



# H.O.W. NEWS

**A Call To Help Orphans & Widows**

**Winter 2007**

## Merry Christmas

The Board of Directors would like to wish you and your family a joyous Christmas season. May this time spent with family and friends be a blessing to all and may Jesus be your reason for the season.



### Come Thou Long Expected Jesus



Come thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free:  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.



Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.



Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child, and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever.  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.



By thine own eternal spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

**Charles Wesley**

## A VOLUNTEER SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE

A few months ago my brother Kevin asked if I was interested in going down to Nicaragua with him and his friend Daniel on a "mission" trip to help out an orphanage there. Once I got some more of the details, I eagerly committed to the trip.

The organization we were with is called H.O.W. (Helping Orphans and Widows) headed up, at least in part, by a man named Joe Hernandez. He is the person who organized our trip and headed our small group. He is also a working associate of Dan's, which is how we found out about the trip.

Our main "mission" was to help build a bakery for the orphanage so that they can have their own source of income instead of simply relying on donations. Currently, there are 16 kids at the orphanage. They have had to turn down hundreds more because they don't have the funds or resources to support any more than they currently have. The kids there were just amazing. All of them have a sad story behind them, whether it is being sold for drugs, left for dead, sexual and/or physically abused, or trying to live in the city dump. However, from the time we first stepped off the bus they hugged us all and showed us nothing but love the entire time we were there, and we did our best to show them the same kind of love in return. It was stunning to witness their strength as human beings to be able to go through these experiences and not only survive, but still be so loving and still be such...kids.

Pretty much all week we had the same routine. Wake up, eat breakfast, take the bus over to the orphanage (we stayed in a hotel about 45 minutes away called Hotel Raizon), work on the bakery, take the bus back (exhausted), eat dinner, and pass out. Our work consisted mainly of building cinder block walls, which meant mixing cement, wheel barrowing it, moving the block, and laying it. It was pretty tough work, especially in that kind of heat and humidity.

On Thursday though we got a break and went to another small local church and handed out various supplies (tooth brushes, toothpaste, eggs, vitamins, and bibles) to a group of 100 widows. What a treat! There are a lot of widows in Nicaragua due to the violent civil wars in years past. However, all the older ladies we saw seemed to be doing pretty well. We laughed because most of them seemed quite happy and content NOT having a husband around and expressed no interest in finding another one.

Saturday we finally got to do a bit of sightseeing. We went about 20 miles down the road to a town called Granada. Supposedly, it is the oldest still existing town in the Americas. It was pretty cool with some old churches and square. We also took a boat ride in Lake Nicaragua. It is a HUGE lake with small islands dotting the southern edge. Each island is privately owned and has a house on it. Later, we went to the Masaya volcano (Nicaragua has like 26 volcanoes and 19 are active). There we peered over the edge of an active volcano, we walked into a lava tube and stood there in pitch dark as bats flew all around us as they headed out at dusk, and then we looked down the opposite side of the crater and saw molten hot lava. Cool stuff!

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Interested in sponsoring an event, an orphan or a widow? Contact us today!

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### Dr. Anwana O. Ntofon and Afiong Ntofon

Dr. Anwana O. Ntofon and Afiong Ntofon reside in Lancaster, California. They have been married for 16 years, and have five children.

Dr. Ntofon is a clinical pharmacist and currently works for Walmart Corporation as a Pharmacy Manager. Afiong has taught elementary school in the Antelope Valley area for over nine years.

He and Afiong want to be instruments of change for humanity in general, and the impoverished and destitute in particular. Dr. Ntofon is a former Vice-President of Oron Development Union, USA; a non-profit organization for the empowerment of the Oron people in Nigeria, West Africa. Both Afiong and Dr. Ntofon have been active members of various non-profit groups in the past. Presently, they are Board members of H.O.W.

### Puppets for Honduras

Arcelia Hernandez, Amanda Yoshino and Nina Bayles of H.O.W. were assisted by Hands Extended, The Widows and the Spanish Church of 1st Assembly of God in Lancaster, California to help make 30 puppets that were distributed among 35 pastors in Honduras.

The pastors are from many different areas and felt blessed and happy to receive them. They will be used in Sunday School and other children's ministries.



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On Sunday it was time to say goodbye, but before we left we made a few trips to the local markets and bought some things for the orphanage. When we first arrived there the Sunday before they had virtually nothing in their pantry. By the time we left they were STOCKED! Everyone was extremely generous, especially notable were Alex, who arranged for several sacks of rice, beans, grain, and sugar through our hotels supplier and Kevin, who bought like 6 cases of tuna when we found out the kids had never had tuna before because it was too expensive. It was very gratifying to fill their pantry and to help them with at least some of their needs, and it was very emotional when the pastor thanked us, and it seemed like everyone was in tears (I somehow managed to fight them off). It was also sad to say goodbye to all the kids, but we did discuss raising enough money to finish the job and go back to help in it's completion. So be prepared to be hit up for a donation sometime in the coming months. Just fair warning.

*Donny*

### Tentative Mission Trips for 2008

- Nicaragua – February 2-9, 2008
- El Salvador – Spring or Fall (partner with Enlace)
- Nigeria – October 8-22, 2008
- Guatemala – Fall
- Various weekend trips to Mexico

If you would like further information regarding any of the above mentioned trips please e-mail your questions to [information@acthow.org](mailto:information@acthow.org).

### Our Mission

Helping Orphans and Widows' mission is to help and assist orphans and widows worldwide by strengthening and encouraging them through economic, physical, medical, spiritual, and/or material means.

The directors of H.O.W. have served on mission outreaches in many countries around the world and have learned no man is or ever will be greater than his creator. Our objective is to serve with love and compassion to orphans and widows and extend Grace to them. They are valuable people. H.O.W. encourages and works with churches, businesses, and government when any opportunity arises that will assist this effort. H.O.W. is Helping Orphans and Widows.

The Directors of H.O.W. are all dedicated to serving and do so without salaries.

### Please join the Board of Directors in prayer for the following items:

- Pray for Dr. Anwana Ntofon as he ministers to the Nigerian people
- Pray for new volunteers
- Pray for future mission outreaches
- Pray for required finances to carry on the work of this organization

*If you would like to be a Prayer Warrior for H.O.W. please contact us for regular e-mails of prayer requests.*