



The Christian Chiropractor

HEALING HANDS — TOUCHING LIVES

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Building His Kingdom

My First STM Experience

After 32 years in practice, I took my first short-term mission trip. I'd been talking and praying about doing one for years, but there always seemed to be something that got in the way. Yet, for some reason, God moved it up on my priority list, and I took the first step of calling the Christian Chiropractors Association when I saw an ad for a trip to Honduras in October.

I was directed to Rick Habegger, who was leading the trip. I called Rick and found out he too lived in North Carolina. I soon discovered that He and I had several other things in common and that he had led a number of these trips with World Gospel Outreach. After talking with him, I felt like I had the right person to go with, being a first timer.

I have been to many Third-World countries and cities in the past, but none quite like Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The capital city of 1.3 million has an unemployment rate over 50%, the same number of murders every two weeks that occur in Miami, Florida, in a year, people living on \$1 a day, and gangs that control neighborhoods. The list could go on.

Our group of 27 people stayed in a place called the Mission House, a few miles away from the city. It is a very nice facility that has a wall surrounding the building and armed guards 24/7. A Honduran staff prepared the food; their coffee was second to none. I was part of a Medical Brigade that worked for two days each in two separate churches. It is a chiropractor's dream to adjust appreciative people all day and not have to take any notes. I saw about 250 people in three days, many of whom were children.



The highlight was doing evangelism on the last day. Sharing with people the real reason we were there - to build His Kingdom. Unlike the western world, where many people have everything they want and don't see the need for a Savior, most Hondurans are very receptive to the Gospel. As a group, we helped 95 people make a profession of faith. Most people I counseled said they were Christians but had no assurance of their salvation. Also, many had issues with forgiveness of others. It made me cry to hear their stories of why they couldn't forgive others. I shared Scripture with each one on what God's Word says about faith, not works, being the only way to heaven. I was also able to share with them how much God has forgiven me.

If you are like me and want to receive a blessing like you've never had before, I would encourage you to make that call and get started. It helped me grow in learning how to share my faith with others. If you believe everything you have belongs to God and you are just His manager, then I can guarantee it will help make you and your practice at home a ministry that has eternal purposes.

Dr. Donald Acton is a 1979 graduate of Logan Chiropractic College and has been a member of the CCA since 2001. He lives in Asheville, North Carolina.