



RCA GLOBAL MISSION DEAR FRIENDS UPDATE

from Ahuas Doctors in Honduras September 2018

Taken from a report from our liaison to Honduras

In early August a pregnant woman was on her way from Brus Laguna to Puerto Lempira. With premature labor pains interrupting her trip, she came to the hospital seeking help. In what seems like a too-familiar story, Dr. Ratli's ultrasound exam revealed twins, but he could detect heart sounds for only one fetus. A trip to the OR and an emergency C Section saved the life of the mother and one premature fetus, but, unfortunately, the other baby did not survive. Lamenting the absence of a neonatal incubator, Dr. Ratli sent the premature infant to the hospital in Puerto Lempira where it could be better cared for.



We are repeatedly made aware of our own shortcomings – in this case the inability to adequately treat a premature infant. At the same time, we are constantly reminded that we have the ability to save lives of some of the most vulnerable people in one of the most isolated regions of God's creation – in this case a premature infant and her at risk pregnant mom.

Pray with me that God will keep this 72 year old medical ministry running so that we can continue the lifesaving work needed by so many and supported by so many.



The concrete portion of the new lab construction has been completed, though plumbing, electrical and painting work will not be finished until the end of August. The concrete roof will be used in the future as the floor of a second story guest house, but we do not have money to start that project right now.

The Infant Feeding Program continues to provide a healthy daily meal to about one hundred malnourished kids in the three villages of Ahuas, Krupunta and Barra Patuca. A donation from Reformed Church supporters in Michigan will allow us to construct two shelters – one in Krupunta and the other in Barra Patuca. At present, the feeding program is being conducted out of a private home in Krupunta and out of an inadequate church building in Barra Patuca.



After several long delays, it looks as if the decompression chamber that Dr. Benno Marx has worked so hard to bring to Ahuas, may finally make the trip later this year.

Dr. Marx has coordinated the fabrication of the chamber itself along with a generator and supporting equipment. Generous offers of transportation assistance will get the chamber to Ahuas where many young divers from throughout the region continue to come seeking lifesaving treatment of "the bends".

Needs - You might consider helping (praying, sending supplies, donating money, sponsoring a work crew) with these concerns:

- Subsidizing the \$5,250 annual salary of a nurse, lab tech or maintenance
- Purchasing an incubator
- Covering the expenses of the ongoing Infant Feeding Program (which is still feeding a total of about 100 malnourished kids every day at three sites)
- God's guidance with ministry concerns

Ahuas Doctor's ministry

Mosquitia, the largest wilderness area in Central America, includes a 5,500-square-mile area in eastern Honduras that has been isolated politically, socially, geographically, linguistically, and economically. Many people have never heard the gospel, and the nearest hospital can be 12 or more hours away by canoe. Ahuas doctors serve in a 39-bed hospital in the community of Ahuas on the border of La Mosquitia. They provide medical services ranging from obstetrics and pediatrics to major surgery. Learn more at www.rca.org/ahuas-clinic.