



A new creation

We're well over halfway finished with 2022, and at SHIP we're still focusing on the words of Isaiah 43:19,

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Since we started our work in El Salvador, we've been privileged to witness so many new things that God has done in the community that has become our second home.

God literally brought water to our desert by providing a well to give clean water to the community. He blessed us with the dream of a new school and the means to create it. He's shown us new ways and forged new paths that are strengthening families, building faith, and creating a community more peaceful than it was before.

This summer we did another new thing. We hosted an art show. You can see some of the artwork above.

The project was built on 2 Corinthians 5:17,

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Our Kinder-4 through second grade students worked hard. They learned a little about modern art, drew with pastels, dipped their brushes in watercolors, and made beautiful works of art that exploded with color and showed each student's creativity.

Compared to all the other new things we've been able to do, an art show might seem insignificant. An art show doesn't fill empty stomachs or give water to the thirsty (though we, of course, provided snacks). An art show doesn't put a roof over anyone's head or clothes on any backs.

But this art show was significant for the 72 little artists whose work was displayed for everyone to see.

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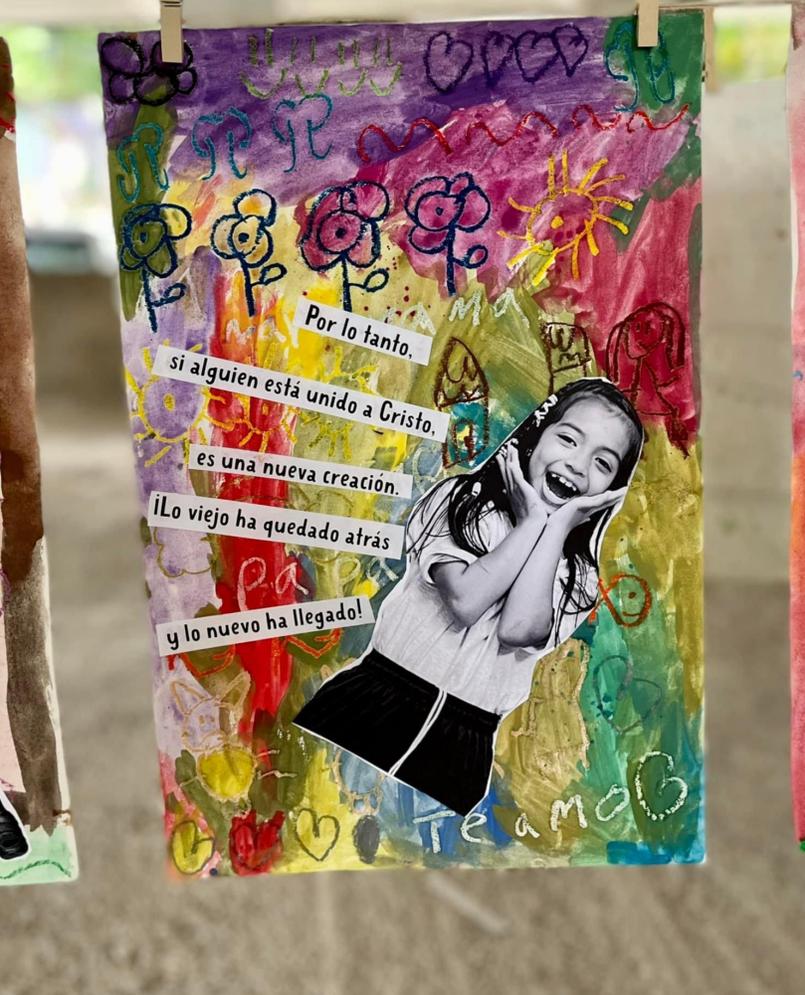
It was significant beyond the pride that our students felt in seeing their work displayed.

Working on this project gave the kids a chance to see that the Creator of the world, who created each one of them, had also given them the ability to make something beautiful. More than that, each person who saw these works of art was confronted with the truth that our Creator can make each of us a new creation.

The relationship they have to their Creator is the most important thing we can teach our students. We want them to know how loved they are. That each one of them has a hope and a future. That each one of their lives is meaningful and has purpose.

