

Share your gifts, live your faith, change the world ... and let the world change you.

You are blessing many lives

Your support of our missionary service is bearing abundant fruit in Honduras. While the Olancho Department is the largest of the 18 departments into which Honduras is divided, it has only one school dedicated to helping children with disabilities – Escuelita Nazareth. And the only school psychologist at Escuelita is Jacob Pederson. You sent Jacob and Nancy Pederson with their children to Juticalpa in January. (We will tell you more about Nancy's Ministry at Instituto Cardinal Rodriguez in the next newsletter).

Public schools in Olancho do not have the capacity to work with students with autism, hearing impairment, visual impairment, ADHD, Down syndrome, dyslexia, dyscalculia, and other disabilities. Doctors, teachers, and parents refer such students to Escuelita, if not to enroll, at least to get a proper evaluation. Jacob's hands are full not only with the enrolled students but also with hundreds of others who are referred.

Because of the scarcity of resources, "asking for norm-referenced cognitive assessments or subscriptions to testing software is like asking for the moon. This means my practice has had to emphasize the 'art' part of the field," says Jacob. "Observations become more detailed, parent interviews regarding a child's behavior and academics begin to carry more weight, and individual test items (for what they are) are scrutinized for suggestions of disorders." His experience is common for our missionaries whose skills often are the only resource available in a mission community.

Faced with the scarcity of resources, Jacob created a list of Tips at Home for those diagnosed with autism. Parents of his students and of those who come for an evaluation feel empowered by Jacob's practical advice:



Jacob Pederson helps children with disabilities as a school psychologist in Honduras.

establish a routine and do not deviate from it; avoid loud sounds, strong smells, and textures they do not like; allow children time to express their interests as long as they do not hurt anyone; avoid metaphors, allegories, and jokes; and speak very literally.

Since 90% of disabled children in developing countries do not go to school, and the literacy rate for this group is 3% for boys and 1% for girls (UNESCO), your sending of Jacob is making a great difference in Juticalpa.

But there is more! You are also blessing local (cont.)

blessing... continued

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prisoners. Jacob remembers the first day of his prison ministry. "Initially, I thought that only a few inmates would want to talk to me. The very first day I showed up, I was proven wrong!" he said. "The chapel was packed. And I had to switch to a psychoeducation group format to help teach them how to use their minds and their thoughts to better their lives rather than having their thoughts control them. I have about 33 inmates signed up."

For allowing Jacob and Nancy to use their gifts and for giving vulnerable people hope, THANK YOU!



Jacob evaluates children (top) and teaches parents how to help their child with autism.

When two or three are gathered...

When Msgr. Brouwers created LMH in 1955, he also created what was then called "Mission Men & Mission Ladies" (later changed to LMH Guild) and asked a few already existing "Mission Circles" to support financially and prayerfully LMH missionaries. Thanks to them, we have been able to serve for over 67 years!

We are deeply indebted to all who were part of Mission Men & Ladies, Mission Circles, and the LMH Guild. Although they might not be called that these days, we are grateful to all who pray and support us – like Joanna Batiste.

Joanna is a supporter of Lay Mission-Helpers and a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist parish. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Joanna has been praying on the phone with several members of various parishes in South Los Angeles. Every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:01 PM, they gather by phone and pray the rosary for many needs including the Lay Mission-Helpers.



Joanna Batiste faithfully prays for LMH missionaries.

It is great comfort for missionaries to know that someone is praying for them!

Please continue to remember our missionaries and those whom they serve on your behalf in your prayers also. If there is a prayer group or you belong to one at your parish, please ask them to include in their prayers vocations to lay missionary service and those who are in mission. Remember, when prayers go up, blessings come down!

Vehicle donation to support LMH missionaries

We have partnered with the Los Angeles-based Cars2Charities to be able to receive vehicle donations (cars, trucks, boats, etc.) from anywhere in the United States. Cars2Charities will work with donors to schedule car pickups, assist them with all the paperwork, and sell the vehicle.

All donations will be tax

deductible in the amount for which vehicles sell, and the proceeds will support the vital work of our lay missionaries. To donate, call 855-520-2100 or visit this page: <https://www.cars2charities.org/give/lay-mission-helpers-car-donations>
Tell your friends, relatives and anyone else who might be considering a charitable car donation!

Not slowing down!

Karen Hunka, thanks to your support, is in her fourth year of service in the Diocese of Damongo in the Savannah Region of Ghana, and she is not slowing down!

Her recently new position is auditor. Your missionary welcomes this assignment and is excited to experience the lifestyles of different tribes and villages throughout the diocese. Using her knowledge, she is assigned by Bishop Peter Paul Yelezuome Angkyier to visit all 13 diocesan parishes to ensure proper financial practices are followed. Besides doing an internal control audit, she also teaches priests the internal controls they need to put in place – something not taught in seminary. The bishop expects that when the auditor visits parishes in six months, they will have the proper accountability procedures in place. This will have an additional benefit of protecting priests from concerns of embezzlement.

