



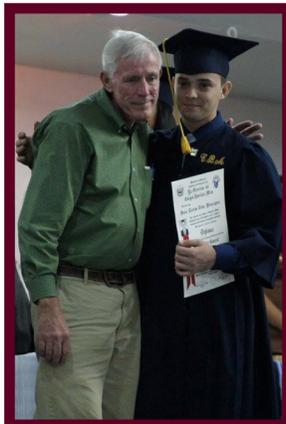
And the Story Continues

by Juan Carlos Coto, our Salvadoran brother in Christ, in his own words

When SHIP came to my neighborhood I was 17 years old. I did not know anything about God; I was a young rebel. Then I met Sam Brown, his wife, and two children. They were missionaries who served with SHIP. They helped a doctor in my neighborhood to gather all neighborhood youth to have Bible classes and English classes and play soccer, to learn good things and not to walk in trouble. That's where I learned more about Jesus, read the Bible with my friends, memorized verses. But that was only the beginning of a great experience that impacted my life. Then Sam gave me a job so I can buy my own clothes, shoes, etc. I learned to earn my own money and to work. I watched as he loved helping others; I did not understand why – then I saw that's



Sam Brown & Juan Carlos, 2012



Robert Horton & Juan Carlos, November 14, 2015

the love of God.

God uses SHIP to change lives in El Salvador through mission teams that feel His heart, leave their homes, and go to another country to serve without anything in return.

Then in 2013, a SHIP missionary named Leon Moore invited me to go with a team from Texas to a church in my neighborhood, and, thanks to that invitation, I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior. My life changed a lot. I knew God wanted me to change my lifestyle.

SHIP not only changed my life, SHIP changed the lives of many people who needed new homes, sent kids to better schools, and taught the word of God. I had and have the opportunity to meet many friends and missionaries and learn from them the love of God.

I had the chance to receive a scholarship to study at a Christian school, and I graduated last year. My mind, my heart, and my life changed a lot. I have many dreams that every day I fight for, with God's help. I'm studying the English language to be able to serve within the SHIP foundation as a translator. I am also reading every day my Bible and praying to help my neighborhood and show what

God did with my life and to serve as an example to the kids.

But SHIP keeps changing my life. On 4 March 2016 a mission team came from Jackson, Ohio; God spoke to me a lot through them during that week.

God wanted me to take the next step in my Christian life. I felt in my heart the call to be baptized. The next week came another team from Texas. In that week it became possible to do what I felt and what God wanted me to be baptized.

My dear friends Robert Horton and Leon Moore baptized me in the name of Jesus, and now I'm looking for God, because I know God has plans for my life and I want to know what is that plan.

The story will continue.

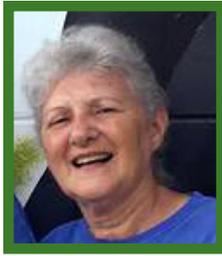


Leon Moore, Juan Carlos, & Robert Horton March 18, 2016

Willing Hearts & Hands

by Marcena May, SHIP Tripper from Ohio

The opportunity to go to El Salvador was amazing, to say the least. Once there, it became a reminder that the less fortunate have an amazing spirit and great faith.



Those of us that have so much more in material assets and live in safety can learn a lot from serving on that mountainside in El Salvador. I find it difficult to express myself regarding all the life-changing experiences I had, but in a place where I thought things could not be much worse, I saw things that were remarkable: hope, dignity, and a desire to serve the Lord. During my short time there, I looked around and wanted to help everyone, whatever their need!

After Ann Horton shared some of SHIP's dreams with me, I wanted to give all the money needed to help fulfill those projects and money to build more and more houses for the homeless! I quickly realized I could not possibly do that but could support through prayer and could introduce those that I talked with to the One that could and would supply their needs and take care of



Team from Ohio who built a new home for one of our neighbors, Geronimo

them. Isaiah 41:10 is a promise to all of us that call on Him! He will strengthen and help us. I was reminded that Jesus wants to LIVE in each of us whether young or old, healthy or disabled, rich or poor, no matter where we live.

