



Send Hope



Winter 2015

Have Forceps-Will Travel



My first trip doing portable dentistry was in 1991. That trip changed my life, and I knew why God had called me into the dental field. As I began to wonder how God could use my dental skills, one idea I had was to offer dentistry to people all over the world.

I even had an idea for the business card that I could use. You have to be my age to remember the TV series "Paladin" to appreciate this card. We watched that show every week, and I only remember watching it on a black and white TV. The show was a western and Paladin would travel by horse to a different town each week to help the good guys get justice over the bad guys. Paladin was for hire, and his card read "Have Gun/Will Travel." So my dental card would read "Have Forceps-Will Travel."

After traveling to six countries, however, I realized if I was going to accomplish anything permanent I needed to concentrate on one location. The area I saw with the most need was the Miskito Coast of Honduras.

A lot of things have happened since that decision was made. A home for children was built. Then a small school, a dental clinic, and a volunteer house. We just completed our first year in the new school that quadrupled the size of the first school. We have remodeled the old school into offices and a game room for the kids. Currently we are looking at purchasing more property adjacent to the complex for future expansion, to be determined.

All this would not have been possible without your prayers and gifts. Thank You, Thank You, Thank YOU!

We look forward to an exciting 2016.



Witch Doctors

When I first heard people in Latin America talk about “witch doctors”, I was skeptical about their existence. I thought missionaries talked about them to make the area sound mysterious or mystical. However, as I spent more time doing volunteer dentistry in Honduras and Mexico, I realized that witch doctors do exist. I had never seen in person an individual practice their form of medicine, but I saw a video of a witch doctor at work in our area of Honduras. A lady from Europe came to do a documentary on the fate of women in our area, and she recorded a witch doctor at work. It was a female and she did not look any different than other women in her village. She did not have a bone in her hair or any other weird dress that we may have seen in movies. She mixed some kind of liquid concoction and put it in her mouth and spewed it on her “patient”. Other times I have seen the results of a witch doctor’s work on a baby. They had put some kind of salve on a babies body that made her hair fall out, her eye lashes to come out, and the skin to peel off her body. It was really ugly and painful to see. Katrina was nursing the baby back to health when the First Lady of Honduras happened to be making a rare visit to Puerto Lempira. She took the baby back to the capital city to place in an adoptive home.

When I arrived at the House of Hope on my last visit in October, I was updated on the status of one of the newest arrivals. The hospital had sent us an 18 year old mother with her malnourished baby, but she had not stayed very long. She took her baby and ran to get the treatment from a witch doctor. Lauren had spent most of the day looking for the mom. The next day she went to the places where the young mom would have to go to take a boat back to her village, but did not find her. Someone called and told where the mom was staying, so they went to the house with the police and human rights representative. The mom and the baby were put in the police truck and taken to the hospital. Lauren said the mom was mad at her and would not speak to hear each time she took food and diapers to her 3 times a day. She finally warmed up a little when she realized that she could not leave.

We in the US have a hard time understanding a situation like this, because we do not have witch doctors. The first time that a young mom and dad brought a baby to me for help was a real eye opener for me. The baby was lifeless and barely alive. It did not even have enough strength to cry. I asked the parents if they had taken the baby to the hospital, and they said no because too many people die there. I was on my way to get on the plane to leave and could do nothing to help. I was told the baby died a day or two later.

I asked about the baby that the House of Hope people had tracked down, and he had been put on our feeding program. If the mom is compliant, she will need to bring him back to the House of Hope to get more formula and get him weighed to make sure he continues to develop properly.

This baby may have gotten better on his own, but Lauren thought he would not have lived. I asked Katrina several years ago how many children had been saved from death because the House of Hope was there. I thought maybe 2 or 3 a year because I am not there all the time to witness what happens. She said more like 12 to 15 babies a year are alive because of the malnourished feeding program. Thanks to everyone who donates to Send Hope to help save the lives of these babies.

Hosacks in Honduras

We were fortunate enough to see Dr. Brian in one of the bigger cities (San Pedro Sula) on our way to the House of Hope in September. As we left him, he looked at us and said, "I can't believe you are actually here. Thank you." Dr. Brian, we can't believe we are here either.

When Dr. Tom Brian first asked us if we could move here to serve as Interim Directors, he asked as a formality. He knew what the answer would be, and that's exactly what we told him. No, not going to happen. The plan and the dream was to move here in September of 2017.



Then we talked about it some more, we said there was a 1% chance we move here. Dr. Brian took that as a 0% chance. But here we are. We have been living here at the House of Hope for over 3 months and we still can't believe it.

While we were here for a year back in 2011, the last few visits have been for 10-12 days each. That is what the kids have been used to. Whenever we arrive, they always ask us how long we are staying. So we get to tell them this time, "**we live here; this is our home now.**"

Here at the House of Hope, we are lucky if we have electricity 12 hours a day. The internet is slow at times. There is no hot water. In the past 3 months we have bled, cried, sweat gallons, and gotten super muddy. **Yet we could not be happier; we are finally where we belong.**

However, we could not be here without you. You have prayed for us, encouraged us, and supported us. **Thank you, thank you, thank you.** Thank you for praying, thank you for your kind words, thank you for your excitement, thank you for your gifts, thank you for your comments and likes on Facebook. Our hearts are full of love and our cup "runneth" over.

Send Hope Celebrates our First High School Graduate!

Thelma graduates!! We are so proud of her! Thelma has lived at the House of Hope since she was in elementary school and is our first high school graduate.

