

KM couple called to serve in Honduras

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it to the least of these my brethren, ye have done it into me." Matthew 25:40

"The Lord burdened our hearts nearly nine years ago and we said "send us" and Chris and I began leading our Mission Readiness groups from First Baptist Church to work with us in Honduras," said Donna Myers Keeter.

Mrs. Keeter said the Honduras mission is an outreach effort of the local church which sends teams to work with Donna and Chris Keeter at 10 mission churches. "The two feeding centers where we feed 130 kids at First Baptist Church in San Ignacio is one of the big projects now and we work with Pastor Alex and his wife," said Chris. The Keeters are currently at home in Kings Mountain visiting churches in support of the many who are needy in Honduras. "It's a calling for us," said Donna, adding, "It was a step in faith."

Chris Keeter, son of Suzie Keeter of Grover and the late Tommy Keeter, was first to go to Honduras with a youth group in 2004 and fell in love with the people. Donna, daughter of Bob and Martha Myers of Kings Mountain, was working in Charlotte and joined Chris and she too fell in love with the people of Honduras. The headquarters for the mission experience is First Baptist Church of San Ignacio, taking its name from First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain whose Missionary Readiness Program has become an extension of the Honduras church. The Keeters work out of the San Ignacio church, working with short-term mission groups from this area to Honduras, and say that because the Honduran people speak Spanish that has never been a barrier to their work. Donna says that Pastor Alex Gudoy speaks English fluently.

The Feeding Center at San Ignacio is a big project where children are fed and involved in Bible study and games. Donna is currently working on a Christmas project, collecting items and filling "Jesus bags" with Christmas presents for 800 children. "This is a big event for the children and local people have always been generous," she said.

A Day Care program was started at San Ignacio in 2007 and attendance is growing every year. It is an outreach program to the village and prepares the children for school.

Another Feeding Center is an active place for 50 or more children in Naranjal where the pastor's wife and women of the church lead the program. Pastor Alex leads a pastor training session every other month and 12 pastors from different churches in the villages, including the pastors in the mission churches, attend to better understand the Bible so they can return to their churches and disciple their people. This group of new pastors will be graduating in December.

Local churches that the Keeters work with include First Baptist Church, Kings Mountain; First Wesleyan Church, Bessemer City; Westview Baptist Church, Shelby; New Hope Baptist Church, Earl; First Baptist Church, Grover; Bethany Baptist Church, Blacksburg, SC and West Franklin Baptist Church in Gastonia. Mission churches include the home base church First Baptist Church, San Ignacio; La Esperanza; Neuva Esperanza; Uruttia Baptist; Naranjal San Jose; Naranjal San Antonio; Aqua Blanca; El Escano; Guayma and Montaña de la Flor- Tolupan Indian Project.



Chris and Donna Keeter are pictured with Pastor Alex Dudoy and wife, Delmy and their daughters, Emy, 7, and Aly, 3, at First Baptist Church, San Ignacio, Honduras.

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Donna Keeter is pictured with Hermita, one of the winners of a scholarship that provides his school uniforms, school supplies, healthcare and food for the family.



The Feeding Center is a popular area at First Baptist Church in San Ignacio, Honduras.



Youth of First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain went to Honduras on a mission trip and helped with Bible School and building projects.



The children are all smiles in Honduras when they receive Christmas bags. Some 800 "Jesus" bags are being packed to send to Honduras and the Keeters are collecting gift items from area people.

Mount Olive Baptist food ministry

Mount Olive Baptist Church's food ministry in the Compact Community began in 2006 with a handful of volunteers and now feeds more than 70 people at the church and provides meals on wheels to 64 shut-ins every Wednesday from 12 noon until 1 p.m.

"They are coming, God told us to feed the hungry and our door is open," said Mary Grier, chairman of the ministry. She said the food pantry is stocked from donations from the public and from church members.

A kitchen committee meets at the church to prepare the Wednesday meals. Volunteers are welcome. The church turns no one away. No questions are asked, there is no cost.

The church has also extended its food ministry with Second Harvest and there's a big giveaway once a month, the last Saturday in each month from 12 noon until 3 p.m. and over 200 families shop from a u-shape type grocery store and select the foods they like to eat - from meats to canned goods, cereal, pasta, soft drinks, etc. It's a unique service that the church provides because some foodstuffs are wasted if the items are placed in boxes and a family doesn't like something or because of health reasons can't eat certain foods. Second Harvest requires that families visiting the church's grocery store for the first time fill out an application.

"We learned about Second Harvest when we were at Washington Baptist Church in Waco," said the pastor, Rev. Charles Grier, adding, "This is a wonderful way to heed God's call to feed the hungry and everything is free to the people who come the last Saturday in the month and the people who come to the church to eat on Wednesdays."



Mary Grier, left, Audrey Webber, and Rev. Charles Webber are proud of Mount Olive Baptist Church's food ministry.

The church is looking for more volunteers and a pickup truck or larger box vehicle to transport the Second Harvest food from Charlotte. "Our van is too small to handle all the

See MOUNT OLIVE 9A

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