



## Meet Leon & Noralee Moore

When SHIP began 10 years ago, it was with the myopic vision to build an orphanage and go home. God's vision sees a lot further into the future, and long before SHIP was begun, He called Leon



and Noralee to be missionaries. They were pretty certain God was leading them somewhere in Central America. They went on several mission trips to Mexico, but a door for service never opened. They were ready to get started immediately, but for more than 20 years they waited and waited and waited for Him to send them.

A "chance" meeting of Robert Horton and Leon at the lumber yard led Robert to invite the Moores to join SHIP on a mission trip to El Salvador in 2011. So they went, and there they discovered the place God wanted them to serve.

Leon and Noralee are an amazing fit for the work SHIP does. Leon brings the construction knowledge that is necessary when preparing for a

mission trip that involves building something. He has the patience of Job as he encourages SHIP trippers to try their hand at tools they never thought they'd use and accomplish really great things. He gets the materials lined up for the teams, and he's able to take care of needs that pop up around SHIP El Salvador.

Noralee is an incredibly organized Proverbs 31 woman. She gets the 10 bedrooms, five bathrooms, kitchen, balcony, and multi-purpose room ready for the teams. She is a grandma through and through, and she hugs and showers love on the children that SHIP ministers to. She speaks her own dialect of Spanish-Cajun-English, and surprisingly, everyone understands her. And they love her.

Besides being answered prayer for the physical needs of SHIP, Leon and Noralee are deeply committed Christians, who lead by example and often with our neighbors. These two missionaries, who waited for God to lead them, are impacting a neighborhood for Jesus. SHIP is blessed to have them.

During the first three months of 2014, we've had two mission teams in El Salvador. The first team of 11 arrived in early January and included seven Texas A&M University students. This team put in an irrigation system for our coffee trees, helped with building/renovation projects, and loved on a lot of families and kids.

The second team of 30 SHIP trippers, our largest group ever, arrived in March. The place was constantly buzzing with activity! They worked on three different construction projects, conducted Vacation Bible School, led a Bible study for teen girls, and participated in an outreach service for the neighborhood.

We've asked team members from these two trips to write about their experiences in El Salvador. We love hearing how God impacted their lives and the lives they came to serve. We think you will, too!

If you've been contemplating going on a SHIP trip, two opportunities are available this summer, but hurry – space is limited. It's a life-changing trip! (Details are included on the last page of this newsletter.)

## Called to Serve

by Cody Sedlacek & Miranda Jones

Our experiences with SHIP have not only been physically rewarding in the great food we are served while in El Salvador, but we've also received huge



spiritual blessings because God has allowed us to participate in the work being done there. Being a part of what God is doing in El Salvador has had impacting spiritual implications upon both of our lives. We both feel as though God has called us to overseas missions, and quite possibly to Central America.

El Salvador is a place that lacks in many ways, including finances, shelter, and most importantly, a Savior. As repeat SHIP trippers, we've seen firsthand the impact that SHIP has made in its Salvadoran neighborhood over the past year. We've built homes (including bathrooms, rooms, and kitchens), roofed houses for many in the community, and made many concrete foundations (walls, stairs, etc.). However, the most profound thing we do is through our spiritual interactions with the families and children. We see Jesus shining through the SHIP trippers' actions as they become the hands and feet of Jesus. Christ's love overflows from their hearts and into the lives of broken families, giving them hope for a better future! We know that Christ looks down with pleasure, as He states in James 1:27, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

As we feed the hungry and provide jobs for women who need to provide for their children, we are building up the name of Jesus and breaking through the darkness that has plagued the community. We hope you will consider taking a trip

down south to share God's love with those in desperate need! We love El Salvador and are confident that after your first trip, you'll have nothing but praise for our God because of the work you will see and do!

