

Calimesa Church Builds Relationship with Roatán

The Calimesa church has linked one of its mission outreach programs with the nonprofit organization Protective Turtle Ecology Center for Training, Outreach, and Research, Inc. (ProTECTOR) in delivering the message of healthy people and a healthy environment to rural communities in Honduras.

Stephen Dunbar, a church member at Calimesa and professor of marine biology at Loma Linda University, is the founder of the nonprofit organization, which focuses on research and conservation of sea turtles in Honduras.

"In 2009, after a planned mission trip to Nicaragua was canceled, Pastor Isaac Kim called me and asked if there was anything a mission team could do for my projects in Honduras. This was an opportunity to reach out to the communities I work with on conservation in a way that would impact their personal and family health situations. That's when the 'Calitan' mission trip was born," said Dunbar. "Calitan" is a contraction of Calimesa and Roatán. It demonstrates Calimesa's dedication to befriending and serving the same two communities in Roatán year after year.

This year, from June 23 to 30, was the mission team's fourth trip to the Diamond Rock area of Roatán on the east end of the island. The team of 23 was composed of three dentists, three dental hygienists, two doctors, two nurses as well as dental, dental hygiene and nursing students from Loma Linda University, a construction team, a pastor, two high school educators, several young adults and one turtle biologist.

The group recorded basic health histories of community members, provided health screening of blood pressures, blood sugars and general health. They also provided dental care to those who needed it.

"I'm definitely going back again. This has been an experience of a lifetime," said Heidi Cinque, one of the dental hygiene team members.

During the week, the group saw almost 300 people, including some who returned from previous years. Sabine Dunbar, one of the trip nurses, said, "We even had one young fellow who had come each year and still had his health passport — so he won the prize of a new soccer ball to take home as his own."

An ongoing project has been the development and repair of a wastewater system for the elementary school at Camp Bay. This year, the construction team, led by Scott Jones and Mitchell Fairhurst, repaired the system by constructing a rainwater catchment that feeds into the main water storage tank.

In addition to health outreach and community development projects, the team, led by Sandra Leggitt, Becky Cohen-Jacobsen and Michael Bennie, also carried out children's programs during three nights of the week and on Sabbath morning. Children of all ages were picked up in vans to go to the Diamond Rock church, where they enthusiastically took part in singing, Bible stories and fun crafts.

"This has been an awesome experience," said Pablo Ariza, associate pastor and group leader. "We're not only working toward better health



Leroy Leggitt, one of the dentists, assesses a young patient.

in the community, but we're also making good friends and sharing God's love with people where they are — no questions asked."

Calitan team members are already making plans for their next trip back to Roatán in March 2014, when they will again reach out to the communities of east Roatán with a message of health, healing and hope.

Stephen Dunbar

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the First Quinquennial Session of the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene as follows:

**La Sierra University Church
4937 Sierra Vista Ave.
Riverside, California**

9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 27, 2013

The purpose of this meeting is to receive reports; elect conference officers, vice presidents for ethnic minorities, the executive committee, and the bylaws committee; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

*Gerald Penick, president
Sandra Roberts, executive secretary
Verlon Strauss, treasurer*



Janelle Fairhurst and Heidi Cinque provide dental hygiene care to two of the many community members who requested hygiene services.



Children display their crafts at the end of an evening program.