

Missionaries
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**BORDER BUDDIES
MINISTRIES**
*Bringing the heart of Christ to
the heart of Honduras.*

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What is Youth Group for Border Buddies?

This newsletter is about what we do with our youth groups, who participates in them; what age do they enter and when do they leave; also, what activities we have for them. I am sure many who are going to read this will have a better understanding why the need for youth groups.

I want to start by saying that we have a big problem with broken families, sexual, verbal, and physical abuse in Honduras. Not to mention the problem of gangs just like the States. But here we do not have programs that can reach out and bring in the youth that are “front line evangelism”.

Glenda and I have been working with gangs for over 13 years and have seen and noticed firsthand the huge separation between the youth and their parents and the church. So, we asked back in 2004, how can we bring these kids back into focus with Jesus and become active in the church. The answer: LOVE!! So, we started out, and still are, looking for children from the ages of 12 and up to participate in our youth groups. We talk to the parents and explain that we have a very structured program that can lead their child to change and have a stronger relationship with Jesus Christ. However, we also explain to the parents that they need to help us by being involved with their child and that means communication.

We explain our schedule to the parent(s): Tuesday nights 6:30pm to 9:00pm worship with guitar; Bible study (boys in upper room, girls in lower room); play games afterwards; have coffee and cookies. On Wednesdays we have “one-hour night soccer” which develops time for the boys to release stress, learn not to fight and how to handle competition and so much more. Thursdays again same as Tuesdays. Saturdays from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm selling food to fund raise for trips to parks and to support the Comayagua mission. Sunday mornings the youth worship in their churches or we visit churches to encourage our youth to congregate. Then in the afternoons we head to Comayagua to exhort and evangelize the people of Comayagua. On other Sundays, as you will see in the photos, we go to parks at least once a month to have fun!!

Currently we have over 100 youth in our programs. We are currently serving in seven barrios. Some of our older youth, like Carlos, serve as missionaries for the ministry by leading our satellite youth groups in other very poor barrios. It is hard to believe we are on our 2nd generation of youth! Many of our youth are now in their twenties, have gotten married and are raising their children in the church where they attend. This is a HUGE blessing to see because it means we are stopping the problems of abuse and separation in the families and are bringing back a balance in the family structure. The youth who grew up in our youth group are now loving and guiding their families in the Word of God just as we have taught them. Children have a huge hunger for discipline, structure, a need to be heard, and LOVED.

Celebrating birthdays is something that is neglected with the youth in Honduras. We make sure we celebrate everyone's birthday including ours. It is building a family structure for them and a memory for them to share with their children.



Going to parks is always a special occasion and a great way to have tons of fun and food.



Many probably do not realize this, eating out, even for a special event, is a huge treat for our youth. The majority save a small plate to take back home to share with their moms so they can have a part of their blessing.



Stretching our youth to try new things like an “American Ninja Warrior” course, or rock wall climbing can motivate a child to overcome fear and conquer the “obstacles of life”.





We are taking youth that are young, like this satellite group from an infested gang area, and teaching them the Gospel of Jesus and His message of love and mercy. We are guiding them to leave the “desire of being a gang member”, or the idea that the only solution for them is to hit the streets to survive. We are working with each one to help improve their studies, to do their homework and raise their grades, and to teach them respect and patience for their teachers and parents. We also teach them to have a good work ethic by allowing them come on the job to pour concrete with us when we are not hosting teams. Also many get the opportunity to work alongside our teams and learn about culture and share a common bond and that is Jesus.

We have seen from our youth groups the growth in hundreds of youth. They have become: company owners, accountants of large banks, doctors, fathers and husbands. But most important they have become servants of the Lord in their local churches. It is a blessing to hold their babies in our arms or to have their children participate in our Saturday VBS and smile to God in thanking Him for calling us to a place like the barrios of Honduras and sharing the grace of Christ to so many.

Glenda and I wanted to share this with you, because it is through your prayers, your financial support that we can continue to lead youth from the streets of Honduras to a relationship with Jesus Christ. So many of you have witnessed this transformation in our youth and praise God for it. Let us give a HUGE thanks to Jesus for His blessings. One thing we want to mention is that six out of the seven barrios we work in with our youth groups we have stopped the gang activity. God is Good!!!