*Cody & Miranda have spent 4 weeks in El Salvador over the past year, and we've been blessed to serve with them. They'll be married this summer; we look forward to what God has in store for their lives!*

## Seeing as God Sees

by Courtney Peters

I had the privilege of traveling to El Salvador over spring break. Since this



was my first SHIP trip, I really didn't know

what to expect. I'd been to Mexico before, and I pictured El Salvador as being somewhat like that – flat and dirty. As it turned out, El Salvador is a beautiful country that is more jungle-like, and SHIP's facility is extremely close to an inactive volcano. Needless to say, my expectations were a little off.

While I was there, I primarily helped with Vacation Bible School. For three days, we led VBS in the mornings for the orphanage kids and again in the afternoons for the neighborhood kids. I helped the worship team during these sessions and also led the Bible story on the third day. It was an absolute joy to interact with the kids; they're so sweet.

As I prepared for this trip, I didn't know how God was going to use me, but I quickly realized that the biggest blessing He was going to give me was the people I met. Each day I prayed that

God would give me His eyes to see these people the way He sees them, His hands to serve them faithfully through action, and His lips to speak truth (in the limited amount of Spanish I know) to them. He answered my prayers, and I grew to love these people more than I thought would be possible for only a one-week trip. They didn't just become my friends – they became family.

One of the biggest things I saw God doing in El Salvador was how He is building up leaders, specifically Christian male leaders, among those who live there. One evening, I and others on the trip spoke to a young man named Carlos. We were all so encouraged by his story and the love that he has for his friends who don't know Christ. Carlos talked to us about how confusing his life was before he knew the Lord, but as he continues to seek God's plans and meditate on His word, everything that was once confusing is becoming so much more transparent.



This summer I'm blessed to return to El Salvador with SHIP and see my Salvadoran family again for two weeks, and I'm so excited! God is moving in El Salvador, and I'm so thankful that He is choosing me to be a part of His work there.

*Courtney, a junior at Texas A&M University, is now helping SHIP with its social media presence and promotional materials.*



## Teen Girls Bible Study

by Kerry Beck

Spring break 2013 was our first mission trip experience with SHIP. My husband, Steve, and I had been praying for several years

for the right place to serve, and this is where we believe the Lord has directed us. Since our initial trip, we've gone for two weeks last summer and again over spring break this year. We're hooked and going again this summer!

Last summer, I was asked to lead a Bible study for the older girls. I did a little research, but I couldn't quite find something that would work, so I planned VBS for all of the kids to attend. VBS went well, but it didn't meet the needs of the teen girls. When I returned home, I prayed for the kids in El Salvador, and through that prayer time, God encouraged me to do something that met the needs of the teen girls. I wanted to have a special time with those girls to encourage them in their walks with the Lord.



On this spring break trip, we had a Bible study each morning with the teen girls from the orphanage and each afternoon with the neighborhood teen girls. We didn't want to assign Bible work because the girls have school work every day. I asked each of the college girls on our team to share a Bible story or verses that meant something to them about making wise decisions. Each day, a different team member led our time together. We read from the Bible and heard what God laid on our leader's heart. Then, we prayed for each other.



I was most impressed with how the college leaders shared personal stories from their own lives – stories that the teens could understand and relate to. The teens from the orphanage were very quiet, but we know God's Word doesn't return void. He is working in each of those young ladies.

The teens from the neighborhood answered questions and discussed a few of their concerns. They shared prayer requests and prayed for each other. One day, Jocelyn prayed for Katherine to do well on her presentation at school. The next day we asked how Katherine did on her presentation. She made a 10 (the highest score). We all clapped and were excited to see how God quickly answered that simple prayer.



Although it isn't the same as a Bible study back home in the States, it's a start. We're laying a foundation for future Bible studies and discussions with these teenage girls. I'm excited to see how God will work with each of these young ladies.

Will you pray for these girls? Will you pray that God guides their decisions as they strive to follow His Word?

