



## Trujillo Christian School

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The 2018 summer mission trip to Trujillo, Honduras was a great success. This is not unusual, since every year so far has also been a great success. All the credit goes to God, of course. It seems that every single year, we go to Honduras with far more to do than we could possibly get done. Yet every year it all gets done somehow. We continue to be amazed at how God uses this to his glory. In addition, we continue to be amazed at the generosity of others in supporting this work.

This year the group was comprised of 49 people from six states—Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kansas, and Arizona. The youngest was 16, and the oldest was just shy of 84. We flew into Honduras from all points on the compass. Though there were some interesting last-minute travel challenges for several of the team members, everyone ultimately arrived safely (though not always on time), and we quickly melded together as a team. This is primarily because all but a handful of this year's team had been to Trujillo before. In fact, most had already been several times. Having a large group of "veterans" was a great blessing.

The 2018 group left the states from three different places: Atlanta, Houston, and Miami (Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee folks flew out of Atlanta, Louisiana and Kansas connected through Houston, while Arizona went through Miami). Miami is just shy of 900 air miles from San Pedro Sula (SPS), Houston is a little over 1,000 air miles from SPS, while Atlanta is almost 1,300 air miles. Even though these are relatively short distances, it takes quite a while to finally reach Trujillo (that is, from the time travelers leave their respective homes and/or meeting places until we arrive in Trujillo itself). The flights to SPS take from two to three hours. After that, there is a six-hour drive (bus ride) from SPS to Trujillo. For safety reasons, this drive is broken up over two days. There are many reasons that driving in the dark in Honduras is a no-no, so we are careful to travel only during the day. Because we typically are not able to get out of the SPS airport until 2pm or later (darkness begins to descend around 5:30p in Honduras), we must stop about halfway between SPS and Trujillo. Traditionally, we stop at Villa Helen's, located in a little town called Sambo Creek. There we have dinner, spend the night, and leave first thing in the morning after breakfast. This means we arrive in Trujillo around lunchtime the day after we land in Honduras, about 30 hours since we left our homes.

Upon arrival in Trujillo, the advance team greets us. The advance team is a group of two or three folks who go down a week early to plan and prepare our many work projects. The work projects center around the school, with much work also being done at the 'Little Hands, Big Hearts' facility (LHBH), and in and around the five churches of Christ in the area. Funding to purchase materials, transportation, and tools (and, in some cases, local Honduran labor) is provided both by pooling group funds and also by individual team

members who often bring additional funds from their home congregations. The leaders at each facility (whether church, school, or LHBH) have significant input as to how the funds can be best used to repair or improve the property, or to improve the lives of those in their charge. For example, church funds may be used for repairs or improvements at a church facility. Or they may be used to build a house for a needy family (or both). In all cases, the local church and school leaders tend to have the clearest idea about what would be the best use for their project money (and also what would be the best use for their free North American labor!).

As mentioned in the first paragraph, the trip this year was a great success, and a tremendous amount of work was done:

**Trujillo Christian School work projects:**

Taught individual Bible classes to all TCS students K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade.  
Held nightly devotionals for the mission team and Honduran guests.  
Built 13 sturdy student benches (6' long) with backs for morning devotionals.  
Built one teacher desk.  
Built two lockable classroom storage cabinets.  
Built backpack racks for three classrooms.  
Built instrument storage cabinet for band instruments.  
Painted the 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade classroom white.  
Painted the Computer Lab white.  
Added five computers to computer lab.  
Replaced inoperable fans in the Computer Lab  
Painted the 4<sup>th</sup>-grade classroom walls and ceilings  
Completed project to double the lighting in each classroom.  
Extended the roof over the Kindergarten to cover the hand washing area.  
Fabricated and plumbed a plastic pila to clean mops.  
Repaired ceiling tiles.  
Repaired drain pipes in the play sand area.  
Cut trees and vegetation off power lines and buildings.  
Repainted exterior cartoon characters on Kindergarten building.  
Replaced one faulty fan in the 1<sup>st</sup>-grade classroom.  
Repaired outside security lights.  
Repaired wooden louvered windows.  
Replaced window screens in multiple classroom windows.  
Replaced deteriorated metal stairs with new concrete stairs w/handrails  
Replaced locks on two metal and one wooden door.  
Hosted a festival for the children in all classes.  
Painted selected outside building walls.  
Provided goodie bags of toiletries to students (toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.).  
Provided each student with one new outfit from Harvester Christian Academy.  
Facilitated a student project for each child to send to their sponsor.  
Identified local welder to fabricate 25 new student desks.  
Provided 100 pounds of school supplies (pencils, crayons, etc.).  
Provided flip-flops to every student.  
Provided clothes to students and families who have the greatest need.  
Brought over 100 pounds of tools to fabricate items and make repairs.



