to this church for most of my 28 years. I have a beautiful wife of 7 years, Michelle. I have three children, Cayden, Gavin, and Hudson. My parents are Greg and Becky Sharp, with several siblings who all attend this church as well as my grandparents. So needless to say, it's a family affair. I have so many precious memories of growing up in this building, from sitting in what's now my office, at age six with Brent Ford, drinking hot tang, to Clint Shaffer putting me on top of the stacks of chairs. Even though at the time, I thought it was fun I think he did it because I couldn't move up there. I remember breakfast one Saturday a month with Jay Walker, working on Scott Cromer's farm, working in Marlin Hamilton's orchard, doing several different chores with his wife Reta, all- nighters here at the church, wonderful mission trips, and years of doing Sonshine singers. I remember trying to find ways of getting in to the old pavilion and finding golf balls along the tree line outback. So many fond memories, which is why I am overwhelmed that God has led me to the opportunity to serve here. Here, my second home, where I was raised, I was shown the kingdom, shown Christ, where I was baptized by Brad Seevers one fall during VBS, where I was united with my wife. The circumstances that led to this point are so unbelievable there is no doubt, its God's plan. I'm excited to give children the same atmosphere I had in this building, an atmosphere that shows how great God and his Kingdom is. I ask for your prayers and help in accomplishing this goal. Knowing God is the driver, it's going to be an amazing ride.



Kyle's Korner

Compassion in Action 'Who's Your Hero' Event, September 27

Sunday, September 27 our church hosted this year's Compassion in Action (CIA) event. CIA is non-profit group whose focus is organizing running events for the purpose of raising funds to assist families under financial stress due to medical problems. This is the third year New Life Church of Christ has hosted CIA's annual fundraising event.

Though the 5k (3.1) was the main event, but there were several other activities going on as well. A stand providing food for runners and workers was working hard to provide fresh-made tacos and nachos for anyone who was hungry. There were also baked-goods being sold to raise funds. Whether one was running or watching there was certainly plenty of good food to eat!

The theme of this year's race was 'Who's Your Hero?' Runners and workers were encouraged to dress as their favorite hero. Looking around the crowd one could see Supermans, batmans and other super-hero mans all around. I'm pretty sure that I even saw a Spartacus running down Durbin at one point! The theme gave an added flair to the event and helped add a new dimension of fun to a great cause.

A part of the church yard was dedicated to games for kids to play as they waited either to run in the race or for their parents to finish. Several children could be seen running and laughing around the yard as they did their best to win prizes of suckers. There was also a face painting table where kids could have cheeks, noses and eyebrows painted in any color of the rainbow. The colors from the faces and the costumes made for a bright afternoon.

The exciting part about the event from our church family standpoint is that we had members involved in every part of the event, showing love and support for the community. We had people helping with registration for the race, running the baked goods stand and helping man the kids' games. We also had a fair number of the congregation run the event. Even more amazing was the fact that all those who ran finished the race and were still upright to tell about it at the end! Those who didn't run supported the cause by making donations for tacos, nachos, desserts or shirts. In all, we had seventy-one New Lifers involved in the event in some way. It was exciting to see our congregation engaged in loving their community for the sake of Christ. New Life strives to be a source of Help, Hope and Home for the Clear Fork community. That Sunday afternoon many stood up to be the helping hands of Jesus Christ for people who were in desperate need of that help.