



the
Adventurer

december 2011

adventure with a purpose...
to know Him and make Him known

The Gift of Clean Water

Since we began working in Pane six years ago, one of our main goals has been to eliminate unnecessary sicknesses. We have taught health and hygiene classes, built latrines, and given out goats and chickens to promote better nutrition. Thanks



to a friend that lives in town we have been made aware of a way to purify water without the need for boiling. Many families in Pane are not able to boil their water because of the cost involved.

This water purifying bucket has been tested and found to be a fool proof way to purify water. Osmany and I use one in our home as well. I am so excited about the possibility of donating a bucket for each home in Pane! The bucket contains a filter made of clay and sawdust which eliminates 99% of bacteria. The filter lasts for three years. This could eliminate so many of the sicknesses that we fight against. The best part is a six gallon purifier costs only \$30. For less than the price of dinner and a movie you can provide clean, safe drinking water for an entire family for three years! We have set a goal of purchasing 300 buckets for the homes in Pane.

If you would like to join us in this project you can make your donation through XMA. Please be sure to mark your donation as "Pane Water Purifiers" to be sure that your gift is applied correctly.

May God bless you and your family,

Osmany & Jennifer Hernandez



Start Walking

During a recent XMA mission trip to Olancho Honduras, I really saw the body of Christ demonstrated before my very eyes. My husband Bill and I knew the trip would be physically challenging and had been preparing for about six weeks by walking, hiking with weighted backpacks, and taking some trips to a dam to walk uphill. However, as we hiked 6-7 miles uphill to Coroso, I soon realized that I was “the weakest link” on the trip.

That’s when my sweet teammates kicked into action, with Keith offering to carry my pack, and patience from all when I had to ask for frequent rest stops, and words of encouragement. It was embarrassing to say the least when I eventually had to get on a horse to complete the trek to Coroso. During the two days we spent in the village, we shared Bible stories with the help of an interpreter and had the opportunity to show the Jesus Film. The people were very attentive and interested in hearing God’s word.

I was reminded of Isaiah 55:11, “So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” How exciting to have a part in spreading God’s word to a remote group of people. God didn’t just say to spread His word to those along a major highway or rail system – He cares about every living soul on earth and desires that all people come into a relationship with Him.

I strongly encourage others who might be feeling that “nudge” from the Holy Spirit to go on an XMA trip. God has promised to supply your needs, so take Him at His word and start walking!

Anne McConathy



His Name Is Lucas Isaac

In June an amazing thing took place during an adventure in the mountains of Nicaragua. A group mainly from Ridge Avenue Baptist Church had come for an adventure and we traveled to the small village of San Pablito Number 2. The roads were tough to travel. We turned off the muddy main road to a one-lane road which then turned into a trail as the fog set in over the thick-forested canopy. We walked ahead of the trucks to investigate conditions and found a tree fallen over the trail. It had to be moved and an hour later the way was cleared for our further careful travel. We parked in a single file line three trucks long at the top of a very steep and slick hill overlooking the valley below. Situated at the base of the hill was the small church where we would share and minister for a few days.

Our group consisted of Robin Roark, his two daughters Ashley and Lauren, Amy Culpepper, Hannah Wyles, and Brandon Parker, along with Erin Hall, Casey Saladino, my wife Denise, and me. By the time we packed all the equipment from where we had parked to the church it was late and so we would begin with activities on Monday morning. As the light broke to the day we made our way to neighboring houses to meet and invite families to the film that night and activities for the children and adults starting midmorning.

We slipped and slid on foot to a small isolated house just below the church which was barely visible because of the trees. There we were greeted by a young mother with a five month old little boy. We began to share with the Almendares family why we were visiting the area, where we were from and what was planned for the afternoon. The young mother shared with us a gracious cup of coffee and talked about her

young son. We asked his name and were astonished at her response – “we actually have not named him yet”. The baby names we consider as the days approach our child’s birth were never even thought through in this remote home. And so five months had passed since the baby’s birth and they still had not picked a name. As we continued our visit the mother granted our team the awesome opportunity to name her son.

We brainstormed Biblical names as a group and settled on Lucas Isaac and so on June 20, 2011 this little child was named. Robin prayed over this young life and dedicated him to the Lord. With hearts lifted and excited at what had taken place we knew this had been an opportunity of a lifetime. Just a small, special moment in this adventure with a purpose!

