



This has been a full, full month, with many visitors, trips, and activities.

### Visitors and Trips

The busyness started on the last day of March, when Mark Young, coordinator of Manos Chicas, Corazones Grandes (Little Hands, Big Hearts) brought a family from Trujillo to take care of some business in Catacamas and stayed overnight. We had a wonderful, long conversation with Mark and only wish that Brenda could have accompanied him. We all left at the same time the following morning, as they were heading

*The happy travelers from Manos Chicas, Corazones Grandes in Trujillo. The three in the middle are family, not Waulter or Mark.* back to Trujillo and we were heading to Tegucigalpa on the public bus to have a CAT scan done on Joanne because of the persistent headache she had had nonstop for two weeks. Since the power was out in Tegucigalpa, we could not pick up the CAT scan results until Saturday morning, so we stayed with our special friends, Noe and Gloria Perez, and had a wonderful visit with them as well. The CAT scan results were normal, but interestingly enough Joanne woke up Saturday morning with no headache. Our doctor says it is very possible that the headaches and puffy eyes could be caused by new allergies because there are "different winds blowing" in Catacamas right now. She is having only occasional headaches now, since the "pain cycle" has been broken.

### Saturday Full of Fun and Feasting

The following Saturday, Dwight took a few men to the quarterly leaders' meeting. He did not need to carry the typical truck full of 15 to 18 people because the meeting was relatively close; only 15 minutes out of town in Sosa. They always serve a delicious lunch wherever it is held since so many have to come so far. That same day we were among roughly 30 guests who attended a birthday party for our doctor at her beautiful, large home. We had to leave the party before dinner was served because we also had invited guests to a fund raiser dinner for the private Christian school, Escuela del Buen Samaritano (EBS), here in Catacamas. Unfortunately, our power had been off since 3pm the day before, so when it came back on that evening at 5pm Joanne had to drop Dwight and our guests off at the EBS dinner and go home to complete three discussion responses in her coursework that were due that evening. She completed her assignments and made it back in time to say hello to several friends and to enjoy desert before we drove our guests home.



*Dra. Lynch with her husband, daughter, and mother-in-law*

### Meetings and Emergencies

The next day was just as busy, as we offered a ride home for one group of Por Los Ninos kids who were waiting for the van to return because they only have one driver right now, and then Joanne had a meeting in San Isidro at 2pm that lasted until 5pm. Following some other small meetings about particular projects, she and Alba Rosa took five members of Dona Maria de la Cruz's family to visit Maria and her adult son, Rolando, who had an emergency appendectomy the previous Thursday and was experiencing complications. They also took dinner and breakfast for the three of them who were staying at the hospital, and then Joanne and Alba Rosa went back Monday afternoon to pick them all up when Rolando was released from the hospital.

## Hope Arrives

Chip and Lisa Bloecher with their 7 year old daughter, Hope, were also in town during the second week of March. Chip comes every spring to make arrangements for his group that will come in July to build houses. We were able to share a dinner with them at Francel Restaurant, and then Friday morning Joanne went with Lisa to visit a single mother. Lisa graciously agreed to carry our tax return back to the U.S. and mail it for us. (Thank you again, Lisa.) Friday morning, close to noon, Dwight and Joanne again left town.

## We're Retreating

This time we headed to the Valley of the Angels for a free weekend retreat hosted by the Honduran Fellowship of Missionaries and Ministries (HFMM). It was a wonderful, 2-day seminar with encouraging lessons, great food, and abundant opportunities to fellowship and network with 150 other North Americans and Canadians who are living and working throughout Honduras. This was our first time to attend the annual event, but Joanne hopes to not miss it again.



*Chip, Lisa, Hope, and Joanne*

## Joanne's Dissertation Advancing

Monday morning, March 18th, Joanne submitted her dissertation's chapter 2 literature review for the sixth time ... and the last. Her Chair accepted it as completed and gave Joanne the green light to commence with chapter 3, Methodology. But Joanne has already been working on that while waiting on her Chair's revisions to chapter 2 so she has the first 14 pages of chapter 3 that she submitted on Monday, March 25th. Joanne also has been struggling to complete additional documents, reports and revisions requested by the IRS for our 501(c)(3) application.

