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Serving with Manos Extendidas Honduras & the International Alliance for Missions, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

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c/o Manos Extendidas

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Tegucigalpa, M.D.C., Honduras

Here's a thought... If you are anything like me, you do not like it when people say, "let's get together for a coffee sometime", or when someone says, "I will pray for you" knowing darn well there is a good chance they are not going to get together for a coffee or pray for you. It's all just nice things they think we would like to hear. We say it without much thought. No integrity behind these words. Want to pray for someone...do it right there, the coffee can wait...or not.



Derm 😊

Christianity not taken lightly... For x-gang members walking the streets of Tegucigalpa, their choices between hell and eternity with the Lord are not made lightly. The meaning of dying to self takes on very serious meaning to these people because death is often inevitable. The gang member they once ran with may likely be the same person charged to execute them for their fatal decision. Not necessarily for their decision of leaving the gang and following Christ...but get this...if they show any sign of backsliding they will be executed for not taking their Christianity seriously enough. That's right. If they smoke, engage in immoral sex, drink alcohol, gamble, etc., and the religious list goes on...they will face certain death.



Two x-gang members praying for protection and the Lord's will in their lives.

Some churches in North America take a similar stand against backsliders and shun them, in a tactful way mind you, but nevertheless they are made to feel they are not welcome anymore among the brethren. But we don't shoot them. Some feel like they have been shot but it is not the real deal like our brothers and sisters here who once served darkness in these gangs.

Too many times, more than I care to mention, Manos Extendidas have had to claim the body of a backslidden x-gang member who refused to heed the warnings given to them about the seriousness of their actions. When they first come to faith in the Lord, they are watched very closely by Manos workers and also gang leaders. This is not a means of escaping life with the gangs, we warn them...or else there's your life to pay. Manos have gained the respect of the gangs. They honor the decisions of those who want to follow the Lord. There was a time when they could not leave the gang; otherwise, it would mean certain death. And I mean death...like being beheaded or have 13 bullets in the head. This is not something anyone here is taking lightly.

Our dilemma is that when they repent of their backsliding, there is no forgiveness from their executioners. We do not know how to protect them in a physical sense. This is a real problem faced in this ministry everyday. It is only by the Grace of God, that grace that originally saved them, that they can survive. Dying to self certainly takes on a whole new meaning for our brothers and sisters here on the streets of Honduras. Your prayers would be greatly appreciated. i.e. wisdom for decisions that have to be made in those situations.

Two States ... One Mission Team... This was the largest group we have hosted yet. Teams from West Virginia and Michigan came together in February to serve the people of Honduras through our various ministries. Twenty-seven people worked in different areas: on the security wall at Feeding Center #1, constructed cabinets for various rooms, build offices that were desperately needed and worked on various other projects. We are so appreciative of these men and woman for taking their time, money and talents and selflessly giving themselves to this mission. Thank you!



NOTE: If you would like to join a team, let me know and I will hook you up with one. Let's talk over a coffee☺



Update on the Wall at Feeding/Daycare Center #1...

The wall is about 85% finished. It is taking longer than I had hoped to get this project finished; nevertheless, it should be completed by the end of June. Then we can start on the security wall at the other Center. It is my desire to provide a safe, well-equipped environment for these precious little children. The mission of Manos Extendidas, enabled by the heart-felt donations of so many people, and the committed missionaries, stand in the gap between a gang-infested street life for these children or God's plan for their lives. It is our honor to be part of this mission for the Kingdom of God.

Manos Extendidas Church moves to a new location...

Well, praise the Lord, the church has moved into another building, away from the loud traffic and bus fumes. There is now seating available for 120 people, up from the 60 seats previously. The capacity has doubled. The pastors can now have their individual private offices to conduct their business, i.e. counseling.

This has been a stretch in faith for Manos to make this move. It will cost more to operate in the new facility. But what's new? This entire ministry is operated by faith. We know how to be lean when it's time to be lean and we are thankful to the Lord for His favor and blessings. The purchase of new chairs for the church was made possible with team hosting profits.



Prayer & Praise Reports

- Pray for continued growth of Manos de Café and Coffee Online.
- Pray that more churches and organizations would catch the vision for Los Ninos Café's whereby funds are raised for missions through the sale of coffee to parishioners and supporters.
- Pray for more sponsors for the little ones at our two Daycare Programs and thanksgiving for our new sponsors. We now have 56 children sponsored. Praise the Lord.
- Pray for our upcoming mission teams that the Lord's agenda would be realized in each life. Pray also for their protection and health.
- Please continue to pray that the contacts made during the Honduras Conference and at the YC 2006 would endure and produce good fruit.
- Praise and thanksgiving to the Lord that all our needs will continue to be met according to His riches in glory even as our expenses have increased this year.
- **As always, our heart is filled with praise and thanksgiving for all who partner with us day by day with your prayers, finances, words of encouragement, etc. God bless you each and everyone. We could not do it without each one of you.**