



“Bugged” by reflections of the trip.....

Before each Total Health short-term mission trip we try to prepare the missionaries for some of the things they will see and experience. But along with all of the things we are certain will happen, we also tell them to be aware of things they might experience that can and will have an unexpected impact or influence in the way in which they view themselves and/or their world-view. Having been doing this for a few years, one thing I have learned is that God can use some very interesting situations to teach. It is just such an experience that I would like to share with you in this, my inaugural newsletter.

I participated in our July trip to Managua as part of a construction crew tasked to perform a small home renovation. Specifically, we replaced the dirt floor of a small one room home with concrete covered with tile. A significant improvement for this elderly couple that lived in the home.

On the last day of the job, after having been there a few days, the city happened to be going door to door spraying for pest control.

Once the spraying was complete, we resumed our efforts. However, shortly after we began again we received visitors of the most unusual kind. Having been sprayed, the largest insects I have ever seen were searching for a safe haven from the poison. When I say large, some of these insects were the size of small birds! The sight of these visitors had an impact on our productivity for the remainder of the project.

“The eye sees only what the mind is prepared to comprehend.”

Henri Burgson,
French Philosopher

While these insects created good stories and lasting memories, it also made me think. Why were things so different after we had seen the insects than before. After all, the insects had been there all along, and for that matter are most likely still there. But now that we had seen them, it seemed that we could not get past it.

I began to realize, that in



The Family

many ways this is one of the issues when it comes to poverty alleviation. Here in America, poverty is often something that is seen only on TV or the internet. For many of us, poverty does not live in our neighborhoods. Yet it exists, often just around the corner. We really do not have to go far to experience poverty if we chose to. For me in South Florida, it is just a short 15 mile drive.

At Total Health, we realize that the poverty does not stop when we are not looking. A large part of our mission equipping the local community to fight sickness and diseases that significantly hinder cultural development. We know that we cannot solve everything, but with your help, we can make a difference and help to turn the tide against poverty.

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I am often asked, “Does donating money to help the poor really work?” And the answer is, it depends. There are many, many needs in this world, and just as many way to help.

We often think of the many relief efforts that occur after some tragic event in the world. This can be the most viable time of giving and support and it is incumbent upon all of us to respond in such times of urgent need.

But solving the world poverty state is much more complex than simple relief. It requires years of global community efforts with solid community development programs.

For example, child sponsorship has been

around for decades. Sponsoring a needy child in a far off land has become easy and common place. But due to some dubious practices and the overall skepticism of the culture today, many wonder if such sponsorship actually works. A recent economic study by a major university has proven the sponsorship results in better educational outcomes for children. Sponsored children are 27-40% more likely to complete secondary

school and 50-80% more likely to complete a university education.

The driving force behind this success is the mindset of development vs. relief. Relief most often represent giving things to people. It is fast, it is easy, but it does not fix the root problem. Development means equipping those to do for themselves. At Total Health, we approach our activities with this mindset. Your generous donations support the on-going development

activities in the area of local health and wellness. While some relief is inherently necessary, the overall objective is making a difference in a way that gives people the best opportunity to help themselves.

If you would like to see the article in its entirety you can find it at: You can access the entire article at:

www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/june/want-to-change-world-sponsor-child.html

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