



Spring Break Build

When we go on a mission trip to El Salvador, there's usually some sort of building project that's going to happen. It could be as simple as hanging a medicine chest. But usually, it's a little more complicated. And labor intensive. Such was the case with our Spring Break trip.



Our neighborhood isn't fancy; in fact, it's really humble, filled with houses that are cobbled together of tin,

bamboo, cardboard, and whatever is available. Our neighbor, Juanita, had a house in need of a lot of repair and more space, with her son and daughter-in-law expecting their second child. And Juanita's husband, Nelson, had died five weeks before the SHIP team came to help.

First, the old structure had to be torn down. While team members tore things up, another group, aided by our neighbor, Carlos, hauled in dirt for the new foundation— AFTER they dug it by hand from the side of the mountain. And then they transported it across the street, up the hill, across a makeshift ramp, and dumped it. They repeated this process more than 100 times!



Construction began in earnest, with old hands at construction teaching new workers, who back in Texas work as teachers, university students, and even a swimming pool guy. Some learned how to hammer and saw and how to pour and finish concrete. They did an amazing job, and when it was finished, Juanita was proud of the new room where her daughter-in-law would bring home their new baby. Oh, and by the way, we went "green" on this trip. We made a solar light out of a water bottle! It's pretty cool.

Opportunities to Serve

• **It's SHIP trip time again!** Our 2013 summer mission trips are scheduled for June 29 – July 6 (led by Leon and Noralee Moore), July 12-19, and July 20-27. The spaces are filling quickly for all of the trips, with only a few remaining if you're interested in going with us this summer. Trip details and costs are located on our website.

A typical trip includes (but isn't limited to) teaching English classes to the children in the orphanage and in the community, playing fútbol, building, painting, renovating neighborhood homes, and many other unscheduled events/projects. Don't let this list scare you! You don't have to be a teacher, builder, painter, professional fútbol player, or fluent speaker of Spanish to join us!

• **East Texas Project:** If you would like to be involved in a SHIP project, join us as we help a retired missionary complete her house. Judy Smith, who served in Japan for many years, lives near Henderson, Texas, and is planning to use her barn-home to minister to children and to missionaries returning from their assignments. We need anyone who has construction experience and anyone who would like to learn construction. If you can't swing hammer but you can make sandwiches, we need you, too. We're planning a trip to help her sometime in June. If you want to be a part of this trip, please contact us.

• **Prayer Warriors:** A new group, El Salvador Prayer Warriors (ESPW), has been formed to pray for SHIP and the needs in El Salvador and in the States. Rebecca Simmons, a longtime friend of SHIP, will be sending out prayer requests by email each week. If you would like to be added to this email prayer list, please contact Rebecca at espw412@yahoo.com.

Water Well Progress

While on the Spring Break SHIP mission trip, Robert and Ann Horton met with members of the Santa Tecla, El Salvador, Rotary Club. The Santa Tecla Club is working in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Aggieland in Bryan, Texas, and with Rotary International to drill a water well at SHIP El Salvador. SHIP is very honored to have received this tremendous gift. The well will cost about \$25,000 to drill. When it is completed, SHIP will be able to supply not only the orphanage and learning center with fresh, clean water but also have enough to share with our neighbors.

The wonderful members of the Rotary Club of Aggieland have been instrumental in getting this generous donation. They have also been involved with many projects at the orphanage, including providing funds to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, school supplies and uniforms, shoes, and computers for the learning center. Their contributions also funded the construction of cisterns to collect rainwater during the rainy season. We are grateful for their help and their continuing support of the work we are doing in El Salvador.



Standing in front of the site of the new water well are Robert Horton; Max Sztarkman, Director of International Projects, Santa Tecla Rotary Club; Ann Horton; and Elizabeth de Guzmán, Santa Tecla Rotary Club Assistant; and Max's son, Oizer Sztarkman



Making Jesus Known – Community Outreach



house just a short distance from the SHIP facility; the house has been made available to SHIP to use for just such purposes. When the invitation was given to accept Jesus as their Savior, seven men asked Him into their hearts. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Pastor Nain's church continues to minister in the neighborhood. Every Friday night, they have Bible study, and others have asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. Please pray for the Bible study to grow, that more people will come to know Jesus, and that this effort will have a powerful impact on the neighborhood.

On Thursday night of our Spring Break trip, we had an outreach in the neighborhood. Pastor Nain, father of Sue (SHIP's tutor for the neighborhood children) spoke, and the praise team from their church sang. Charity and Thunderfoot, our clowns, painted faces and made balloon creations for the children. We served punch and cookies, and more than 100 people showed up. We spilled out into the road at a



Insights from Two Spring Break 2013 Ship Trippers – Steve & Kerry Beck

Kerry's Story: I recently participated in a SHIP mission trip. For me, it was a mountain-top experience, literally. Yes, we stayed on the mountain where the orphanage is located and had a gorgeous view of the volcano every morning, but what made the trip a truly mountain-top experience was two-fold.

