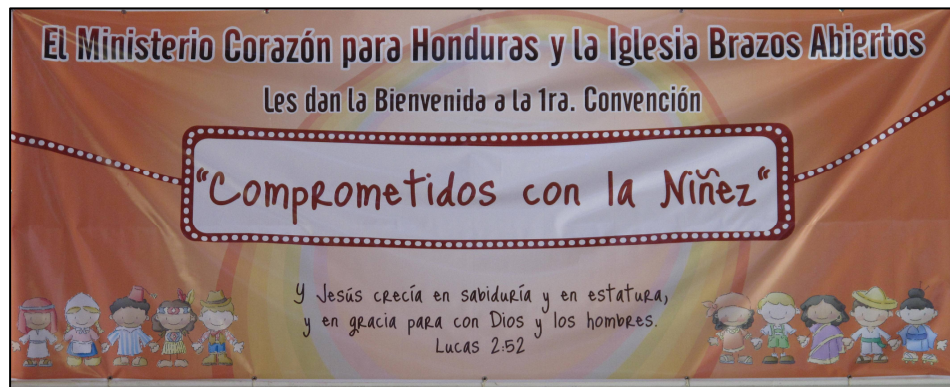


Heart to Honduras' Commitment to Children in Need



Friends, what can happen when around 400 passionate leaders of churches in Honduras and Nicaragua gather for two days of intensive, inspirational, and challenging conferences on making a difference in the lives of our children?

Time will tell what will come of the first "Great International Convention: COMMITTED TO THE CHILDREN" held January 8-9, 2011 in Santa Elena, Honduras. But we know with certainty that Heart to Honduras is being called by the Lord to increase our effort on behalf of the little ones--the ones who suffer the most when there is poverty, domestic violence, and there are few options for education, healthcare, and other essentials.

Speaker after speaker poured out their hearts about the needs of children, the call of God, and the opportunities we have to make a difference. We were privileged to hear from the Honduras Director of Compassion International and several government representatives, along with pastors and other leaders. 11 conferences provided information on various subjects such as:

- mentoring children/foster care
- protecting children from abuse
- serving the orphans
- available training and materials for ministry with children through the church
- winning and nurturing children's hearts for the Lord
- providing health and nutrition for the child
- functioning as a Compassion International church (we currently have four)
- discovering in Scripture the great value God places on children
- studying to see how the Honduran law and even the Honduran Constitution provide protection for children and list children's rights to life, dignity, liberty, education, etc.



At the end of the conference the churches and pastors were asked to set aside a day of prayer (and fasting) for children in their church and community. Following the day of prayer, they were to meet as key leaders to plan action steps in response to what they learned at the conference. Each pastor is to provide a report of plans made for ministry to children. Following the conference, several North Americans who participated in the conference visited some of the churches and pastors as a follow-up. They heard these

pastors speak with great excitement and conviction on how they will be able to better serve the children in their church and community. We believe *many* new stories will be written of young lives forever different because of the love of Christ being poured through these passionate servants.

Pastor Fredy Martinez (La Concepción) served very capably as Coordinator of the Conference. He shared these thoughts following the two-day conferences: *"Ah--my heart is very grateful to God. Victory! Victory! I am very, very happy! I am ready for next year's conference!"*

The first conference is history but the work is just beginning!

Making disciples and serving the poor,



Gordon Garrett, President