*Steve & Kerry Beck are core members of SHIP's team. We're so thankful for their servants' hearts and the commitment they have for SHIP's ministry in El Salvador.*



## Seeing God at Work

by Andrew Ballard

I've been blessed by serving in El Salvador on two occasions. My most recent trip during spring break was an amazing experience. From drastically improving the living conditions of a local family to simply showing love to people who really need it, the work we did was extremely diverse. While we went there to be a blessing to the people of El Salvador, I found that they blessed me more than I did them. To see the joy of people who face harder situations than we will ever face in the United States was so impacting and gave me a renewed sense of thankfulness for the things God has given me and showed me that the things I complain about simply aren't worth worrying about.



A man named Guillermo, whom I got to know very well on this trip, seemingly had very few reasons to have as much joy as he did. His wife, Dora, recently died of cancer, leaving him to raise their two



young daughters. Although his life is far more difficult than mine will ever be, I never once saw him without a smile on his face. It's refreshing to see the power of the Lord and the joy that He gives us when we truly sell out to Him, even in the middle of very difficult circumstances.

This trip also served as a strong reminder of how God can completely change a community. In 2011, on my first trip to El Salvador, there was an obvious need for Christ in the community surrounding the orphanage. There was an atmosphere of sadness in the area that only God could turn around. In a span of just three years, however, that atmosphere of sadness has been

drastically shifted to one of hope. To see the change God has made in these people is just awesome. A young man named Carlos, who in 2011 was very shy and was not well acquainted with the Lord, has made a 180-degree turnaround. He is now much more outgoing and a true leader for God in the community.

To see the tangible results of what God is doing in El Salvador was amazing, and I know that God will continue to work on people's hearts until everyone in that community knows Him. Just to be a part of God's plan, one much greater than myself, was an experience that I will never forget and one that has made a permanent impact on my life.

*Andrew is a high school junior. We appreciate his unique perspective that only someone who visited three years ago and returned this year can bring.*

## Impacting Lives

by Sarah Chivvis

Doing mission work with SHIP over spring break was one of the most moving experiences of my life. In past years, I've gone to Mexico with my youth group and done work with families and churches there. While I was called to go there and the work we did was phenomenal, I've never felt the same connection as I did when I became involved with the people in El Salvador. Ann Horton wasn't kidding when she wrapped up the week saying, "You leave a piece of your heart here." Very few times have I seen God's work so clearly as I saw it in El Salvador. Lives were continually being impacted, children were being loved and cared for, homes were built, and those on the trip grew closer to God and their teammates.

Before leaving, I was invited to accompany Robert Horton to check out a prospective job site for the summer trips. They were planning to demo and rebuild a family's house down the street from the orphanage. This house was built



with what looked like scrap lumber and metal, barely standing, and absolutely tiny for a family of six. The mother mentioned to one of us that they hadn't eaten in a few days because of a lack of money, and the children snacked on a meager roll. While another girl and I ran back to the SHIP facility to grab extra tamales and pupusas for the family, Robert and other leaders discussed the blueprints of what would be the new home. When I heard later that the mother began to cry when she knew we'd be doing this job for free, I nearly broke down in tears. God is doing amazing things through SHIP, and I could spend hours going on about providing housing for families in need or getting them food or tutors for their kids.

When we were saying our goodbyes to the local families and children, I remember hugging a girl tight and saying that I'd be back again, and she looked me in the eyes and responded in broken English, "I'll be praying you come back," to which I lost it and began to cry. I knew then that I would need to go back, God willing, to continue building these budding relationships. I think one of the greatest joys and blessings Christ offers us as Christians is the chance and ability to be a part of what He is doing throughout the nations, and that is what calls me back to El Salvador – to be fully involved in His work there, spreading the kingdom and impacting lives for eternity.

*Sarah is a high school senior and will be attending the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in the fall.*



## Following Christ's Example

by Briana Johnson-Massey

I was part of an amazing team in El Salvador in January. Even before arriving, God was softening my heart through His faithfulness. At times before the trip, I was ready to back out because I was struggling to raise the funds. Of course, God's will is greater than my lack of faith. When I laid it before Him, He lifted the burden and gave me peace in knowing this was His will for me, and He provided.