## Least of These - Honduras is Progressing

Later that same day we learned that our association board President and very special friend, Jeannell Johnson, had been in town since the previous Thursday but we missed her because we were at the retreat out of town. Monday night we went to visit for a while, and then Tuesday evening we had our second annual board meeting via Skype with our other board members who are in Bryan/College Station, TX. Our daughter, Lydia, graciously provided the Skype program at the other end so Brian Ray, our secretary, was able to share the visit from her house. It has been a great pleasure to share snatches of time with Jeannell and to discuss board issues in person. We are thankful to God that He blessed her with an opportunity to visit and are sad she left again on Monday, March 25th. She carried the completed 501(c)(3) additional documents back with her to be mailed with her signature. We were also able to share a lunch with special friends from Guaimaca who came to town for the day on Thursday.

## And more visitors!

Saturday, March 23rd, a group led by Gene Green arrived in Catacamas to do projects at Por Los Niños, the children's home where Dwight teaches. Sunday after church, the group invited all the people at PLN (more than 60 children + houseparents), teachers, staff and their families to go to the Talgua Caves for picnicking, swimming, and exploring. While Joanne had a meeting in San Isidro and couldn't go, Dwight had a great time with his co-workers and the kids.



## Dwight's New Class Assignment

Dwight is teaching the 'Jr. High' class now at our congregation at Barrio El Colegio. For those of you who know him well you will not be surprised to find that he is teaching through the Acts of the Apostles. This week he has off at the school at Por Los Niños because it is Semana Santa or Holy Week - the week before Easter.

## Reading Glasses Distribution

Last Saturday we had a reading glasses distribution at the rural community of Jícaro Gordo. Dwight starts with a strength that is less than he thinks they can use and gradually works to more powerful strengths until they find one that is just right. He enjoys this for several reasons, one because most of those who come want to be able to read their Bible and secondly because it is such a joy when the person finds the correct strength and their face lights up because they can see to read the words in the Bible once again. A lot of what we do is not immediately or obviously beneficial, while this work most definitely is. After the time spent in the distribution, 25 people from that community were able to read once again. We also distribute glasses from our house. We send a big thank you to the brothers and sisters at the Raleigh church of Christ who brought these glasses for the people here.



## Spring Cleanup - Honduras Style

The San Isidro community is very excited right now, at the prospect of a group coming to construct a playground and soccer field for the children and teens in the community. They worked together for an entire week to chop, gather and burn all of the brush in the large area where the soccer field will be. On the first Monday morning there were 22 people present and by that night there were 35! They had the

entire field cleared and burned before the weekend and went on to complete other community projects that have been pending, such as the plastering of the church classroom walls, cement to close the wide gap under the double gate, and a well wall for the small well at the church building.

## Pig Paradise

We also started another fun project in San Isidro this month: Pigs! First we bought two tiny pigs and everyone brought their scraps to them. They were cute and quiet and were tied up at the church building to keep them from destroying trees and vegetable plants. A discussion with community leaders resulted in a decision to purchase two more female pigs, because they cannot only provide abundant meat for the community but can also reproduce the meat source as well. So that evening, after the Sunday meeting, we went again to purchase two more piggies. Now, suddenly, they went from cute and quiet to loud and stinky. The following day one of the men built a pen for them a short distance from the church building. But the community has not been able to keep up with their growing demand for food and we have had to purchase corn twice this month. At the last community meeting all responsibility for their care, food, and hygiene was turned over fully to the community members where it belongs.



## Prayers

Please pray that the 15 pages of revisions to our 501(c)(3) documents will be accepted and we will receive our charitable status quickly. Please pray for this time of the year for both those here and in the states when people think of the meaning of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus and what it means to their lives. Please continue to pray for Joanne's work on her dissertation and her Doctorate in Public Health.

We thank our God for you. May He bless and keep you in His hands, Dwight & Joanne