

SFTHMin in Nicaragua/Trip #31



This newsletter is focused on putting boots on the ground or skin in the game to impact a culture. Many of you receiving these newsletters have watched SFTHMin teams in overseas missions since 1989. As I stated before the nationals express to us their fear of our association being temporary.

This trip our team will be re-visiting the projects and formally sponsored children that we have lost contact with for 8 years. With Compassion

International, once your sponsored child turns 18

years old they are transitioned to a different phase, sadly most sponsors are not aware of this and the child is lost from the system. In September our team has 3 formally sponsored children that we are going to locate and re-connect with. We will go to their village and find them. We have a market day / shopping trip planned as well and a banquet. These now

“young adults” have no idea we are coming to visit them. The SFTHMin team has no idea what we will encounter in finding them.

We know their



projects well, as we ministered to them with food, bibles, puppet shows, and gifts many times, but in 8 years things change. Our team leaves September 23 and returns October 4th 2026.

We will spend much time with our students at Project 101 in Xilola during classes. On Saturday October 3rd we have a “meet the parents” banquet planned. This is time to mingle with the students and parents and to recognize the students for their achievements. We will be taking beautiful Bibles as gifts. Our team will serve the families a full course meal after the award / graduation ceremony.

Thank You for your continued prayer and financial support as we know the Godly influence of this work is going deep and building young men and ladies that will impact their communities.



2nd Triennial 2026

What does a Mission trip look like?

Over the last 22 years of being involved with the development of multiple building projects and many crusades, in this letter my goal is to let you (our donors) see the inside of a “mission trip”. You can read the details on our new website

(www.sfthmin.com) how Mary and I started serving in foreign missions in 1989. God is good, He used us in the midst of being novices in this field. I don't use the term “short term missionary,” there is no such thing. Short term is indicating that you don't intend to stay long enough to understand the culture. The country you intend to serve must be understood, it's culture, it's language, it's most dominate religion, it's people, and the list goes on and on. If the natives of that country ever pickup that you will “evaporate “ you will be treated like a foreigner your entire stay. If you don't share in their struggles, if you don't blend with their



hardships and their joys they will never give you the right for crossing. In the last 5 years there has been a huge influx of foreigners in the US. A very large percent of them have no desire to understand what made the US what it is today, and what our Constitution was founded on.

I have seen that construction work has it's purpose. It brings a cohesion to the area that you are targeting. Every project needs buildings, but its the attitude during construction that builds the relationship after the last screw is in place, and that is what counts. My biggest attitude critique was in construction, what style are they used to, the slow progress, the expensive building materials, finding qualified workers, dealing with poor workmanship and the list goes on.

I have a book in my library written in 1927 by a Moravian Evangelist by the name of John Greenfield. First it was 100 years of non-stop, 24 hours a day prayer in Herrnhut Germany. Then the Moravians packed their belongings in caskets, in other words they aren't going “home” if this mission doesn't work out. They prepared spiritually before they ever set foot on the first ship headed around the globe.

Not all , but many mission trips are ill prepared spiritually. There is no clear cut vision, it is motivated by adventure instead of a deep conviction to impact the visiting country by making disciples. Being a faucet from a land of plenty is the wrong motive. It's challenging to impact a nation when natives know that next week you are riding an air-conditioned plane home to a house with running water.

Thank You donors and prayer warriors for standing with us during these three decades of meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the International Mission.

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How is prison in SFTHMin's lane?

In this letter I am explaining the power of a culture and how to "undo" what's taken years to construct. SFTHMin's goal behind the wire is based in Matt 28:19.



#1 Go:

Start moving, move your feet, do something you have never done before. When culture gets changed someone made the first move. Don't move out of haste or ignorance; but through a law deep from the well of your Spirit. Your "mind" is not always a sound source of information unless it has been thoroughly cleansed through God's Word and interpreted by mature teachers. Culture is usually a sacred cow that requires patience and years of results. I was raised in a deep conservative culture that didn't accept the change that took place in my walk with God after I had a profound experience with the Holy Spirit. Burn the bridges of your past culture.