In addition, your missionary teaches priests and parish staffs how to generate and submit various financial reports for the diocese. The diocese compiles them and then reports to Rome. Since the majority of the local population (over 70%) consists of traditional/animist worshippers, the diocese is an area of Primary Evangelization and as such is supported by the Vatican's Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Transparency and accountability bear on that support.

The bishop wants priests to also report to parishioners. Since, so far, parishioners have not received such financial reports, the hope is that once they do and can see that their

parish is struggling to make ends meet, parishioners will take more ownership for the good of the community. (Josie Cruz, our other accountant whom you sent to Ghana this year, helped with first two audits and now will assist priests with project management.)

So far, the audit findings have been positive and pastors are thankful for the tools and knowledge. All understand that the financial health is paramount for the successful continuation of the ever-challenging yet successful work of evangelization. Since its foundation in 1999, the diocese has doubled in size



Josie Cruz (left) and Karen Hunka (right) with St. Anne's students.

and now has over 31,000 Catholics which means the total Catholic population in the area jumped from 4.4% to 8.1%.

Good stewardship of the meager resources at the disposal of parishes is a must for continuous evangelization as they are faced with significant rise in the cost of fuel, food and other goods. In the area where 80% live in poverty, every pesewa (Ghanaian cent) counts to serve the people, not just Catholics. It is not

uncommon for local chiefs and the elders to seek help from the Church. Your support of Karen's mission literally touches thousands of lives!

But Karen continues with her other job and thus your support continues to impact also very specific lives. As the bursar at St. Anne Girls' Senior School, she acts as the accountant and oversees food supplies. She is enjoying being around the students daily while taking part in decision making to help the school. There is even a plan for the few girls who most likely will not do well on the national exams to give them some technical training so they can have a trade when they leave.

Your support helps to give all the girls a chance to find employment beyond the common petty trading, small economic activities, farming and fishing. Karen is overjoyed that she can be part of this plan as she cares for and has grown close to the girls and their families, especially her "adopted Ghanaian family." This closeness makes the sacrifice of missing her three sons and one grandson more bearable. Paulina and Francis who are teachers at the school just welcomed their third child and moved into the bungalow next door. Karen says, "what a joy it is to have my Ghanaian family so close and to be able to hold a baby any time I wish. God has blessed me with this unbelievable journey I am on. I praise you, Lord, and thank you for enriching my life. I am truly Blessed!"

Indeed, God is never undone in generosity! May God bless you abundantly for your generous support of our mission in Ghana!

We would love to have you join us for a Summer Picnic!

You are invited to our **Summer Picnic** which will be at our Mission House in Los Angeles on Sunday, July 17 from 12:00 to 3:00 PM PDT.

This outdoor event is a perfect opportunity for you to hear stories from our veteran missionaries, meet the members of the LMH Board of Directors, get to know our staff, and mingle with other supporters like you. Let's have fun! If you would like to attend the Sunday Mass prior to the picnic, St. John the Evangelist Church which is next door to the Mission House has Mass in English at 10:00 AM. Lunch will be provided (delicious summer menu).

RSVP is required as space is limited. You can RSVP online www.laymissionhelpers.org/page/upcoming-events, phone 213-368-1870, or email info@laymissionhelpers.org. The RSVP deadline is July 10th. Do not wait, RSVP now!



JOIN US FOR OUR



SUMMER PICNIC

LUNCH IS PROVIDED

SUNDAY, JULY 17TH, 12:00 PM



COME HUNGRY AND READY TO HAVE FUN!

RSVP by July 10th
Call 213-368-1870, Email info@laymissionhelpers.org
or on our website on the Upcoming Events tab

6102 S. VICTORIA AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90043
WWW.LAYMISSIONHELPERS.ORG

You are also invited to the Virtual Rose Gala in the Fall

On the Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, October 1, 2022, at 5:00 PM PDT, we will hold virtually our annual Rose Gala, and **you are our guest of honor!**

From the comfort of your home, you will learn about the impact your support has on mission communities, meet new candidates, witness the award ceremony for an LMH friend and supporter Sr. Gretchen Hailer, RSHM and a veteran LMH

missionary Joyce Alpaugh, and so much more!

There also will be an online silent auction with attractive travel opportunities, unique mission art, gift cards, and other items.

We count on your support! For more information about the Gala, this year's honorees, and how to support it, visit our gala webpage at www.laymissionhelpers.org/gala.



VIRTUAL

Rose Gala

Friends of Mission

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 1, 2022

5:00-6:00 PM PDT



••• HONORING •••



SR. GRETCHEN HAILER, RSHM
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary,
LMH Board Member, Media and Catechetical
Consultant, Former Communications
Director, Author and Speaker

JOYCE ALPAUGH
A veteran Lay Mission-Helper
(Cameroon), LMH Bookkeeper,
LMH Legacy Society Member
and Monthly Supporter



For more information, visit: www.laymissionhelpers.org/gala