How do we keep building on the lessons our little ones are learning, even when we're not there? One big way to help is to pray:

- Pray that our students will understand that they are loved by God.
- Pray that they will see how God's love can transform their lives.
- Pray that the parents of our students who already know Christ will grow in their faith and will continue teaching that faith to their children.
- Pray that the parents who don't yet know Christ will come to know Him, that their lives will be transformed by His love, and that they will lead their families to deeper faith.
- Give thanks for the overwhelming love that God has for each one of our students, teachers, and parents.



"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

II Corinthians 5:17



SUMMER RECAP



What a blessing to be a part of God's work in El Salvador

This summer we had the privilege of taking almost 40 SHIP trippers to El Salvador to help us minister to and love on our neighbors. We always come home with so many amazing stories to share about how we saw God move and work. Here are just a few highlights:

- **God multiplied our efforts and pulled off tasks that seemed impossible.** When unexpected illness affected some of our team, we found ourselves short-handed. With preparations for the outreach service already underway, we were reminded of the story of Gideon and the Midianites. God reduced the size of our "army" and brought glory to Himself!

- **Teams worked tirelessly with a joyful spirit.** The summer teams continued the work that the Spring Break team started in our new classroom building. They framed walls, hung lights, and painted walls and ceilings. The shipping container of supplies and materials that we packed and sent in May arrived during one of our summer trips. Everyone pitched in to help unload, move, and organize over 600 items!
- **Hundreds of people heard the Good News.** Through outreach services, Bible studies, and conversations over dinner, team members shared about God's grace and Jesus's sacrifice for them. We were blessed and encouraged by the boldness of this summer's SHIP trippers.



Behold. I am doing a new thing.

Mark your calendar because this year's luncheon will be here before you know it! We can't wait to see you there and tell you all the wonderful new things God is doing in El Salvador.

Want to join us for lunch? Here's how:

Register at shipinternational.org/fundraiser/, call us at 979.260.7447, or send an email to contact@shipinternational.org. There's no cost to attend the event.

If you're interested in underwriting the event, contact us via phone or email.

You can also host a table at no cost. We just ask that you fill a table with people who will be interested in SHIP's work. If you're interested in being a table host, send an email to Tricia Tatum (tricia@shipinternational.org).

October 11, noon-1 p.m.

College Station Hilton, 801 University Drive East, College Station, Texas

ANNUAL LUNCHEON



What it's like to serve in El Salvador

After talking to *Maribel Perez* at our May 28th container loading extravaganza, we knew we wanted to get her to El Salvador ASAP. Fortunately, she wanted to join us! Maribel proves here that you truly can do anything on a SHIP trip. From translation to teaching to construction work, Maribel did it all, and we are so thankful for all her hard work.

God has shown me His merciful love, redeeming power, and what true joy looks like to children and teachers at a school through a recent mission trip to El Salvador. He blessed me abundantly, especially in meeting this faithful and kind community I've found through SHIP International.

This summer I had the wonderful opportunity to travel to El Salvador with a group from Bryan-College Station to spend a week serving. There, God used my Spanish-speaking skills not just to translate when needed, but to truly unite and grow the bond between a sponsor and their sponsored child and family over dinner one night. It was a very fruitful conversation that allowed the families to get to know each other beyond surface level and to truly express their gratitude for one another.

In other instances, I participated in one of our group's teachings by reading to 5- to 7-year-olds in Spanish the story of Jonah and the Big Fish, and later even led a Bible study for young teen girls and women to share with them what God says is true of who we all are in Christ.

Additionally, I assisted a teacher in reviewing assignments as she taught math by using the value and addition of coins; through an on-site service project, we helped cut and drill metal studs to use as frames for the latest additional building to the school; our whole team helped paint the image of what it looks like to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

We all have gifts that God equips us with, but when we use them for His glory, it is certainly even more fulfilling and life-giving. I am very grateful for this experience and to see how God will continue to work in me and through SHIP!

See you in El Salvador!

SHIP Trips aren't just for summer. We go throughout the year, and we'd love for you to join us. We've got a trip coming up September 9-16 and even more trips in store for 2023.

On each trip we'll spend a week getting out of our comfort zones and being the hands and feet of Jesus in El Salvador. If that sounds like something you're interested in doing, we want to talk to you about going.

