

SHOE STORY | OUR GIVING

Traveling to Honduras, every team member packed an extra suitcase full of shoes to give away. In all, we took almost 600 pairs. What a joy it was to put shoes on the feet of hundreds of kids. One member of the team said it was the closest he has been to washing someone's feet.

Another team member had the idea of teaching kids the value of work. We had them collect two bags of trash to receive a pair of shoes. We called it a hand up not a hand out because many kids falsely believe that if they see Americans they're going to get something for free.

TOUGH LOVE | OUR PRISON VISIT

For Dan and Keith, visiting the prison was one of the most impacting parts of the trip. The guys of the team spent time with inmates who were part of a gang, called MS13 (or Mara Salvatrucha). Most people join the gang for acceptance, since fathers are rare in Honduras. "Google them and read about them," Keith said. "Feel fear and worry and understand that those same feelings enveloped me as we entered the prison." But as Keith soon learned, "Once we saw the faces, saw their eyes and saw that they were as human as us, my heart began to change. These men embraced us quickly, engaged in conversation despite the obvious language barriers, and sought to learn our names." Dan said, "Behind their hardened faces and tattoo-covered bodies were people just wanting to be loved and accepted."



HIGHLIGHTS & LESSONS

What I will remember most is the friendship I developed with a 14-year-old boy named Wilson, who helped our bus driver and went everywhere with us. We joked around, worked side by side, and, thanks to a translator, I got to talk with him about his parents, who had passed away, what his dreams were and who Jesus was. **(Chris Swift)**

The biggest lesson I learned is to love as much as you can while you get the chance. In Guasaule, we were with kids whose parents really didn't care about them at all. It was so sad to see how hungry they were for love, for a kind word or a gentle hug. We only had three days to impact their lives with Christ's love! **(Amanda Whitworth)**

For me, I think the best part of the trip was the diversity. This was exemplified during church. It was great hearing songs sung in Spanish and realize that God is being worshiped all over the world. We also got to share our week with the Honduran people and with fellow Christians from England. It was exhilarating sharing a common vision for Christ and the Gospel and being able to work toward sharing it with people from different backgrounds. **(Brian Bowe)**

I saw so much need in Honduras. People are dying of AIDS; they're dying of poverty. Yet the lesson I've learned is that there is also need at home, hidden behind materialism and the American Dream. The thing that makes a difference anywhere is love, and I realize it has to be God's because I don't have enough. **(Caitlin Palmer)**



FAITHFUL SERVICE | OUR HONDURAN MISSIONARY

"I want to be your hands, I want to be your feet, I want to go where you send me..." The words of this song became my agreement with the Lord when I felt He was calling me to serve in Choluteca, Honduras, for the past 5 months. During this time, I can truly say that I have had the experience of my life, an experience that will be a vital part of my life story.

I feel blessed to have been able to serve the Lord with the GCLA church in Choluteca and to be part of some amazingly impacting ministry projects. My main focus was working with Casa Hogar Vida. The Lord is using this ministry to bring hope to the sick, hurting, and poverty-stricken families in Choluteca.

One of the highlights of my time in Choluteca was meeting a man named Nicolas and his incredibly loving mother Julie. Nicolas is 35 years old and has been severely disabled both physically and mentally for his entire life.

Because of his condition and their extreme poverty, Nicolas spent all of his time lying in a bed inside a small house while Julie worked.

After a great deal of prayer, I received an email one day from my pastor John Drage saying that a friend of his had lovingly decided to donate a special wheelchair for Nicolas! When The Rock team came in January, they brought Nicolas's wheelchair with them! This was so special for many reasons but mostly because of the faithfulness of the Lord to answer Julie's prayer of her son being able to attend church.

"For He will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight." -Psalm 72:12-14

-Melissa Molder



THANK YOU!!

Thanks so much for helping make this trip possible by your generous giving and by your prayers. Our lives and the lives of many people in Honduras were touched because of you!