*[TCS students and mission team members having a great time together]*

**Little Hands Big Hearts Support Projects:**

Taught Bible classes to all student at Little Hands Big Hearts (LHBH).  
Built exercise equipment for special needs children's' Outdoor Therapy Center.  
Worked on LHBH concrete block security fence.  
Provided money to help finish the security fence.



*[Newly built and painted platform swings at LHBH. In the background on the left is the handcrafted xylophone.]*

**Limonal Congregation Support Projects:**

Physically moved several tons of sand for the Limonal congregation.  
Provided electrical repair assistance and a fan for the Limonal congregation.  
Provided funds to resolve back taxes so a building permit can be obtained to expand the Limonal church building.  
Prepared interior church building ceiling for painting.

### **Mision Del Caribe Congregation Projects:**

Dug a septic pit for a family at the Mision del Caribe congregation.

Helped build a pila and shower for a family at the Mision del Caribe congregation.

Mixed and poured concrete to replace a dirt floor in one home.



*[Digging a septic pit for a family from the Mision del Caribe congregation. Took a crew of six three days to dig the pit.]*

### **Eduardo Castillo Congregation projects**

Wired and added three fans for the Eduardo Castillo church building.

Helped install vertical supports and metal roof covering for two outside kitchens.

Fabricated two windows for one home.

### **CAMP Congregation Projects:**

Mixed concrete and poured it to replace dirt floors in two homes.

Replaced mud walls with concrete footers and blocks in one home kitchen area.

Hand carried blocks, cement, and sand about 300 yards up a mountain to replace mud walls with blocks and provide a concrete floor for one home having no road access.

Provided an electric fan and food money for one year for one very elderly couple.



*[Carrying a bag of sand 300 yards from the truck to the house. Only about 295 yards to go.]*

**Buenos Aires Congregation Support:**

Hand carried blocks, cement, and sand to replace polyethylene walls with blocks for one home with no road access. Dug footers, poured floors, and completed the walls for this home. Provided wood to fabricate windows and doors, fans, and plastic chairs to sit on (the family's home had recently burned down).

Provided materials and support to build one pila and repair another one.

Helped in Children's Bible classes.

Made home visits to several people in the Buenos Aires community.



*[The "plastic house" after the walls were built. Soon after this picture was taken the plastic and lumber were removed!]*

**Other activities:**

Preached in two Spanish-speaking congregations.

Visited and ate in the homes of over 20 families on Sunday after worship

Began coordinating/planning the graduation ceremonies for the 2018 graduating class of the Honduran Bible School.

Provided approximately 75 pounds of adult and children's clothing for distribution to each congregation

None of the success at Trujillo Christian School would be possible without the prayers and generous donations from hundreds of people across the United States. Thank you so much for your continued financial and spiritual support—it is of immeasurable value. Also, please let your friends, neighbors, and fellow church members know of this great opportunity for service. If anyone you know wants more information about how they may help, please have them contact Libby Gray at West Metro Church of Christ via phone at 770-222-4983, or via email at [wmcc2@earthlink.net](mailto:wmcc2@earthlink.net).

***And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward (Matthew 10:42).***