Lauren Hosack traveled to the Tree of Life school in Copan to be with Thelma on this special occasion. It was a beautiful night and hopefully only the first of many, many more graduations!

Thelma will spend a year as a volunteer at the House of Hope using the skills she learned in her business courses and internship. She hopes to attend University to continue her studies in business.



Malnourished Feeding Program

One of the missions of the House of Hope is to provide food for malnourished babies and children. Proper nutrition is critical for brain, body, and immune system development in the first two years of a child's life. The House of Hope feeding program provides formula for malnourished babies and Kids Against Hunger rice casserole for their siblings.

Here is an update from Directors, Lauren and Steven Hosack, on some of the malnourished babies that have come to the House of Hope.



The hospital in Puerto Lempira and the House of Hope have had a long standing relationship. It is common for the hospital to send children and especially babies to the House of Hope after their stay in the hospital. Typically these young ones are malnourished and/or require additional recovery time before traveling to their village. Over the past several months, the hospital has sent us seven babies with their mothers. Each arrival is a little stressful because we need to find the space and supplies to help this baby (and mother) thrive. Additionally, we are never sure how receptive the mothers will be to our help. Thus far we have received:

Angel—He was 5 months old when he arrived, weighing 10 pounds. After another stint in the hospital his mother took him back to his village.

Afet—Afet came when he was two months old and malnourished. His sweet mother, Gladis, took the best care of him. He quickly gained enough weight to return home to his village with his mother.

Chan-Chan is over a year old, though no one knows his exact age, and is malnourished. He was here for about 3 weeks before gaining enough weight to return home.

Ezequiel-He came to us when he was 1 month old and weighing around 5 pounds. He is very slowly gaining weight, we are hoping that he and his mother will be able to return home before Christmas.

Ander-Ander came at the same time as Ezequiel and also weighed about 5 pounds at 1 month old. He has since gained a lot of weight. We were hoping to send him and his mother back home until he got a bout of diarrhea. They are staying with us a few more days to make sure he is healthy before making the trip back to their village.

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Nila & Marta-Nila and Marta are twin baby girls that are here at the House of Hope with their mother. They were brought to us when they were just 3 days old! Each of them weighs about 3 pounds. Their Mother, who is also named Marta, has some special needs and is unable to care for them alone. The hospital asked that we observe the mother to see what she is capable of doing and to help teach her how to properly care for her sweet daughters. Although she is unable to make a bottle for her daughters, she loves them fiercely.



While it seems that we have had a large influx of malnourished babies from the hospital, it gives me a lot of hope. These babies are receiving the care and nutrients that they need because their mothers took them to the hospital when they were sick. After babies gain enough weight and are considered healthy, they return home to their villages. They are then enrolled in our milk program for malnourished babies and are scheduled to pick up formula and/or Kids Against Hunger rice casserole at a future date.

Kids Against Hunger®

We live in a world where a child dies every six seconds due to hunger and starvation related diseases...that's 16,000 children that will die TODAY!

Kids Against Hunger is a volunteer-driven effort to package and distribute food in communities worldwide where hunger and starvation are rampant. A Kids Against Hunger Packing Event gives volunteers an opportunity to contribute "hands-on," in feeding the world.

Young and old alike, Kids Against Hunger volunteer teams have packaged and delivered tens of millions of meals to children in over 60 countries through feeding programs, orphanages, schools, clinics and local food pantries.

Thanks to 3,308 volunteers at 31 events, Send Hope will send more than 600,000 meals to Honduras this year. This will feed over 1,640 children for a year, saving many lives and providing the nutrition for optimum development.

Katrina

Katrina is in Florida and doing very well at this time. She has completed her first round of radiation and chemo, and plans to travel to Puerto Lempira in January for a visit.

She will be checked again in 2 months to determine if she needs more chemo and/or radiation. Continue to keep Katrina and her family in your prayers.



Ways to Help

Upcoming trips

Jan 18—28 The Dakotas VIM
Jan 22—29 Jillian Mathews group
Feb 1—6 North Collin County Habitat
Feb 10—16 Heath UMC
Feb 11—22 The Dakotas VIM
Feb 17—22 Mike Carter Group
July 4—12 Allen FUMC

Contact Tom Brian to schedule your group's visit.

972-965-6534 atbdds@yahoo.com



Contribute to Send Hope each time you purchase from Amazon. Login at smile.amazon.com each time you shop and select Send Hope as the charity you want to support.

Kids Against Hunger®

For \$0.25 you can provide a child with a meal that contains **all** of the vitamins, minerals, and protein **needed** for the **day**. You can host a packaging or raise funds for Send Hope to sponsor a packaging. **Donate** \$54 to provide a box of 216 meals **Volunteer** to help pack meals



Contribute each time you do an internet search. Go to www.goodsearch.com and select Send Hope Allen, Texas to receive your contributions.



Contribute each time you shop online. Go to www.goodshop.com and select Send Hope, Allen, Texas to receive your contributions. Look for special coupons from participating stores.

Ongoing Needs

Baby Bottles
Baby: High Chairs, Pack & Plays
Bath Soap
Bicycles—all sizes
Bras—(especially larger sizes)
Chalk and Erasers
Cloth Diapers and Diaper Pins
Clothes Pins for laundry
Children and Teens Underwear
Deodorant
Feminine Hygiene Pads
Kitchen Items
Lice Treatment
Nit combs
Outdoor toys and games
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Shampoo
Sheets: Single and Crib
Shoe Laces: all sizes, all colors
Shoes—all sizes
Socks—all sizes
Strollers—large wheel (jogging)
Towels