

GO...and make disciples of all!

Steve Hayes

At the heart of Christ's great commission, we are all called to "Go, make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Christ follows this command with a great promise: "and surely I will be with you always!" (Matthew 28:20).

We are so blessed to belong to a Church community that offers us an abundance of opportunities to go...and serve...and grow...and experience our loving God through others! As part of Holy Family's expanded global outreach ministry, 2010 is the 3rd year that members of our faith community will donate their time, talent and treasure to serve Christ by serving the poor of Honduras.

The needs in this country are greater now than ever. 2009 was a year of intense civil unrest in Honduras...and therefore there is a great need for humanitarian efforts. In late June the President was overthrown and an interim government stepped in. The unrest that resulted from this internal conflict caused the US Consulate to discourage all travel (and therefore aid) into Honduras. Although the political situation is now stabilized, the poor of Honduras have suffered greatly with the lack of US-funded resources, donations, and labor.

With the help of several who made previous trips, I will be leading a team of 38 to Honduras from June 3-12, 2010. We have partnered with a Catholic Priest who, over the years, has built OlanchoAid.org into an amazing vessel to serve the poor and needy. He started by building a "special needs" school for Honduran children that suffer from mental retardation and autism. The ministry has since grown to include an Elementary and High School for neighboring children...for without proper education, there is little hope for these kids to break the cycle of poverty. One of our main projects will be to install a new roof on a school where learning is constantly interrupted each time it rains. In addition to installing the roof, repairing poor living conditions, and providing basic supplies for daily living, our team will also do crafts and other activities with the "special needs" kids that, for the most part, are "cast-aways" in such a poor country.

For those of you who cannot "go with us", please consider "going through us" by the gift of your prayers and donations. Although we are all funding our own expenses for the trip (\$1,400 each), we need to raise money to purchase the supplies that will be needed to help the kids, school and teachers in the community...and any help will be greatly appreciated. Checks can be made out to Holy Family with "Mission Honduras" in the memo line.

May God's abundant blessings pour over you, your family and your many efforts to "make disciples of all" through your work, school, family and community!