



# Serving the UNDERSERVED

NEWSLETTER

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## From Mike - 2011

As you read this letter, we are within three weeks of our next missions trip to San Pedro Las Huertas, Guatemala. The team is so anxious to return to our "Guatemalan family." Each time we approach such a departure date, my mind goes back to the previous trips and the things we learned and experienced. The following are some highlights from the journals of three team members who went on last October's trip. I hope these thoughts will help you remember to pray for us as we prepare for the upcoming trip. I also hope you will join us in a period of fasting and prayer as we prepare to leave. The team will be fasting from April 1-21 in a time of spiritual preparation for the trip. Our desire is to be used to represent Jesus, and the only way to adequately do that is by being spiritually prepared and "full of the Holy Spirit." Thank you for joining with us.



October 2010 team members: Wendy, Mike, Holly, Mike C., and Sonda.



Holly (in red) training one of the local women to cut hair. The location was a school just outside of the ghetto area.

### From Team Member Wendy, who went to cut hair and train others in the skill:

The hugs, smiles, and all the "gracias" [thank-you] made my day! Heart-felt sincerity! They are a happy, family-oriented, loving group of people. The need is for much and they ask for nothing. I thank God for the opportunity to serve them! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Plant Today team members with translators and women being trained to style hair.

[At the end of the trip] It was a short day for the service of cutting hair. I really enjoyed everyone I met. Amazing how close you can get to someone in that short amount of time. Saying good-bye to Catherine and Jeanette [two women who were trained to cut hair] was hard. They were shocked to receive the hair-cutting bag of tools they needed to carry on with what they had learned. I feel they will use this



in a wise way and be able to have a trade or minister in their church. I pray that they felt God's hand in all this and they continue to grow with Him daily in His word. I pray God blesses them with great opportunity as He did with us!

**From Team Member Holly, who partnered with Wendy in cutting hair and training others:**

The people here are so genuine. From the first [haircut] of the day to the last and everyone in between. One woman stands out and I hate to say I don't even know her name; older than me—maybe 60ish, a very pretty lady. As I was cutting her hair, Iris (the translator) said this lady wanted to speak to me. She kept saying God is going to bless you and I thanked her but she said no, I mean really bless you as if it were a prophecy. She said, "He will answer your prayers from the very smallest to the biggest you just only have to ask."

All this dirt! No running water. No electric. Yet they are very clean (most of them). Even at home we have the ones that don't care about being clean. It's amazing how they manage to stay so clean. It's important to me and obviously to them. There is just so much dirt I don't know how they do it!

Going home today. It doesn't seem fair that I get to go back to my cushy life, and did we really change anything? Maybe the change is with me. As little as they have, they have each other and they seem very happy (kids running and playing just like ours). What is all the "stuff" really for? What good does it do us? Most of it we don't really need anyway. It's unbelievable the things we could do without!



Local women washing their clothes at the wash station.



Holly (left) with her trainee (right) and a local girl who just received a free haircut.



**From Team Member Sonda, who helped with the eye clinic:**

Iris, one of the translators, gave us an incredible compliment. She told me that there is such a difference in some of the groups that come here compared to Plant Today. She said that the spirit that we bring with us as believers is so obvious compared to groups who come as “missionaries” but are not acting as believers. What a testimony! God is faithful!

There are no diversions here due to the fact that we are here with one purpose (in one accord) to serve as the Lord leads us. We learned today that a man—who received an MP3 player with 35 of Charles Stanley’s messages in Spanish from Plant Today yesterday after his eye exam—returned to the church after he listened and met with Pastor Israel and gave his heart to the Lord. Our trip is worth it all if for only one soul!

We had a 54 year old lady in for an eye exam. After we examined her eyes and issued eyeglasses to her, she asked a translator to bring us to her because she wanted to talk to us. She proceeded to tell us her testimony/prophesy. She had been having trouble seeing well so she mentioned to her husband her need to see an eye doctor. He told her to wait and God would send someone who could



help her. She waited awhile but became concerned again about her eyesight. Her husband told her again to wait upon God! She wanted to thank us—Plant Today—for our work in this community and in their lives. She was so grateful that God met her need through us and our obedience. She told us to keep following God’s direction and listening to His voice.

I truly believe that God blessed us this very day for our service to others this week. These people have so little of the conveniences that we know and expect: washers and dryers, cars, air conditioning and furnaces, rain-proof shelters, pillow top mattresses, showers with hot water, dishwashers, electric/gas ranges, health insurance, social security, closets and drawers of clothes, hair dryers, cement driveways, garages, sidewalks—and the list goes on! But when they gather in their simple church, there is no carpet; no padded pews; no elaborate sound system; no baptistry, piano, or organ. Just their simple guitars, drums, and keyboard, and they truly feel blessed and they praise God with all that they have! It feels like a little bit of heaven. They abandon their cares of life and their expectations of others and they rejoice in the goodness of God. I am most grateful for the Holy Spirit anointed services that we experience here.



Mother and daughter who both just received glasses.



Pastor Israel, with his son, helps assemble a pair of glasses for a patient.

## Closing Thoughts -

Thank you in advance in praying for us while we are in San Pedro Las Huertas from April 27 to May 2. We greatly depend on your prayers and we ALWAYS feel the power of them. God bless you and thank you!

P.S. If you are able to help us financially, funds are needed in these areas to accomplish the task God has before us: the ghetto church work—\$1200; the school classroom—\$2500; the community center property commitment—\$2000; funds for 150 pairs of glasses—\$5 per pair. Thank you for whatever you can do.



Road to the ghetto church.



Mike with four of the volunteer firefighters. On this trip Plant Today donated batteries for their life packs.

*Mike*

### Contact Us:

<http://www.planttoday.org>

[mikemedley@planttoday.org](mailto:mikemedley@planttoday.org)

Mailing address: 13481 Columbine Avenue, Wellington, FL 33414

Phone number: 954-646-0977

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