



Impact

Winter 2020 Salem Missions Report

“Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place.”
- Henri Nouwin

Both the Old and New Testaments are full of directives by God the Father and Jesus himself to care for the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the refugee; to practice hospitality in all areas of our lives. To use the Matthew 22 school-year theme of Salem School a few years ago, we are to LOVE GOD, and LOVE OTHERS. Jesus tells us in Matthew 25 to serve “the least of these,” for by doing so, we serve Him. And he tells us in Revelation 3 that he stands at the door knocking, desiring all to open the door and welcome him in so that he might eat with us. Jesus praised and demonstrated hospitality, and we should to.



Christmas is a big event around the world and at Salem as well. But shortly after celebrating the birth of Christ, our first international mission team of the year, made its way to **HONDURAS** for another medical, vision and dental clinic. Our devotional theme for the week was hospitality, and we practiced that as we welcomed thousands of Hondurans to our clinics, where they heard the good news and received quality care for their physical needs. Our highlight story from Honduras, is of this little boy, whose ear deformity prevented him from wearing regular glasses. Our team searched and searched and just happened to find one pair of glasses with a strap on it, and that pair of glasses just happened to be the right prescription for this little boy. The amazing part of this story is that we almost never have glasses with straps. And yet on this one trip, this one little boy, needed a prescription of +1.00, and we had one pair of glasses matching that prescription and it came with a strap. Maybe it’s not a miracle. Maybe we got one pair of glasses with a strap this time from our suppliers. But it sure does seem like a divine coincidence or “God-wink” to us.

The other exciting development with our Honduras mission involves the **PASTORS** we work with. One goal of these clinics is to give local pastors access to more people, and opportunity to share the Gospel message, and the ability to follow up with new believers after we leave. The follow-up piece to this plan hasn’t always happened effectively to bring new believers into a worshipping community of other believers. Now, however, we are providing an opportunity for the pastor we work with to learn about a new way of bringing in new believers into connection with others and into a pathway for discipleship. This method is being accomplished extremely effectively with one pastor in Honduras that we met, and he is now teaching our other pastors his methods. The pastors embraced this method and scheduled a follow up presentation on their own, so that they can spend more time learning from this pastor. Having a Honduran pastor teach these church leaders is the ideal way for church development, as he knows the culture better than we do, knows what evangelism methods are working in Honduras, and is available for additional teaching and collaboration...plus he’s a full of life and laughter!





In **LOCAL MISSIONS**, our February box mission supported **TOMBALL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE MINISTRY (TEAM)**. The holidays are a drain on food banks, so our box mission was designed to help replenish the great quantity of food given out by TEAM. Their philosophy, when people are seeking financial assistance, is not to give money, but to help people budget wisely, and give bags of groceries, so that the money the individual or family would have spent on groceries can be used to pay other bills. TEAM is a great ministry in our area. If you know of individuals struggling with financial need, unemployment (or underemployment), TEAM has some wonderful people and programs to offer a hand up, rather than a hand-out.

Our **SALEM SCHOOL** students focused their 3rd quarter offering efforts on **TOMBALL PREGNANCY CENTER**. In a “just for fun” boys versus girls offering challenge, these students gave over \$2000 to support the work that Tomball Pregnancy Center does to support mothers, their unborn children, and the families that they become as life is brought into this world. They also provide valuable medical, counseling, and spiritual care to women in our community. TPC Director Mariritana Burton will be visiting Salem for chapel this spring to receive the check and spend some time with our 8th graders to teach them more about the mission and services of Tomball Pregnancy Center.



With the COVID-19 virus situation, we're gearing up differently for the spring mission season, with some new local missions and outreach opportunities. Look for opportunities with us or on your own to show hospitality to your neighbors, both literal neighbors and the neighbors you meet as you walk out into the mission field every day. Check out our Impact Opportunities page on the Salem Website and join us in shining the light of Christ in an often-gloomy world." <https://www.salem4u.com/missions/>
Blessings,

Paul Cheney
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