#2 Make Disciples:

Disciples are disciplined students. Matt 28:19 is not referring to converts, don't get me wrong converts are important but to change a culture there needs to be new laws written on the tables of the hearts of those that chose to start moving. Every culture can be "undone." I don't care how many years an addiction has ravaged your generation, it will bend a knee to solid biblical laws that are strictly adhered to. Understand the true nature of God and don't be conformed (molded into) to the culture that has held you bondage but be transformed (aligned to Biblical truths) by the renewing of your mind. Rom 12:1-2

3 Baptizing them:

Go public with your cry, but make sure you have the correct attitude. Don't attempt to change those still bound by their past culture with words; but with deeds. John 3:2 Nicodemus called Jesus a Rabbi or teacher not based on what the culture showed Him to be, but on the signs He performed.

#4 Teaching:

This links closely to #2. For 25 years I searched for a solid Bible-based study course. First I had to apply it to my life for those 25 years before I could ever ask anyone to let it transform their mind and eventually transform their culture. James 3:1 Quotes the teacher shall be judged with a stricter Judgment. Everytime I hand out a bible lesson I do it knowing the grave responsibility of creating an accurate foundation for you to build from. These four simple laws based in Matt 28:19 have kept SFHMin team in our "lane" these 33 years applying sound Biblical laws to a culture and watching it bend it's knee.



"Wherever you are, be there totally."

June 7
Lamar Co Jail
June 14
Lamar Co Jail
June 21
Lamar Co Jail
June 28
Lamar Co Jail
July 5
Lamar Co Jail
July 12
Lamar Co Jail

July 19
Lamar Co Jail
July 26
Lamar Co Jail
Aug 2
Lamar Co Jail
Aug 9
Lamar Co Jail
Aug 16
Lamar Co Jail
Aug 23
Lamar Co Jail

Aug 30
Lamar Co Jail
Sept 6
Lamar Co Jail
Sept 13
Lamar Co Jail
Sept 20
Lamar Co Jail
Sept 23
Nicaragua trip
Oct 4
Nicaragua trip



*Touching a world
with power, purpose and praise.*

www.sfthmin.com office@sfthmin.com

What does a mission trip look like?

(Continued from front page) I have learned that after 30 trips and hundreds of hours in the blistering tropical heat that all your good will be lost if one wrong word or expression is spoken.

It's not what you say that really counts, but it's the tone you say it in. Working with many teams made up of teenagers and older alike, every facial expression matters. Never apologize for a mistake made if you just do it again. Mission work is the most intense ministry ever done, both foreign and domestic. We have been downtown Cleveland Ohio giving hotdogs to the homeless and felt the tension just like the crusades in Nicaragua. Just as I indicated on the front page the people being served are on the edge many times and all it takes is one wrong move and your efforts are lost.

Most of the natives and those in prisons don't like the situation they are in. Most don't like to be served with charity. Here are several rules I adhere to.



Stay in your lane: there are needs everywhere so I am very decisive in where I point my energy, It is so easy to get into a project that was not for you to be involved in, and when things smell bad, I usually move ahead with a huge smile on my face knowing it was not their fault that I strayed into another persons terrain.

Never ever say anything you want people to forget about your ministry: Don't ever think out loud, it will be taken as truth and then if it was a thought only, it's too late. More is perceived from your facial expressions and body language then is spoken. Most of the areas in Nicaragua where SFTHMin works in has little to no leisure. So most places are in survival mode and everything matters. Don't jest or small talk, you don't know their culture and its very easy to get into a smelly situation. When you give someone something by mistake never ever take it back. Never start giving away bibles, food, gifts, or anything if you don't have enough for everyone to have one.

Never act surprised if they don't do things like you expect them to: We embrace our culture, they do too. Never mock or ridicule the way things are done on their native soil. These are rules that can be applied to every type of people's group that you are ministering to here in the US as well as overseas. Don't be easily offended.

Most of this newsletter is focused on foreign mission work, the reason being SFTHMin will be taking our 31st trip to Nicaragua the latter part of September.

In 2004 SFTHMin and my family sponsored several young children through Compassion International. Compassions age limit for sponsorship is 18 years old. In 2018 our children graduated from Compassion and we've not seen them since. As I stated earlier in this letter the Nicaraguan natives fear that the Americans will evaporate and they feel a sense of abandonment. (Continued on page 4)

Thank You friends and supporters for your prayers and financial support

*You are Valued
& So Appreciated!
Mary D*

*Thank you You
matter to God and
to us Yalm*