I saw the leadership at SHIP passionate and unstoppable when it came to reaching out and working together. They found a way around and through all issues. Prayer was definitely a top priority! I experienced days filled with things to get done and evenings connecting to the

people. My 'family' is a whole lot bigger now! My heart melted within me when I saw their hunger for the Lord and the joy He gave to them in the neighborhood church service on the patio! My, how the Lord is working through willing hearts and hands! I could go on and on.

There is a song that Ray Boltz sings that reminds me of SHIP and my experience in El Salvador. The chorus says...thank you for giving to the Lord, I am a life that was changed. Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am so glad you gave. Thank you for giving me this privilege. What an honor! Love and prayers to all my family in El Salvador.



Thank You, Carolyn Carlisle!

My name is Gabriela, and I'm 27 years old. I'm now a professional psychologist. I could not have done this 6 years

ago if it were not for the opportunity that SHIP blessed me with. Through a scholarship they gave me, I was able to study. I never thought I would get this far, but God, in His grace, chose these wonderful people at SHIP, and they looked for a sponsor for me. My sponsor is a wonderful person with a kind heart. Her name is Carolyn Carlisle, and she is a psychologist, too. Thank you, SHIP, for opening up

the door and your hearts to change the lives and futures of people. God bless you, friends!



Carolyn Carlisle and Gaby at graduation September 19, 2015

sponsor SHIP

Changing Children's Lives

Would you like to make a difference in a child's life? Sponsoring a child in the orphanage or neighborhood allows you to personally invest in that child's life. You can form a relationship with your child as you send them a photo of you and your family and write letters to him or her, sharing about your life and providing words of encouragement. When we're in El Salvador, we'll have them write a letter to you. (We will translate the letters, so don't worry if you don't speak Spanish.) You'll also have the opportunity to provide small birthday and Christmas gifts. You may even want to go on a SHIP mission trip and meet your sponsored child (see our website to learn about our mission trip dates, deadlines, and the associated costs).



Most importantly, we believe that prayer is the critical link between you and your sponsored child. Your relationship allows you to play a significant role in his or her development. You stand alongside others who are taking an active role in encouraging and developing the child.

To find out more about sponsoring a child, please visit our website (<http://shipinternational.org/sponsor-a-child/>). You'll learn how your donation helps and also be able to choose a child to sponsor.



Ana with her sponsors, Jack & Gloria Matthews

It's Not about Me

by Lauri Brender

Spring Break in El Salvador. That's not what I expect to hear from most college students. However, my daughter Courtney has always been



one to serve and she can speak Spanish, so this was not too shocking. My heart knew that if she felt led to go, then I would be just fine with it. The mom in me had all those mom things come to mind – is it safe, what if she gets sick, how quickly can I get to her if she is hurt, what if she wants to go back – and not to mention the maybe-she-will-change-her-mind thought. As time drew closer, everything fell into place – updated passport, new carry-on luggage, purchase of an airline ticket. It was happening. After arriving, Courtney did get word to me that all was well – more than once! It was in so many ways a wonderful experience. So, check that location off the list....done! Well, not so fast.

When you come back from a mission trip, the transition is hard. That was no different for Courtney, but I could tell the struggle she was experiencing was deeper and had permanence. Courtney stayed connected to El Salvador and returned four more times. Yes, the mom in me had that uneasy feeling...I have that same feeling when she drives out of town or in the rain. That feeling comes about from the risks our children take to just live day to day, chase their dreams, or to be obedient to His calling. As each trip came and went, her attachment grew stronger. And after each trip, I was getting the information for the next trip! Courtney had strong connections in El Salvador, and I longed to understand it.

