

Silver Mountains Ministries



Hi Guys,

I looked up my last newsletter to see what has happened in the last month (I always lose track of time) and I realized that I haven't sent a newsletter since December!!! I don't know how that happened. I did send out a video and I think maybe that's where I got confused. Anyway, I apologize for missing a month and I will do my best to fill you in on the last couple of months happenings without leaving too much out or writing a newsletter that is way too long. Thanks for your patience with me and for taking the time to read about everything I experience here. You truly are a blessing.

Time in the states

My time in the states was wonderful. It's always great to visit family and friends. The snow this year had me sticking pretty close to home but that was a blessing of its own. I apologize to those of you I didn't get a chance to see and I pray that I will see you soon. While I was in the states I met with the Mission Committee at Park Plaza and was also able to sit in on their team planning meeting for their next trip to Honduras. It's always a blessing to share time with my Park Plaza family and renew those ties.

Interns

Soon after returning from the states I was joined by 3 wonderful girls, Alli Booth and Tess Mitchell (who were here last fall), and Mackenzie Johnson (who has been here before on mission teams). Alli and Tess will return home for a wedding in May but other than that will be here until the end of July. Mackenzie will be here until the end of April. I have to admit I was a little apprehensive about having 3 teenage girls here for such a long time but my fears have been laid to rest. These girls are all extremely impressive with their ability to go with the flow, jump in to help, and just have a great attitude all around. It's a blessing to have their energy and their help as we take the next steps with the Breaking Chains ministry.

Shine!

The Shine! children's education program is up and running. Darwin did an excellent job of holding down the fort while we were all in the states and we now have 4 amazing kids in the Alitom School. Will and Rachel are heading up this project here in Honduras but the interns and I do the tutoring 2 days a week. These 4 kids have quickly made their way into our hearts and bring us lots of laughs and love. If you're interested in knowing more about the program and especially if you're interested in sponsoring a child, let me know. You can also check out our blog at www.shinehonduras.blogspot.com

Mogote Church of Christ

The church in Mogote continues to grow and become more independent. While I was in the states I met with a church in Del City, Oklahoma that is going to be taking over the oversight of the Mogote church. This is a very exciting development. It will allow the church to have more of a mentoring relationship with an established church and also provide them access to a lot more resources. I pray that God continues to bless that relationship and Will, Rachel, and I step back and allow them to grow.

VCOM team

The first week of February we had a team of first year medical students here from VCOM (Virginia Tech's medical school). It is always a blessing to work with these teams. We saw about 700 patients and formed a lot of new relationships. There was a 2 year old down syndrome baby in Campamento that I absolutely fell in love with and wanted to bring home. He was precious. He will be in my prayers for a very long time. The interns were tossed into translating from day one and did an amazing job. Their upbeat spirits and language skills were a definite blessing to the trip. I always walk away from teams like this with new friends that I wouldn't have met otherwise and I LOVE that about my job.

VCOM students

For the month of February there are two couples here working at the Baxter clinic through the VCOM rotation program. Sometimes we spend more time with these students than others. This time we see each other almost every day. I am thoroughly enjoying sharing our ministry with these wonderful couples. They join us when we feed with Breaking Chains and have also joined us for church several times. It isn't very often that we have volunteers here that are my age. They are usually considerable younger or considerably older, but these students are right around my age and I am loving hanging out with them. I believe we are forming friendships that will last a lifetime.

Amapala

Last weekend the VCOM students asked us to take them on a little mini vacation to a nearby beach and we were more than happy to oblige. We spent a couple of night in Amapala, an absolutely gorgeous island on the west coast of Honduras. It is very much a locals type place with not much touristy stuff going on, which we loved. One of the guys went out fishing with a local fisherman and we got to know a great family that lives on the beach and runs a little restaurant there. It was a wonderful and relaxing experience. I hope to share some stories from that trip on my blog once I'm finished writing this newsletter.

Breaking Chains (I saved my favorite for last :))

The year started off on a very sad note with Breaking Chains. While I was in the states, Noe, one of the kids we became good friends with over the past year, died from a drug overdose. Noe was such a sweet spirit and really seemed to have the desire to quit what he was doing but really didn't see any other option. Over the course of the year I watched Noe's health

deteriorate due to his addiction to glue and it breaks my heart to know he never found a way out. Noe died alone one night on the bench where we normally serve dinner. To read a more detailed version of his story check out my blog

<http://amberinhonduras.blogspot.com/2010/01/bittersweet-evening.html>

Breaking Chains continues to grow on both sides of the project. We have more and more homeless people joining us of an evening and now visit 4 different sites. The new site is underneath a bridge where several of our regulars are living. We also have a growing interest for people to get involved. Two other ministries here in town have donated food towards our ministry and expressed interest in joining us. Also, the other day my neighbor came over to see why we're always packing so much food around and asked if he and his family could join us one day. He is a sportscaster on a local television program and could potentially bring a lot of help to the ministry. We are hoping to foster that relationship and continue to share what we do with more Hondurans.

A few weeks ago the interns and I took 5 kids from the stadium to the local water park. It was a freezing cold day but we all had a blast. The kids have such a hard life and being able to help them let loose and just have fun is a great blessing. There are pictures and stories of that day on my blog as well.

As I finish up this newsletter I am walking out the door to meet with the realtor to finalize some things for the new facility. It is now time to really decide if this is the next step. I feel that God is asking me to take this step forward and He will bless it but I want to make sure I'm following His timing. With the economy struggling in the US our funding is down for feeding. Taking on a new expense is a scary thing. Pray that I am following God's heart in this and not my own.

Since food sponsorship is down we are relying heavily on some surprise donations from other ministries here in Honduras. We have received another large soup donation and several hundred cans of mixed vegetables. This allows us to vary the meal as well as stretch our funds just a little bit further. God is definitely providing for us every step of the way.

As I mentioned above, we are low on meal sponsors and we are also getting ready to enter into a rental agreement for a facility so any help with that funding would be greatly appreciated. Here are some ways that you can help:

- Feed approx. 100 people one night a month for \$50 a month
- Feed approx. 100 people one night a week for \$200 a month
- Sponsor one month's rent for \$600.
- Make a donation towards the purchase of the building we will be renting for a year. Total cost \$125,000.
- Send any amount as a one time donation and let us know how you would like it to be spent.
- Pray, Pray, Pray. This ministry requires God's intervention at every turn and the wisdom to deal with hard situations and make hard decisions.
- Come down and give us a hand and get to know some of the amazing people we are blessed to work with everyday.

Prayer List:

- Wender and Freddy as I watch them slip further into their addictions. Pray that God's light will shine into their lives and we will be able to offer them a better option.
- The new relationship between Del City and Mogote Church of Christ. Pray that God blesses this relationship and both congregations grow because of it.
- Pray that I move forward with God's wisdom as I make decisions about the homeless facility.
- Pray for successful fundraising.
- Pray for the Shine! kids that they continue to be successful in school and take advantage of this great opportunity.
- Pray that the interns are able to both bless and be blessed by their time here in Honduras.
- Pray for teams that are preparing to join the work here in Honduras both over spring break, and during the summer months.

Thank you so much for your love and prayers. For those of you following my blog I hope to update that today, sorry about the hiatus. I love to hear from you guys so keep the emails coming. You are such a blessing to me.

Love,

Amber Foster
Silver Mountains Ministries
www.silvermm.org
www.amberinhonduras.blogspot.com