



As we praise God for His continuous grace and provision during 2018, we have exciting news!

Dear Friends of Gathering Hearts ...

What a year we have experienced in 2018! We have seen God at work here in Honduras and in this ministry you so generously support. Thanks for all you have done and continue to do for Gathering Hearts and the beautiful people of Honduras.

As we close the year we give thanks to God for that most precious gift of all, his Son, who came to live among us, suffered incredibly then give his life, so our sins are forgiven and our souls redeemed for an eternity in His presence. Praise Him! May you feel the Lord's presence and peace as you celebrate a joyous and wonderful Christmas season in the days to come.

There is exciting news at Gathering Hearts for Honduras! After years of prayer (and prayer walking with many of you), land was secured for both a new Educational Building and for a Soccer Field, both of which are so vital to our vision to reach youth from the neighborhoods and those who can be saved from gang activity.

When each parcel was finally offered to us for purchase, we knew it was the Lord's plan. We committed – without having the funds – and God showed up just in time with unexpected and generous contributions. Even after 19 years in ministry here, God just continues to amaze us for His Glory.

In 2018, six short-term mission teams, plus others on special smaller missions, stayed with us and spread God's love here at the mission center and in the surrounding villages. What a blessing to be able to host the teams onsite at our Gathering Hearts Conference Center & Dormitory. Read more about them on pages 6-7.

The Gospel continues to be proclaimed and our village church has celebrated many baptisms, along with commitments of marriage and life conversions for the Lord. New believers are being disciplined and are spreading the good news to their neighbors and friends. Praise God!

Over a year ago we launched production of beautiful Honduran-made handbags, clutches and Christmas stockings. Our goal with the production center is to provide jobs for local villagers, particularly single moms. Please pray with us that markets for our products will be revealed and developed, and more production will provide jobs. Also pray with us to find contract sewing opportunities for additional work. These products are now available for purchase at gatheringheartsshop.com in our online store. Every dollar raised goes to the Honduran workers.

Finally, thank you for your prayers and support this year as we recuperated from medical issues. We are glad to pass along doctors' good reports! Gary and I were so glad to return late spring to our Honduras family and the ministry God established for us 19 years ago.

For close to two decades we have sown seed into the rich soil that is Honduras. People are so hungry for God's word. Truly, we follow the words of Jesus when he said, "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" – *John 4:35*.

Thank you again for your continuous and steadfast support through prayer and financial giving!

Gary and Cheryl Kuney



Vision and Needs

With a new year comes new opportunities to minister to Hondurans in critical areas. We are so excited about God's provision and answer to prayer as unexpected funds were the answer to prayer as we purchased two pieces of property this summer!

New Education Building

Ever since the mission was built in Seis de Mayo, three empty lots stood across the dirt street from Gathering Hearts' front door. As our children's ministries, youth education and computer-Bible-English classes have grown, so has our need for additional classroom space. Now with more than 200 students, we are bursting at the seams, with students spilling over onto the front porch of the mission center, under trees and in overcrowded, un-air conditioned classrooms. It is not an ideal learning environment for students, or our teachers.

After prayer-walking the perimeter of these lots and committing their use to the glory of God, the funds arrived to purchase the land. That was a giant step forward and we are so grateful to First United Methodist Church of Tulsa, which made it happen. Currently, plans are being drawn for a two-story Education Building that will transform those empty lots and provide classrooms and an assembly area for graduations, celebrations and community events. (On December 1 we will graduate 100 students from our various programs! This celebration is such good evangelism to the students' families... we will reach 400 or more at one time!)

♥ Please pray with us that the planning and design of the building will go smoothly and funds will be available to start construction. We see that this is fulfilling God's promise to educate and spread the gospel to a new generation of Hondurans.

Children's Ministry

The fastest growing part of Gathering Hearts is the Children's Ministry. The children join us from the surrounding villages. In many cases, if mothers are here learning a trade, or working in our production center, care for their children is needed and that expands our opportunity to share the love of Jesus. Through Bible-based classes, the children are challenged to create and stretch their God-given potential. In addition to educating these precious children, we feed them daily breakfast or lunch, sometimes both.