Please pray for the church at San Pablito Number 2. Due to some previous problems there is no full-time pastor to lead this small group of believers. The villagers meet as a group but they need a man led by God to shepherd His flock. Also please continue to pray for the ministry of XMA in Nicaragua. I know it is due to your continued prayers that these trips are successful in the spreading of the Gospel! Along with

your prayers we need your financial support. As you can imagine, the needs of our ministry are great but our Lord is faithful! It is a blessing and honor to serve God!

In His service,

Terry Parks



Semper Gumby

Early in 2011, we planned a trip to Peru with XMA. Although we'd been on a few this year, this trip stood out as one I really was excited about. First because it's simply Peru - I love Peru - and second, because of the unreached people group, the Asheninka Indians. XMA's efforts in Peru are fulfilling a huge role in the Great Commission and I wanted to be a part of something more on the "frontline" of that call.

When we arrived in the village, I think the team was blown away at just how far we had travelled. We were truly in the middle of nowhere. Outside of these small villages was "virgin jungle" as one team member put it. We loved it. We were eager to serve. Well, the plan changed as soon as we stepped off the plane. A huge majority of this particular village had left for another village due to government registration issues. So, we decided to load up and go to another village. However, instead of getting frustrated with it, I felt like the entire group just went with it and realized God had different plans. We were actually excited to be on "Plan G" (God) now.

That's one of the main lessons I learned on this trip. God's plan is not always simple or smooth, but it's always better. Chris, a team member from Dallas, introduced a phrase to us that he had heard on a previous trip - Semper Gumby. It means "always flexible." We would repeat it to one another often as things constantly changed.



We ended up spending the majority of our time in a village named Santa Ana. I did get my dug-out canoe ride after all to get there. (Side note: On the return trip, we fit 17 people in one boat and had to pole up river to get back. Sweet!)

One night, as we walked the moonlit path to Pastor Alfredo's hut, we could see shadows moving around in the dark. We soon found out that his wife had given birth to a still born baby. It seemed there was a reverent hush over the jungle. Later in the week, we had a chance to share and pray with this family. We figured this was one reason for our change of plans. In our talking, Pastor Alfredo said he doesn't need food, clothes, or anything else, only prayer. I was blown away because if I lived there, I'd definitely want some good food, some clean clothes and a big ole' air conditioner. We joked that the pecking order goes Jesus and in second place is the inventor of air conditioning. Can I get a witness?

There were many other highlights like first-time baptisms in the river, salvation reaching hearts for the first time, beautiful children laughing and singing; but the topper was learning to live out Semper Gumby. My prayer is that we'd live it out here as well.

Brad Ewing





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It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...

Mother Theresa

Ready to Help

When I was given the opportunity to go on a Honduras mission trip, going to the maternity ward was the part I was the most nervous about. I remember on the drive to the hospital I kept worrying to myself, "What could I possibly do to help these people. I can't even talk to them." As soon as we set foot at the hospital, I had this immediate feeling of comfort and a confidence that at that moment I was doing exactly what God wanted me to be doing. When we went around to the different girls to witness, it was the most amazing thing to see these girls listening to us and taking in what we had to say. We met many women, each with their own story and struggles. After hearing what some of them were going through, like not being able to see their baby for days, losing a child, or being stricken with illness, it made any problem I had ever faced seem so small and irrelevant compared to theirs.

We were able to collect personal items for the mothers and babies and pack them into care bags that we gave to each mother along with a Bible. Each woman received a bag and they were so grateful for what we had to offer. Some of these women had nothing for their babies, not even clothes to bring them home in, so it was great to know that we could help. There was one particular woman that we met who



I will never forget. She came to the hospital expecting to have one child, but was surprised to find out she would be having twins. On top of all that, she had to have a caesarean section with no anesthesia! Now I can't even begin to imagine the shock she was going through because I know if

I was in her shoes I would have been a nervous wreck. She was the calmest, kindest, most beautiful, loving, and grateful woman I've ever met, even after enduring all that she had been through. We were able to visit her both days at the hospital, and the thing that was so touching was that when we came back the second day, we came in her room while she was reading the Bible we had given her. It was like getting to see the fruits of your labor right in front of your eyes. Being able to witness to these women and just show them some kindness and compassion was a life changing experience that I will forever be grateful to have experienced. There is not a day that goes by that I don't think and pray for these beautiful

people, and I can only pray that your lives are touched just as mine was. Romans 12:13 is such a simple verse, yet it holds so much power and truth.

Sara Kirkpatrick

When God's people are in need, be ready to help them.