One of our tasks was to build a shower house and redo a bathroom for the Coto family. They share their house with their relatives, Guillermo, Dora and their two daughters. Dora had terminal breast cancer that had spread throughout her body. One day when Dora returned from the clinic where she went for treatments to help with pain, Robert Horton asked me to pray for her, so we surrounded her; I placed my hand on Dora and asked God for peace, strength, and healing. Throughout the day I tried to think of remedies and treatments that could help Dora, and the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet popped into my head. I'd never even read that story and maybe heard it taught twice, so I said a quick prayer for clarity and direction. After reading John 13 and spending time in prayer, the image of me washing Dora's feet became clearer. The Hortons gave me the green light, so I enlisted the help of Amanda and Taylor and went to Dora's house with a Spanish Bible, jug of water, towels, and lavender lotion. I'll always cherish this time we spent with Dora. I read John 13 to her and

explained (in very poor Spanish) what I wanted to do and then began to wash her feet. Afterwards, we sat with her, prayed with her, and then kissed her goodbye.

Looking back at all of the things that happened in El Salvador, this was by far the most impactful for me. By following God's prompting and Jesus' example, I invested in time with Dora and realized that God brought us together for a reason. Every time Dora grimaced in pain and her eyes met someone else's, her grimace turned into a smile of reassurance, as if to say "I'm okay; don't worry about me." I'm so thankful that I was able to see Dora's strength and beauty. Strength so beautiful and beauty so strong it had to be from the Lord.

*Briana's compassionate heart touched us deeply as she ministered to Dora, who is now with Jesus.*

## Making a Difference

by Taylor Garrison

I had the privilege of traveling to El Salvador with SHIP in January. This trip was different from any other mission trip I've been on because SHIP has been building and maintaining relationships with the children at the orphanage and the families in the neighborhood for many years. I saw how God has worked through past mission trips and the difference each person can make for His kingdom.

God used the trip to teach me many things. I saw firsthand what prayer can do, and my own prayer life is much deeper and more meaningful as a result.



I was reminded to keep things in perspective. I have so much to be thankful for, including things I often take for granted, such as enough food to eat, the opportunity to attend school, and safety.

There were seven college students and four adults on the trip, and we were able to meet some tangible needs in the community. We dug an irrigation trench for coffee trees at SHIP's facility, organized merchandise used in a micro-business SHIP set up last year to help the local women provide for their families, built shelving and desks for the children to use, constructed a shower and bathroom for a family, and finished a few other projects.

Despite language barriers, I formed meaningful and lasting relationships with the children and parents while on this trip. Because of these friendships and the great experiences while there, I can't wait to return to El Salvador for two weeks this summer. We'll accomplish even more and have many opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those who need to know Him!

*Taylor is proof that construction isn't just for guys! After a little instruction, she worked like a pro with the reciprocating saw. We loved her enthusiasm and look forward to having her with us again this summer.*



SHIP's ministry operates and exists by the grace of God and by contributions from those who desire to see every soul come to know Jesus as Savior. Would you prayerfully consider supporting SHIP financially? We've enclosed an envelope with this newsletter for your gift. By going to our website, <http://shipinternational.org/make-donation/>, you may also make one-time and monthly contributions through PayPal, or you can sign up for automatic debits from your bank account by completing the form located there.

We hope you've enjoyed learning about SHIP's work in El Salvador and been blessed as you've read accounts of the trips from the viewpoints of those who have gone there with us. Please be praying that God will guide us as we plan for future trips and that the people we go to serve will come to know Him as their personal Savior.

### Shelter the Homeless International Projects

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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."

**Join us in El Salvador this summer for one of our mission trips: June 20-27 or June 28 - July 5.** The cost is \$650 plus airfare. Your completed application form and \$250 deposit are due on April 28. The final \$400 payment is due on June 2. If you would like to go for both weeks, the cost is \$925 plus airfare. Application forms are located on our website under the "Get Involved" tab. For additional information, email us at [contact@shipinternational.org](mailto:contact@shipinternational.org).