But we're out of space. Children meet on porches or in cramped classrooms not designed for so many. With older students moving to the Educational Building, space will open, but modifications and some renovation will be needed.

Scholarships

Some students graduate from our program who demonstrate exceptional skill and dedication. Yet, these youth come from impoverished homes where paying tuition and purchasing a uniform and school supplies for more advanced schools is out of the question. Where possible, Gathering Hearts provides scholarships to dedicated students in these schools – a path that can lead to college admission.

♥ Please pray for all the children who we serve at Gathering Hearts and for the resources needed to continue this ministry to those most vulnerable.





A new Education Building is coming!

Clockwise from the top left:

- The lot across the road from the mission center has been purchased for a new education building
- David and Joel are cleaning up the lot to prepare
- During the week of Nov. 5, loads of dirt came in and a dozer leveled it in preparation for construction to begin
- Children's classroom is not air conditioned and very crowded
- Computer lab packed to the gills
- Grade-school aged children meeting outside on the porch
- Students lined up for Saturday classes
- Pastor Plum teaching English/Bible class with 90+ students each session



Soccer ministry is growing

We have found that soccer has been the best way to reach the unchurched young men that are involved in gangs or tempted to be involved in crime of some kind. Over the years we have held soccer tournaments that attract these young men. We witness to them before the games begin, and not only do the young men hear the Gospel, but the villagers who turn out for these games do as well.



Youth team ready for soccer tournament in Honduras.

On an uneven concrete pad, once used to dry rice, we hold soccer tournaments and encourage pick-up games by village youth. While the surface is far from ideal, young men come together for the love of the game.

For years we have asked the owner of these lots where we play soccer if he would sell that land to us, and the answer repeatedly has been “no.” We continued to pray.

We were surprised last Spring when the landowner wrote and asked if we would like to purchase those lots. We said YES in faith before having the first dollar toward the purchase. After years of prayer, we knew this was what God had for us.



Several weeks later, a dear friend let me know that she would like to build a memorial for her late husband here and wondered if I had any ideas of what project it could fund. We sure did have an idea! The donation matched the price of the lots and we knew again, that God provided in His way and His timing to receive the glory. We will close on that land the end of November.

♥ Please pray for the youth whose lives will be changed forever by an encounter with the Holy Spirit through the soccer ministry of Gathering Hearts.



♥ Pray that funds will be available to remove the concrete and create a soccer field of real grass, with seating, concessions and accommodations that will attract larger and more regular tournaments, where the gospel is shared and lives are changed.

⇨ *TurningPoint Church soccer event in June*

⇧ *Above top, prayer time prior to soccer play with FUMC Tulsa*

⇧ *Above, Southern Heights youth team and soccer outreach.*



Avery Johnson assists Pastor Nelson Osorto and her dad Pastor Doug Johnson of Beacon Hill Baptist, with baptism in the Gulf of Mexico. Seven were baptized that day.

Big thanks to our summer intern

Avery Johnson was our right arm in 2018. A member of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Owasso, Avery is a student at the University of Tulsa and the daughter of our friends and pastors Doug and Lisa Johnson. She spent the summer with us as an intern in Honduras.

