



# Racing Pigs

I've been on well over a hundred short term mission trips to dozens of countries in Central America, South America, Africa and Asia. I've spent thousands of days and nights in desperately poverty stricken villages. I've seen the faces, the pot-bellied children, the pregnant pre-teens and the young expectant mothers with several children hanging on their legs. Yet I was once again shocked by my ignorance to the urgency of the needs of so much of our world.

We were distributing humanitarian aid supplied by Global Aid Network (GAiN) in the village of La Balsa on the banks of the Rio Mame in the jungles of Honduras. As we sat in the shade relaxing and talking with a handful of old men, women and children I heard the dull thump of something heavy hitting the ground. Instantly all of the women and children shot up and ran to a nearby tree. Puzzled by the sudden urgency I asked what was going on and was told that a ripe mango had fallen to the ground. The women and children were racing to get it before the pigs. Once found the mango was divided among the children and immediately devoured.

Just imagine the impact the GAiN food has in a village where you have to race the pigs for your next meal! This will help you understand the celebration that spread through the village as we drove in with a truck load of food, clothing and medical supplies. Everyone in the village acknowledged that this was truly a blessing from God.

# La Balsa Facts:

- Google Earth coordinates: N15° 17.435 W86° 27.834
- About 40 families live in La Balsa
- Small church started by XMA meeting regularly
- XMA has a garden project going to introduce new vegetables to the diet and economy
- We are also helping villagers replace their thatch roofs which are breeding grounds for the insects that spread deadly Chagas disease to humans
- La Balsa is a hub village from which XMA is reaching out with the Gospel to several more remote villages