Basic Info: The SHIP Trip cost is \$750 + airfare. That includes all transportation in El Salvador, food, lodging, and an excursion. Find out more information at shipinternational.org.

2023 SHIP Trip Dates:

January 2023 (Dates TBD)	June 10-16
March 11-17	July 8-14
June 3-9	July 15-21



TAKE A SHIP TRIP

The container arrives

We always say that God's timing is perfect, but it's a hard thing to believe sometimes. This summer, we got to see just how perfect His timing is and how He supplies all our needs.

In May we sent a 40-foot container to El Salvador. We had tons of help when we loaded it in Texas. The container was loaded with supplies for our work in El Salvador—clothes for the SHIP Shop, bookcases, a refrigerator, tools, pipes, and doors for the new building.

We kept hoping and praying that the container would arrive at our property in El Salvador when we had a team there to help us unload.

We did have a team there. It was our smallest team of the summer. And, to top it all off, the delivery time kept getting pushed back. We got what we asked for, but not in the way we wanted it.

We wanted a huge team to help. We wanted the container to be delivered on time. But, remember: God's timing is perfect.

Because the container was delivered later than expected, it arrived just as the young men's Bible study was about to start and the young women's study was ending. We still had women hanging out and visiting after their Bible study. We had our whole construction crew ready to help.

We had more people than we needed. God supplied what we needed and gave us so much more.



Renewing Relationships

This summer God began a new thing at SHIP El Salvador: We now offer marriage seminars for our neighbors.

It's hard to explain how much our neighbors need these seminars, and we're overjoyed to see how many couples are attending. We work in a neighborhood with many broken families. Some of the brokenness is due to divorce, some due to one spouse leaving El Salvador for another country in hopes of making enough money to support the family.

Whatever the reason for these broken homes, the pattern has been continued throughout generations. Many long-term relationships never result in marriage, and many of our neighbors have no examples of strong marriages to emulate.

Seeing the need for marriage training, our Salvadoran team started off by hosting one Saturday marriage seminar. It didn't stop there though. The seminar was so popular that it's turned into an ongoing weekly meeting.

We have married couples and couples who are living together but not married in attendance. Everyone hears the message of God's plan for marriage, why it is important, and why His perfect plan is for our good, the good of our children, and even of our communities.

Wherever these couples are in their relationships with Christ, they are hearing the Gospel and they are seeing Christ's love and law in action through the examples of our seminar leaders. Please pray for everyone involved in this ministry. It truly has the power to transform lives.

A new opportunity for growth and hope

We love these kids. We love their energy, their excitement. We love seeing them come through the gate of the school each morning, big smiles on their faces as they see their friends. In each of these little ones, we see hope for a future, a future that most of us couldn't have imagined when we first started working in this area. But it was a future that God knew long before we'd ever booked our first flight to El Salvador.

And what a future it has been!

God's story for each of them isn't over yet, though. We see so much potential in these bright young minds. We pray that they will become pillars and leaders of their community. One way that we strive to help these kids and their families fulfill the plan that God has for them is to present them with new opportunities. Maybe that's the opportunity to attend a safe Christian school in their neighborhood or to learn a skill like sewing that can help financially support their family.

As we continue to work in El Salvador, God continues to bless us with opportunities to grow the ministry. Sometimes those opportunities feel like they fall into our laps and we're given the resources to complete these projects right away. Sometimes, like right after we purchased our first 12 acres of land in El Salvador, we feel like we're in a holding pattern.

We're in that holding pattern right now. For the past few years, we've wanted to purchase the piece of land adjacent to our property in El Salvador so that SHIP would have increased visibility in the community and road access. It actually took us a year and a half to locate the property's owner. But God provided contact information, and now He has provided a reasonable price for the property. SHIP now has an opportunity to purchase.

We're not sure yet how God wants us to use that additional land, but we know the possibilities and opportunities are endless! This land could become home to several "micro-businesses" that would provide job opportunities for our neighbors. It could allow us to drill a new well and provide safe drinking water to many. Maybe this roadside property will increase our visibility in the neighborhood and lead more people to ask "what's going on behind that fence?"

We need your help to see these possibilities become a reality. Will you prayerfully consider partnering with us financially to purchase this land? **God has provided a generous donor who will match donations up to \$18,000.** To double the impact of your donation, please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website, shipinternational.org.