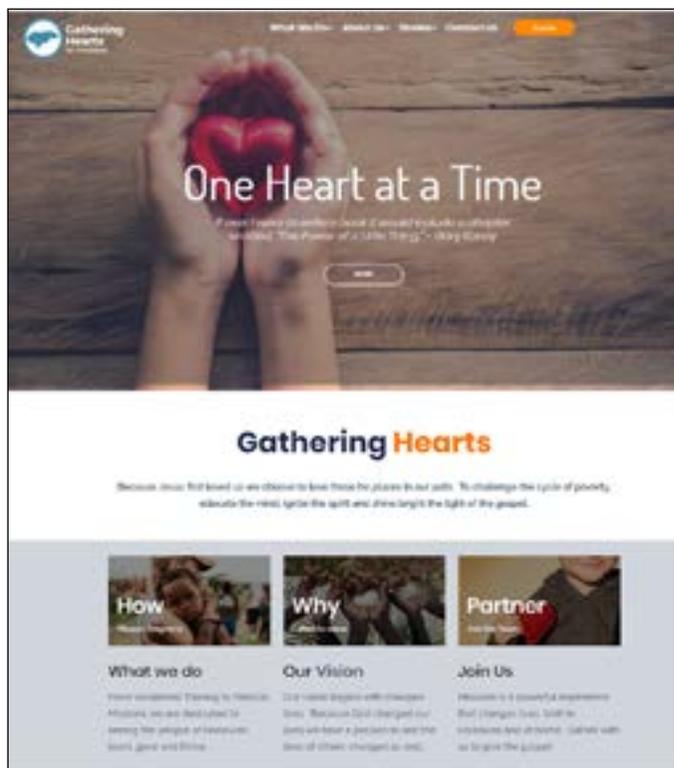
She has the heart for this ministry and worked tirelessly with the children and youth. Avery was a tremendous asset to the operations of the mission and helped in so many ways, from reorganizing the children's ministry and updating programming, to grocery shopping and baking, to "evangelism slumber parties" with teen girls. Every mission team incorporated her into their team and enjoyed fellowship and worship with her. What a blessing!



Avery Johnson hosting craft night and a slumber party for Honduran teen girls with her sister, Grace Johnson, on the far right.

More thanks ... new wheels

If you've ever been part of a mission trip here, you know that our well-worn vehicles have very high mileage. We depend on them to transport everything from groceries and supplies to visiting team members. In 2018, we were able to purchase a new Toyota pickup for the ministry, thanks to a generous donation. Joel and Nicolas appreciate the more dependable transportation as we serve the people in villages surrounding Gathering Hearts – some in remote and mountainous locations.



New! www.gatheringhearts.org

We're thrilled to announce that there's been a makeover of our website www.GatheringHearts.org! While Doug Johnson, site developer, reports that it's still a work in progress, it's a dramatic update. This is where you can keep current on developments at Gathering Hearts, with links to our online store and to our various social media outlets.

In 2018, God's love was shared throughout our villages through the outreach of short-term mission trips

Christ Presbyterian Church, Tulsa

Year after year, God has used volunteers from Christ Presbyterian to spread the healing love of Jesus with medical mission teams. In May, another large team of doctors and other healthcare providers arrived from Tulsa. This highly organized mission group allowed us to hold two medical clinics that served hundreds of patients who otherwise wouldn't see a doctor. This is always a highlight and welcome mission team each year. While we have a nurse aid who staffs our mission clinic, we need more medical mission teams to come on a regular basis. ♥ Please pray for this need.



Laura and Evan Key assist Dr. Chris Stokes during a hand procedure.

TurningPoint Church, Tulsa

In June, we welcomed a new congregation to partner with us! This was the very first mission trip for TurningPoint Church of Tulsa and their outreach included children's ministry, evangelism and nurses who evaluated patients and did home visits in villages. Pastor John Plum led a two-night revival in our village church, something unheard of here. He also provided doctrinal coaching for our ministry's leaders and continues to be a resource to them on church leadership. TPC



volunteers also completed the electrical wiring and poured concrete floors in Nicolas' new home, adjacent to the mission. Nicolas is our right arm. He provides security, works with employees and generally runs things when we are out of the country. We are thrilled that he has been able to build a home and move his family closer to the mission.



Southern Heights Church, Kalamazoo

This Michigan congregation has stood alongside us for years. During their July outreach, Southern Heights provided teachers for our English/Bible classes and organized a youth soccer outreach. Southern Heights' oversight of our village church will allow for further credentialing in November for the church's interim pastor and our English/Bible teacher, Nelson Osorto.



Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Owasso

Our home church in Oklahoma provided a mission team of youth outreach volunteers, soccer organizers, women's ministry and construction workers who laid tile in Nicolas' house.



Christy from Owasso gets to share her testimony, after a year-long journey from handbag purchase to meeting the women who made it.