During these return trips, Courtney interned for SHIP, and her involvement and support intensified. SHIP held a local informational and fundraising event, and I was able to attend. Two teenage girls had come from El Salvador, and they shared how their lives had been changed by the relationships that had been built and by the sponsorship they

had received to attend private school. There was not a dry eye in the room. The mom in me was shaken, and the Lord gave me the gift of seeing into just a little part of Courtney's other "home." I felt led to sponsor one of the teenagers from the orphanage, Marisol. Little did I know the Lord had something fabulous planned – Spring Break 2016, Courtney's trip #6.

I am currently a Sunday school teacher for some pretty amazing 12th grade girls. I had the joy of teaching them for 9th and 10th grade Sunday school, and Courtney has been their Bible study leader for the past four years. So, you could say we are a pretty close group. The Lord provided for many of those girls and for me to be part of Courtney's trip #6. Now the reality set in – I would be in a foreign country, would not know the language, and would be somewhat responsible for my senior girls (and providing comfort to their moms!). The day we arrived, it was Marisol's birthday...how cool is that?! Courtney had many of her worlds come together in a place she had been trying to



Courtney, Marisol, & Lauri

describe for years. Even though there are many valid concerns, our group felt safe and perfectly planted where He wanted us to be. We simply shared life with the neighborhood families and the kids at the orphanage. We shared God's Word, built friendships, and even built a house! Now I understood that "after trip struggle" I had seen every time with Courtney. I witnessed how the girls in the community and the orphanage look up to Courtney. Through her obedience to His calling, she has built life-long relationships, loved on them deeply, and shared the Gospel through everyday conversations. She is family to them. Part of Courtney's heart is still there.....mine, too.

We just purchased her ticket for trip #7.....two months in El Salvador with



her other family. This will be her longest trip and the longest she has ever been away so remotely from home. Sure, that's hard for this mom, and I am concerned. However, my biggest concern/fear is that this could be her last trip, because she's no longer a student and will be joining the "adult" world with no long, free summers or spring breaks. It's not hard to decide what you want your life to be about. What's hard is figuring out what you're willing to give up in order to do the things you really care about. Courtney has figured it out, and what she has chosen to give up has never come anywhere close to what she has gained. She inspires me and reminds me that this life is not about me.

Summer 2016 Mission Trips

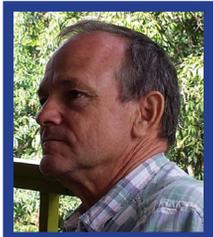
Come to El Salvador with us this summer, and get to know our friends on the beautiful mountainside where SHIP's facility is located! Things you might do while on a SHIP mission trip include: rebuild a house or roof, paint, lead a teen Bible study, or work with VBS for the younger kids. Being the hands and feet of Jesus opens hearts to hear the Gospel message – the primary reason we're in El Salvador.

The cost is \$675 (for a 1-week mission trip), plus airfare. We also have a 2-week mission trip option for only \$1,000, plus airfare. The application form and other information, including deadlines, are on our website (<http://shipinternational.org/mission-trips/upcoming-mission-trips/>). Mission trip dates are:

- May 29 – June 5
- *June 24 – July 1 (Make this into a 2-week mission trip!)
- July 2-9
- *June 24 – July 9 (2-week mission trip option)

A Passion for Sharing Jesus

by Leon Moore



My wife, Noralee, and I went to El Salvador on a mission trip with SHIP for the first time in June 2011. When we returned in the spring of 2012, God began moving

in our hearts to become more involved with SHIP's work in El Salvador. My eyes were opened to what God was doing and the souls waiting to be harvested. After we returned from this trip, I shared with our church, Faith Bible Church in Wixon Valley, Texas, about what God was doing in El Salvador and asked them to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send more laborers into His harvest. God has been faithful to answer those prayers.

Noralee and I have been to El Salvador many, many times since that trip in 2012. As I stop and look back at what God has done, I am amazed. He has given us a passion for the Salvadoran people we serve. On each trip, God enlarges my heart so that it can be given away. With each person I meet, a piece of my heart is given, so that they may know the one I love – Jesus. His love is the driving force that keeps us going back. We see firsthand how lives are being changed by His love. Additionally, He has moved in the hearts of many believers to join SHIP's work. He always sends a unique group on each mission trip, and they pour out His love, because He has sent them to join in the harvest in our Salvadoran community. As we serve, our hearts are also changed. In fact, a number of those who have gone with SHIP to El Salvador develop such a love for our Salvadoran family that they continue going back, too.