First, I was able to read my Bible and pray every morning. There wasn't the rush to finish and get on with my day, like I feel back home. Although I was dead tired every night, I awoke refreshed every morning, ready to hear from God.

I find it interesting that most people go on a retreat to relax and have a spiritual high. The opposite is true for me. This mission trip provided hard work and ministry to others, leading to my mountain-top experience. God blesses us for our faithful work.

Secondly, the trip was all about the people. We worked alongside our Salvadoran neighbors each day as we cleaned, painted, or built. My work project was cleaning and organizing the storage room at the orphanage. At other times, I was with the kids and neighborhood families.

Each morning, I helped with English class for six of the kids at the orphanage, growing to love and care for them more each day. In the afternoons, the neighborhood kids came for tutoring and English class. They usually stayed all afternoon and into the evening, joining us for dinner. Their moms came, too.

At Juanita's home, I learned how to make pupusas, a traditional Salvadoran meal. I know my pupusas weren't as good as Juanita's, but I had the privilege of working side-by-side with my new friend. Juanita's home was chosen for the first Extreme Home Makeover, San Salvadoran style.

This is the first mission trip where I worked with the same people day

in and day out. I was able to get to know the kids at the orphanage, the neighborhood kids and their moms, as well Juanita and her daughter-in-law, Yesennia. We spent quality time with all of these sweet people, making lifetime relationships. My Spanish is quite broken, but that didn't matter. We communicated with God's language of love and service.

Now that I'm home, I've added each of these people to my prayer list. Each week, I'm praying that God would grow them in Christ (if they are saved) or that God would give them faith to believe. I look forward to seeing how God works in each of their lives as I keep up with them.



Kerry, Juanita, Yesennia, and Steve

Steve's Story: I recently went on a mission trip to El Salvador. It may sound silly, but one of the things I enjoyed most about the trip was how well organized it was. I've been on many international mission trips, and although the staff on each of those trips had great hearts, most of the trips were pretty disorganized.

When a mission trip is not well planned, the work projects don't run smoothly; people get tired and cranky; and in extreme circumstances, people get sick from the food. Our team leaders, Robert and Ann Horton, took care of all the details. Everything ran smoothly, which allowed us to spend a lot of time doing the important stuff – like remodeling a neighbor lady's house and playing with the kids!

Also, there is permanence with SHIP's work in El Salvador. Robert and Ann have been going there for eight years, and they're in El Salvador to stay. I've been on some mission trips where you wonder if anything will come of the work projects you start or if the missionary will even be there two years from now.

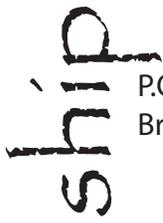
But most important is Robert and Ann's heart for these people. They truly love the kids there, and the kids love them. You can't help but see that when you go there. Now, even the neighborhood families are responding to God's love that's being shown through work projects in the neighborhood and working with the kids. To see families outside of the orphanage responding to God's grace is truly amazing and a testament to God's power.

I would highly recommend this trip to anyone. You get to minister in a unique way; you won't get sick (if you follow the rules); and you'll come back to the States a changed person!

Like many SHIP trippers, Steve and Kerry can't stay away from El Salvador! They'll be returning again this summer.

Coming Soon!

At their April meeting, SHIP's Board of Directors voted to construct a work center on the grounds of the El Salvador facility. Friends from Australia generously provided seed money for the work center, and we are most grateful. The 1,000 square foot work center will be used by women in the neighborhood who, although they want to provide for their families, cannot find work. It will be children friendly so that moms will not be burdened with having to find child care while they are working. SHIP's goal is to contribute to building strong families. We hope to have it built early this summer.



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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.”*

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Prayers for Healing & God’s Provision

SHIP has a dear friend, Dora, in El Salvador who is battling cancer. She has touched all our hearts with her sweet smile, her positive attitude and her gentle grace. While the team was in El Salvador on the Spring Break trip, Dora told Robert Horton one day that she was going to take a bus back to her home, about three hours away, so that she could go door to door to try to raise the \$500 she needed for her cancer treatments. Robert told her not to go, that God

would provide for her needs. When he told the team about Dora’s needs and the need was posted on our Facebook page, the money started coming in. On the last night of the trip, team members were able to present enough money to cover her treatment and transportation costs. Dora and Guillermo were overwhelmed. Please pray for Dora’s healing and for her family.