Romans 12:13, NLV

Other Sheep

I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep, and they know me... But I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Jesus in John 10:14 & 16, NIV

In this parable of the Good Shepherd Jesus teaches us that we are not the only sheep he cares about. He has other sheep in other folds scattered all around the world and he longs to bring them to himself. Jesus says they will listen to his voice when he calls. As I meditated on this parable I thought back to one of our early trips into the Bongay Valley in Central Asia.

We had parked the trucks at a small group of houses at the end of the road. As we gathered our packs to begin the hike on up into the mountains our interpreter bought a live sheep from one of the local farmers. The interpreter told "Bob", a strapping young man who had accompanied us from the city, to bring the sheep with us. So as we all slung our packs onto our backs Bob hoisted the sheep to his shoulders. Bob sang to the sheep, talked to him and whistled as we hiked the rugged trails. I thought to myself, "This is going to be a long day for Bob carrying that 60 pound sheep all day". But after an hour or so Bob put the sheep down and it followed him like a puppy the rest of the day.

This is just what Jesus tells us his 'other sheep' will do when he calls them. But how will they know that it is Jesus calling them if they have never heard his voice? That is why it is so vital that we go to the unreached peoples with the Holy Spirit in our hearts and our lives, that we pray for these unreached people as we are among them, that we take Jesus' Word in written and oral form to share with those who don't have access to the Good News.

I'm writing this on a flight back from a prayer-walking, literature distribution trip into a restricted access country in Southeast Asia. It costs \$12,000 for our team to go and I catch myself wondering if it is worth all of the time and expense. Then I think about how we gave out 300 copies of God's Word which means each copy cost \$40. That's about the same price I paid for the Bible I use every day. Does the unreached world deserve less than I do?

Randy Pierce



The Last Word

Our XMA team was finishing up a week of prayer-riding and literature distribution in rural areas of a restricted access Southeast Asian country. We had given out hundreds of Gospels, Jesus Film DVDs, and AudiBibles (solar powered MP3 players with Bible stories in the local language) and prayed at homes, schools and Buddhist temples all along the way. We thought we had emptied our packs of the contraband literature but as we entered the capital city on our final day of riding JP realized he still had one last AudiBible, one last Word.

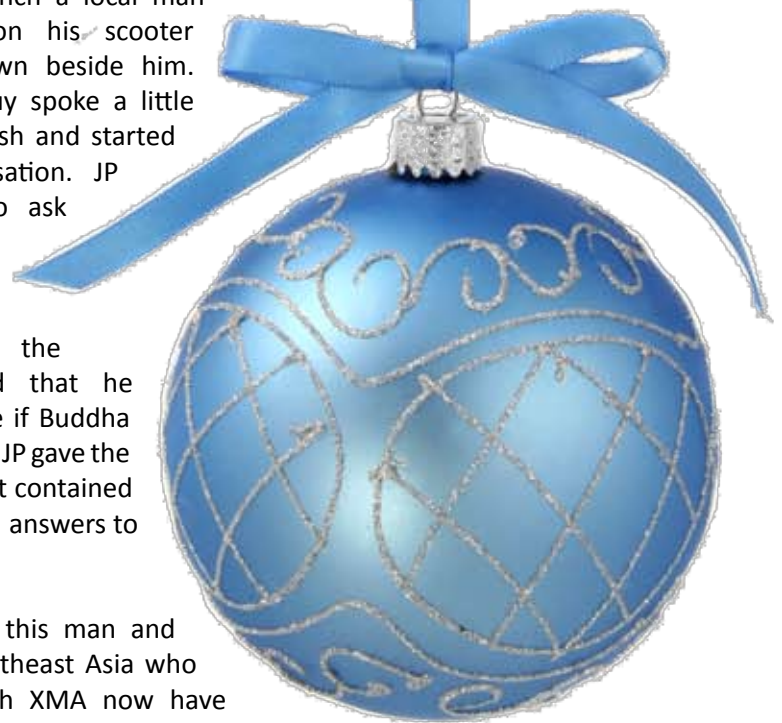


AudiBible

While riding along JP prayed about what to do with this one last copy of the Word. He felt the Spirit telling him to leave it at one of the bus stops beside the highway. We passed a couple of the stops but the chaotic traffic on the busy six lane road didn't allow us to safely stop. As we drew closer to city center we began to get a little concerned about getting caught with the AudiBible but then saw an empty bus stop and we all quickly pulled in. Just as JP laid the AudiBible on the bus stop bench a local man pulled in on his scooter and sat down beside him. This local guy spoke a little broken English and started up a conversation. JP was able to ask him a few questions about his beliefs and the man shared that he was not sure if Buddha

answered him when he prayed. JP gave the man our last Word telling him it contained stories that might help him find answers to his prayers.

