

Lauren Jacobsen is a member of our church and is presently a student at the University of Arizona. In 2004 Lauren's mother Connie Jacobsen was a part of the MPCC mission team to Honduras. Ironically, or perhaps divinely destined, Lauren found her way to Honduras as well. The following letter from Lauren shares a piece of her journey. Enjoy her experience in Honduras!

Hello, Everyone!

I'm back from Honduras. Yes, I'm still alive and as far as I know I didn't catch anything. I can't tell you enough how I appreciated all the support I had before and during this trip! You have all been so amazing and I can't begin to explain how thankful I am to have been given this opportunity. Thank you!

I also wanted to let you know what I did for the week and tell you about how this trip changed my life forever. First though, I wanted to apologize for not sending this earlier because I know a bunch of you have been asking about it. I am sorry, but I have been procrastinating because it's been so hard for me to put my feelings and experiences into words.

Most of you know I went on this trip mainly because it would give me a chance to be more hands on in the dental field and possibly perform a procedure. I was accompanying a dental missionary group from Nebraska and there was not a single person I had known or been in contact with other than the director of the mission.

Our daily routine was to have morning devotional, breakfast (rice and beans), drive anywhere (holding on for dear life in the back of a cattle truck) from an hour to two and a half hours to another village where we would set up our dental chairs (inside a church or sometimes even outside), medical station and a place where all the kids could go and play and learn about God. Then the clinics were required to end at a suitable time so that we could make it back to the village safely. Once back we had dinner (rice and beans) and a time to reflect on what transpired throughout the day.

During the clinics, I was able to use my Spanish. I told them about what they should expect but most of all was able to learn about their lives. The one woman who stuck out the most in my mind was a 23-year-old girl who told me her husband had died and she was taking care of 8 children. And when I began to cry, she said with a huge smile, "it's okay because he's with God." Here I was going on this trip to "help these poor people" when I was the one who was being helped. At first I felt so bad for these people; no shoes, no water, no money for shampoo (one baby had such bad lice and all she needed was some soap but they could not afford it), complete bone decay so we had to remove 27 teeth on one woman, and all the while these people are smiling and showing how the love of God is not within the things we have, but in our hearts.

In addition to viewing these miraculous events, I was loved by every member of our group. There were four dentists, two doctors and the rest were adults somehow connected to the medical field and college students. Every night at devotional people would share how God has opened their hearts once again. I'm not going to even lie -

though I had witnessed miracles, I still struggled with God in giving him my heart completely.

Most of you have been informed about the diagnosis of my father. Before this trip, I cannot tell you how much anger I had towards God; I would ask, "Why is this happening to my dad, my family?" And the last night I was in Honduras I told my group about my dad and my struggle to understand why a Loving God would do this to my family. God is going to be with me through the bad and the good. The people who I went on this trip with me have been praying for my family and me. I am so thankful for them and that I now have the strength to believe God is in control.

I started out thinking this was going to be a great thing to put on my dental application,'s when it really was an experience that gave me 29 amazing people in my life forever, my faith and trust back in God, and a peace about my dad's situation. I will be forever changed and I'm so excited I got to share it with you.

God bless!
Lauren

Oh, and yes, I did get a chance to pull 5 teeth!