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said to His disciples, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and in the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." On this past mission trip, God allowed Robert Horton and me to baptize one of His newest disciples, Juan Carlos Coto. It's been a blessing to watch the transformation in his life since he came to know our Jesus. What a celebration we had on that day!

As I said previously, God has been faithful to answer our prayers to send more workers into His harvest in our Salvadoran neighborhood. We have now outgrown the present building where our mission teams are housed, which led to SHIP beginning a new building in 2014 to meet the needs of this growing ministry. We hope to have the building finished this summer. Please join us in praying for the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into His harvest in El Salvador. We invite you to join us on a SHIP mission trip to El Salvador, too, if the Lord is nudging you to go. God always meets our every need. We thank you, Father, for inviting us into Your work to make disciples of all nations.



It's about the People

by Noralee Moore

I've been to El Salvador 14 times in 5 years. People sometimes ask "Why are you here?" or "Why do you go?" My first answer is obedience. The Lord told me to go, and I go out of obedience. My second answer is because of the people. I love the people with SHIP – the regular staff who are on almost every mission trip and those who go on mission trips with us. I have also come to love our Salvadoran neighbors.

SHIP is an awesome organization to work with. They strive to make the mission trips easy and comfortable. Although the days are long and the work is hard, they make it feel like a vacation. They are very accommodating and treat you like family. That includes a lot of laughter, sometimes tears, and always pointing people to Christ as the answer to all of our needs.



Salvadoran people are gracious and almost always have a smile. They are some of the most accepting people I've ever met. Because I've been there so many times, I've been blessed to form many precious relationships with the people we serve. One such relationship is with Isela. During each mission trip, SHIP conducts an evangelistic outreach for our Salvadoran neighbors, which is where I first met Isela and her sister Michel. These evangelistic outreaches are held outdoors, near the building where our mission teams are housed. We had so many people come to this outreach that they overflowed into the street. Isela and Michel were standing along the street in front of me. As the program advanced, Isela would whisper to Michel, and Michel would giggle. Michel is a sweet and giggly girl. I allowed them to continue for a minute, but it became more frequent and disruptive, so I shushed them. They turned, embarrassed, and smiled at me, and I returned the smile. Michel giggled. A little while later, they began whispering and giggling again. I shushed again; they turned and smiled, and I smiled back. Michel giggled. This went on for a few more times. The program was getting to the serious, make-a-decision-about-accepting-Jesus part, and I didn't want the girls to interrupt. I stepped up to them and, standing behind them, put my arms around them in a hug with my body between the two. Isela started giggling, and we all smiled while they tried to be quiet. After that, Isela always greeted me. The only English she was confident in saying was, "best friend forever." When she would see me, she began saying to me "Hola, best friend forever," and I began repeating it back to her. We now have a cute greeting that is just ours. Our relationship has grown deeper, and we now have more conversation than just the greeting. Isela graduated from high school last fall, and she began classes at the university in January. Leon and I, along with our friend Janise, are Isela's sponsors so she can attend the university. We're excited to be a part of her life and helping her to prepare for her future.

So, if you ask me why I return to El Salvador, I will say, it's the people, definitely the people. They have love overflowing and are ready to give it away. I, also have a lot of love to give – the love of Jesus.



Thank You, Donors!

by Ann Horton

Shortly after arriving in El Salvador in early March, I visited with Isela, a beautiful young lady who lives here. Isela was a SHIP scholarship student, who graduated high school last November. In January, with a SHIP scholarship,



she began her university studies in social work, and she also tutors for SHIP in the afternoons. I asked Isela how she was doing at university, and then I asked her how her mother and sister were doing. Her

eyes were downcast. Her mother was fine; her sister was sick with maybe the flu or maybe a mosquito-borne illness. But besides that, I could tell something wasn't just right. Then she told me that at the end of March, she and her mother and sister would be homeless. What do you mean, I asked. We have to find another place to live, she said, but we can't find anything we can afford.

