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MAKING A LASTING IMPACT THROUGH SPONSORSHIP

BY MICHAEL LEMMONS

Breaking Chains has the opportunity to change lives only because of our amazing friends like you. The souls we bless have you to thank for everything from the food we share and the houses we provide to the education our little kids receive. Sponsors give us the support to provide hope. But sometimes sponsors share hope and love in many more ways than just finance.

One sponsor did just that last month. Jason Foster agreed in a matter of days back in January to support 10-year-old Arol from our ministry. Arol is one of three kids living in our building and attending bilingual school.

Jason visited Honduras with his group last month and made a point to spend as much time with Arol as he could. He took Arol to eat, spent time with Arol at the building, hiked to the Jesus statue, played games and most importantly laughed. It wasn't about what they did. It was all about their time together.

"I have never felt a more satisfying feeling than my trips to Honduras and sponsoring Arol at Breaking Chains," Jason said. "I often teach my own children with the stories from my trips, and they often ask how Arol is doing and when they can meet him."

Arol obviously affected Jason, but I'm not sure Jason realizes the impression he left on Arol. That impression was significant, and it will last.

Jason gave Arol someone to look up to. This little boy doesn't know his father; he is part of a single-mother family. Arol doesn't complain about this missing piece



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in his life, but I became very aware of just how much he craved that relationship after seeing him with Jason. He wouldn't leave Jason's side, he smiled more, and he most definitely did his homework.

"The night before we left Honduras I told Arol, 'I think I had more fun than you,'" Jason said. "Then he spouted something off in Spanish, and I asked Michael what he said. Michael said, 'You lie.' I looked back at him, and he had that little grin on his face—priceless."

Arol got in trouble for having an attitude with me the other day. After we talked about the issue, he said, "You're not going to tell Jason, are you?" I fought back a smile and said with the most serious look I could muster, "I will if it happens again."

Arol didn't respond this way out of fear; it was pure admiration. He didn't want to disappoint this new presence in his life.

We want to thank Jason, his wife and kids and other sponsors who choose to profoundly impact the lives of souls they barely know or don't know at all. You change the lives of those to whom we minister daily.

ADVANCING AN OLD COOKING PRACTICE

BY TEAVEN TAYLOR

When given a choice between a nice gas-burning stove and cooking over an open flame, the Honduran women we work with would choose cooking over the open flame every time. That is one of the many things I found out when I arrived to be an intern for Breaking Chains at the beginning of May.

We were told that a room full of old wood (from the roof being replaced) needed to be turned into an outdoor kitchen for feeding at the building four nights a week.

When I arrived, the women were using a fire burning on some tin on top of a wooden table. Needless to say, it was about to disintegrate. So my friend McKenzie Kemp and I sat down to design the kitchen, make a materials list and get an estimate of how much it would cost. When an awesome group of four men from Indianapolis arrived to supply labor and the necessary resources, the kitchen came together rather quickly.

We built two cooking stations out of cinder block and mortar, with steel-plated cooking surfaces to keep the pots and pans from being covered with black soot. Then we built a 12-foot table for the opposite side of the room, complete with a tile countertop.

Finally, we needed to do something with the smoke. Inevitably, you have quite a bit of it when burning



TEAVEN IS A 2012 GRADUATE OF OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY. SHE AND CURRENT OC STUDENT MCKENZIE KEMP INTERNED THIS SUMMER WITH BREAKING CHAINS AND DESIGNED OUR OUTDOOR COOKING SPACE.

things, so we implemented a ventilation system.

I may have just graduated from Oklahoma Christian with a degree in mechanical engineering, but let me tell you, that does not guarantee that I am well-versed on the proper way to make outdoor wood-burning stoves with chimneys to funnel the smoke away. As a matter of fact, one night I was testing the stoves and nearly smoked everyone out of the building. I hope they forgive me for the coughing and itchy eyes.

But the design improved, and the kitchen is in place and being used successfully to make meals for the homeless people from Tegucigalpa and for the families living at Breaking Chains. It was incredible to see how quickly and successfully things can come together when a bunch of people with servant hearts come together with a common goal.

THANKS TO MEMBERS OF VISITING MISSIONS TEAMS THROUGH OUR FRIENDS AT TORCH MISSIONS AND SOME OF OUR OWN BC GROUPS, NEW CEILINGS ARE CURRENTLY GOING UP IN THE BUILDING!



A BROKEN WORLD: MOURNING THE LOSS OF TWO OF OUR BC TEENS

Sometimes, even in the midst of ministry highs like welcoming summer groups and building improvements, we get a harsh reminder of the world's brokenness. That was true of last month, as we lost the lives of two of our BC teens: Jose de la Cruz, 17, and Emerson, 14.

The boys left our building in the morning to go and buy milk for breakfast and never returned. Their bodies were later found, shot and left outside of the city. We don't have many details about what happened after they left our building that morning. The boys may have been in the wrong place at the wrong time, or they may have chosen to not get milk and go out looking for trouble. Either way, we lost two sweet boys whom we loved and who were a big part of our family at Breaking Chains.

These boys endured lives that most of us cannot even imagine, peppered with hardships like drugs, loss, violence, betrayal and rape. Still, they let us love them. They let us hug them. They shared their unspeakable stories with us and let us share our desire for God to work in their hearts.

The tragedy happened on the heels of some great strides for both boys. Jose de la Cruz, whose body and history have long been marked by gang violence and drugs, had



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF JOSE DE LA CRUZ (LEFT) AND EMERSON (RIGHT) AS THEY DEAL WITH THIS LOSS.

stopped using cocaine entirely and had become a willing helper at our building. One of our groups last month spent some time at a special needs orphanage, and Jose tagged along. It was such an amazing moment to watch him, with his scarred body and only one full arm, get such joy from pushing around another child in need. This sweet yet conflicted soul was really trying to leave his past behind and seek God's face.

