

Why Honduras?

Each spring volunteers gather in the church parking lot early on two consecutive Saturday mornings to begin their journey on a LCPC mission trip to La Entrada, Honduras. This journey actually began with Nancy (nee Hoge) Coto, a physical therapist and member of Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, who spent 19 months living in Honduras as part of a medical outreach team, Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO).

Forever changed by the experience of working in a hospital in Santa Rosa de Copan and in love with the people of Santa Rosa and La Majada, Nancy shared her Honduras experience and the vision of CAMO with anyone who would listen through slide shows, talks and conversations over coffee. God had placed on Nancy's heart a desire to help the people of Honduras meet their own needs, including better health, nutrition and education.

Those who believe in Jesus Christ in the village of La Majada had been praying for a church to call their own. La Majada is a small village in the mountains of western Honduras; a village without electrical power, running water and communications. The Mission Committee and people of Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church helped answer those prayers by providing funds and volunteers in November 1997 to build a church on a hillside overlooking their village.

With fresh flowers decorating the church and pine needles on the floor (a Honduran "red carpet welcome"), the dedication ceremony was attended by over 125 people from the village. During the service a young man from the village came forward and expressed how proud he was that he lived in a village that now had its very own church, a place where all could go and worship their God. At a celebration after the dedication service, the villagers, with homemade pineapple cakes and coffee prepared especially for this occasion, honored the team from Liberty Corner.



The Liberty Corner team left Honduras with a feeling of accomplishment and tears in their eyes. A church was built for the people of La Majada to worship God for many years to come. However, so much more can be done for these people to make a difference in their lives. The visit to La Majada was truly a life changing experience for the team from Liberty Corner, touching the lives of all eleven volunteers from LCPC, though probably no one as much as Nancy. Carlos Coto, whom she had met during her nineteen months in Honduras, proposed to Nancy on the night before the church in La Majada was to be dedicated. Nancy and Carlos were married at LCPC in March 1998.

The enthusiasm for another mission trip to Honduras grew with another trip to La Majada planned for October 1998. Twenty five people volunteered and plans were set to continue work in the village as well as at the hospital in Santa Rosa de Copan. Hurricane Mitch had other ideas and in October 1998 the slow moving storm killed over 11,000 and devastated Honduras, ruining infrastructure, homes and crops throughout the country. The LCPC trip to Honduras was postponed until 1999 when a group of twenty volunteers traveled to

Honduras to work in Santa Rita, a village destroyed by Mitch, where over 60 families lost their homes. The LCPC team helped build new concrete block homes on the side of a hill, high above any future high waters. The team worked with people from Samaritan's Purse and Great Commission Church.

In 2000 a LCPC mission team returned to Honduras, this time to La Entrada, the home of Carlos Coto's family. The first projects were to build classrooms for a Sunday school. With the start of Hearts For Honduras School in 2000 the classrooms became used during the week and the school was "off and running"! Hearts For Honduras School grew one grade each year until we reached six grades, a normal primary school in Honduras.