For most of us living in the U.S., stuff like this happens, but we take it in stride. We move from time to time. But



for Isela and family, this was more than a serious problem. Isela's mom Rosario has a job, but it doesn't pay well. She pushes a cart and sells chocolate-covered frozen bananas. She makes less in a 10-hour day than a high-schooler makes in an hour working at a fast-food restaurant. And she has an hour commute each way. Tough. Very tough.

This whole scenario broke my heart, when I consider all the advantages we have in the United States. Any woman in those straits would have many sources to go to for help, from churches to the government. Not so here.



I shared this need with Robert, and we sat down with Isela for more information. The lady who owned the little house where they lived was either going to sell or move into the house where Isela now lives. All avenues to find a new home were closed – too expensive. Two members from the Ohio team were there to help with the translating. Maria from Ohio was blown away by the story and just about broke down in tears (I spend that much going out to eat, she said). It is unfathomable to consider how very desperate situations can become to people here.



What do you do? We think of Matthew 25 where Jesus said that when we have helped someone in need, it's as having done the same to Him. How do you respond? You build Isela and her mom and sister a home! That's what you do! And because of a recent, generous donation from **Edge Baptist Church**, Edge, Texas, on Saturday, March 5, SHIP, with the help of the SHIP trip team from Jackson, Ohio, broke ground on the first home located on the SHIP property. It is, in fact, going to be a duplex! It will provide shelter and hope and a place to call home for two families. Rosario will be able to afford a small, modest home and the blessing of being able to provide for her family.

Like Edge Baptist Church, those of you who donate to SHIP are touching many lives in El Salvador. You are giving hope to people who have no hope. May God bless you.

Happily Ever After

After our summer mission trips this year, SHIP will host a Girls' Retreat for the older girls from the neighborhood and orphanage. We've titled the retreat *Happily Ever After* because we will be discussing making good life choices that will affect their futures. We're excited about this event, and we think it's a very important topic to address with these young ladies.



We need to raise a few thousand dollars for this retreat, which will help cover lodging for the retreat, food expenses, transportation costs, study materials for the weekend, and airfare for the speaker. We are putting together some fundraising opportunities, and one means is our GoFundMe page. We ask that you consider donating and also sharing our GoFundMe page link on your social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) and with any of your friends or churches that may be interested in joining us in both prayer and fundraising. The link is www.gofundme.com/elsalvgirlsretreat.

We know that God is working to do some really great things in the lives of these girls, and we're excited to see how He will bring this retreat to fruition. Thank you for your support, love, and prayers.



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James 1:27 *"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."*

A Changed Life

My name is Isela Martinez. I come from a family of separated parents, because my dad mistreated my mom. I studied in a public school growing up and a lot of problems started in my life because my mom would go to work from 5 am to 8 pm and would leave my sister and me alone. If she didn't work we would have to go hungry.



At school I behaved badly and I had bad grades. I even failed 6th grade because I felt alone and felt like I didn't have the support of my mom. I couldn't see the sacrifice she was making so that we would never be lacking our daily bread.

When SHIP came into my life it was a great hope for me, because I wanted to study but not at the public school. My mom didn't have the possibilities to pay for me to go to a private school.

However, SHIP was the opportunity that God used to make my life better, because I never thought I could go to university. Going to university was like going to the moon, something impossible for me.

For this, I thank God first for giving me this opportunity that transformed my life, because if not, my life would be like some of my friends from public school who all have babies now. I'm not judging them, because I know that if my friends had had this opportunity that I have, their lives would be different just like my life has changed, thanks to the support from people who believed in me. My tutors and SHIP believed in me and that I could move forward in life. I am thankful to God for this opportunity. Thank you.

[Isela is a SHIP scholarship student, attending university. She also tutors younger students for SHIP in the afternoons.]