Emerson had recently returned to our building after a stay in a children's home in the city. He was able, along with Jose, to help one of our groups build a house in the village of Izopo the day before his death. Emerson, who is reserved at times due to his painful past, was able to laugh, interact with the men from the U.S. group, take in the beauty of the mountainside and help build a home for someone in need. We are so thankful that he was able to experience that kind of joy. He had a kind spirit and loved being useful whenever one of us

needed a hand.

Though it was hard to lose the boys, it is a reminder of nothing more than the brokenness of the world we live in as a whole - not just the city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. We pray that God allows us to minister to this broken population with His love, the good news of Jesus and the message that He is always able, regardless of circumstance.

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR ALL OF THE CHILDREN, TEENS AND ADULTS AT BC AS THEY STRIVE TO SEEK GOD'S FACE AND TAKE STEPS FORWARD IN LIFE, FAITH AND HEALING.

BEAUTY IN THE BROKEN: SUMMER GROUPS BRING LIGHT TO HONDURAS AND BREAKING CHAINS

BY AMBER FOSTER

Summer is one of our favorite times of the year, and not because it is a vacation. In fact, our work load actually increases in the summer months, but it is incredibly blessed by the service and fellowship of visiting missions teams from the U.S. This summer, Breaking Chains is privileged to host twelve groups from all over the country.

Especially in light of our recent loss at Breaking Chains, our visiting groups have been a tremendous reminder of the body of Christ in action. Not only have they been here to serve the people of Honduras, but they have been here to serve us – as people, as U.S. missionaries trying to work our way through the ups and downs of urban ministry in an impoverished country. And they have come full of the Spirit to do the job.

Our groups have reached out to us with comforting support, encouragement, prayer and a willingness to serve in whatever form that may take on a given day. And they've shown the light to those we work

with. They have shown them God's goodness and his ability to bring beauty through brokenness.

They have taken our teens with them to build houses and visit children's homes, passed out food to our friends on the street and spun our children around in circles until they can barely stand from dizziness and laughter. They have shown that no matter how difficult the present, there is always hope in the future through Christ.

We have always been grateful for the physical labor that groups put in when they come, but we are daily reminded of the importance of relationships. It is the faces and names of the group members that those to whom we minister remember long after the plate of food is gone or a new hole has been worn into a donated pair of shoes.

We are so grateful to the U.S. groups who come truly desiring to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Those that are willing to say, "We don't care what you look like or

smell like. We don't care about news reports that make your country seem dangerous. We don't even care if we can't speak the same language. You are a child of God, and I love you."

So thank you to Sunshine Church in Ohio, to the small team from North Central in Indiana, to Skia-took Church in Oklahoma, to Alpine Church in Longview, Texas, to Crestview Church in Waco, Texas, and to the many others yet to visit this summer. Thanks also to all of the groups from different ministries who choose to come and share a portion of their time with Breaking Chains. We appreciate the light.



ALSO, A HUGE THANKS TO OUR MAY AND JUNE INTERNS. YOUR SERVICE IS SUCH AN ENORMOUS BLESSING!

MCKENZIE KEMP

HEATHER

TEAVEN TAYLOR

SALLSTROM

CAITLIN OSBORN

HAYLIE

KIRKENDALL

ALLI BOOTH

JOHN

NOAH COMBS

CANTERBURY

NATE SOPER

AUDREY SMITH

A BEAUTIFUL LESSON IN RELATIONSHIP

BY COURTNEY MATHEWS

Sometimes you meet someone and it impacts you for the minute. Other times you meet someone and it impacts you for a lifetime.

Seven years ago on a trip to Honduras, Mark Williamson and a group from North Central Church of Christ in Indianapolis met a young man name Hermon in a village called Izopo - and it was a moment of impact.

Hermon has several health issues, including a speech impediment and impaired use of his legs among other disabilities. When they first met, Hermon had been using a pair of crutches that was many sizes too small, so the team built him a new pair and built a relationship in the process.

Mark and Hermon would continue to see each other with each visit Mark made to Honduras, and the team continued to dream about how they could help Hermon.

Seven years ago, Mark built Hermon a pair of crutches. This year, the team built him much more than that.

Four men from North Central along with some of our BC team and teens constructed one of our 16x16 wood frame houses in which Hermon, his mother and his brother can now live together.



JOHN (LEFT), HERMON (MIDDLE) AND MARK (RIGHT) POSE FOR A PHOTO IN FRONT OF THE NEWLY HUNG PHOTO IN HERMON'S HOUSE.

It was such a full-circle moment to watch a relationship that has been growing for years produce such beautiful fruit. We were able to chat with Hermon and his mother and hear about how Hermon is attending school and, awesomely, gave his life to Christ and was baptized this year.

Arguably the most beautiful moment was the house dedication. Years ago, Mark, his wife and their friend John Sharkitt took a picture with Hermon in Izopo. Since then, they have kept the framed picture in their houses and pray for Hermon daily. This year, they were able to tell Hermon that story and present him with a framed photo of his own to hang in his very own house.

It was such a blessing to watch the family of God at work and know that, thanks to Hermon's decision, this relationship can continue after this life in a much bigger house - no crutches necessary.

WE ARE STILL SEEKING PEOPLE TO ROUND OUT OUR SEARCH FOR 25 DONORS WHO ARE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE \$100 PER MONTH FOR ONE YEAR. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT US AT MAIL@BCHONDURAS.ORG.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

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