Blessing through Christmas Boxes

In October, a container-load of ministry supplies and equipment and 1,000 Christmas boxes for village children arrived at the dock here in Honduras. This arrival was in record time and will allow for distribution, even in remote villages, before Christmas this year.

In 2007, Candy Matheny took over the Christmas Box ministry at Beacon Hill Church and enlisted the help of her mother, Collene Jennings. All year long, Collene scouted yard sales and going-out-business sales for clothing, toys, and items suitable



It's a true family affair: Candy Matheny plus daughter Rachel Floyd and mom Collene Jennings packing Christmas boxes at Beacon Hill Baptist. Below: Loading in Owasso, then unloading in Honduras.

for the Christmas boxes to be distributed to our villagers. Candy organized a giant packing effort that took place at Beacon Hill. This year they packed 1,000 boxes to bless our people in surrounding villages! God bless all of those who participated in this important ministry.



The Christmas Boxes leave Owasso and are placed in a seagoing container, along with other items for the ministry. Rarely have past containers arrived and passed through



customs before Christmas. But it did this year. Praise God! You should see the joy on the faces of these village youngsters. For most, the box is the only Christmas gift they will receive.

Now, 11 years after Candy and Collene organized their first Christmas Box drive, the mother-daughter team is retiring. We are so thankful for the dedication of these Godly

women who saw a need and took up this ministry. The delight that comes from seeing children's reactions to these boxes is indescribable. At the time of this writing we are looking forward to Candy and Collene's arrival to help us with the distribution of boxes...a first for each of them. It will be wonderful for them to see the joy they have given to the previously nameless.

Coordinating these ocean-going container shipments is a giant task and again we extend deep thanks for the generosity and volunteer time of Tom Hagen, a member of our board, and Jim Redyke, FUMC. They were instrumental in getting the container loaded and delivered to the Louisiana port.

Every Day Ministries, Tulsa

A team from this ministry spent time with us in September and we are so grateful for their visit and friendship. What a joy to

see the women learn new sewing skills but also to take home a baby doll they made. Many of these women never had a doll when they were growing up.



First United Methodist Church, Tulsa

First Methodist is another congregation that has walked beside us and provided teams and resources that has allowed us to spread the gospel and expand our ministry to serve even more. In October they taught English with expert teacher Ellen LaGrone and also hosted youth ministry and soccer.

Thanks to the generosity of this partner church, we were able to purchase the land located across the street from our mission for the much-needed Education Building (see pages 2-3).

The new facility that will house classes for so many Gathering Hearts students, and also provide an assembly space for graduations, ministry events or community gatherings. It is an outreach opportunity for us to reach the families of our graduates.



Administrative Office
10008 S. 67th E. Place
Tulsa, OK 74133

Thank you ...

For your faithful and ongoing support for Gathering Hearts for Honduras. Join us as we continue to spread the Gospel and love the people of this nation. Gathering Hearts for Honduras is a 501(c)3 faith-based charitable organization. Donations to support the ministry can be sent to:

Gathering Hearts for Honduras
2220 West Oakridge
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

gatheringhearts.org
gatheringheartsshop.com



Shop our products

Order handmade handbags, clutches, Christmas stockings and wooden crosses at our Gathering Hearts for Honduras online store @ gatheringheartsshop.com. Support jobs for our villagers.

Prices have been reduced on all of our products...so shop today! These items make great Christmas gifts with special meaning for the recipient; each one includes a brochure that tells the story and how every dollar goes back to the people of Honduras.

Now offering care packages that last a lot longer than flowers! Inserted into the bag of your choice, these care packages make a perfect gift for someone in the hospital or going through chemo treatment. The bag is filled with puzzle books, hand cream, chapstick, snacks, notepad, pencil and a card personalized from you. These can be customized upon request.

Do you need a **hostess gift** for Christmas holiday parties? Check out the prefilled stockings, or purchase a stocking and fill it yourself. We will also deliver in the Tulsa area or ship to anywhere in the U.S.

email: info@gatheringhearts.org