Please join us in praying for this man and the hundreds of others in Southeast Asia who through your partnership with XMA now have God's Word in their language and who might right now be hearing the Spirit calling them.



We would love to hear from you!

We want to thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support. You are truly a partner in all that God is doing through our ministry. We pray for you daily and thank God for your part in our work. Please share your prayer requests with us so that we may pray more effectively for you.

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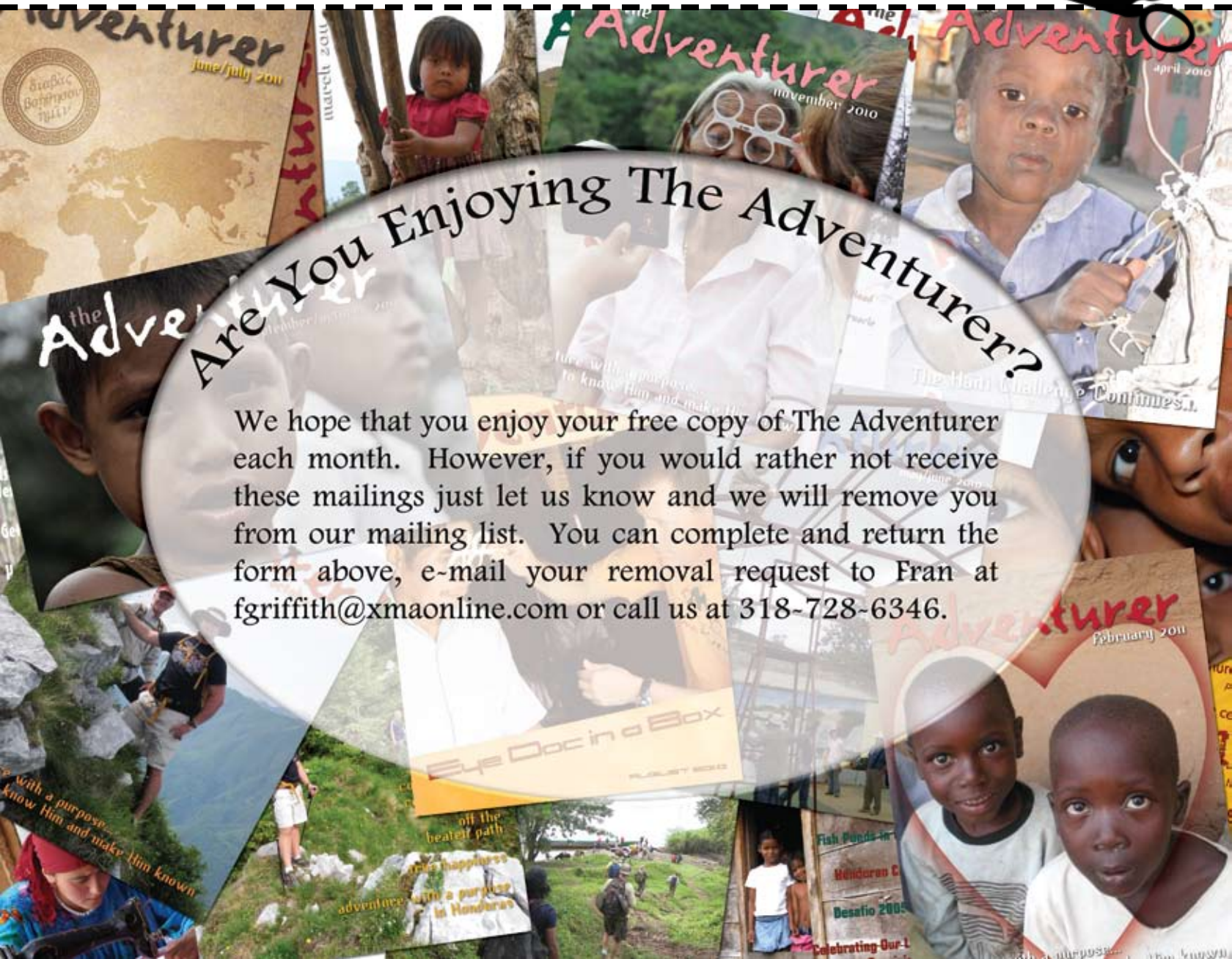
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God
has given us eternal life,
and this life is in his
Son.

1 John 5:11, NIV