

# Villanova Engineering Mission Trip

to

Amigos de Jesus  
A Home for Boys

in

San Jose de Las Colinas, Honduras

Saturday, March, 1, 2008

To

Saturday, March 8, 2008

A Personal Reflection Journal for

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*This collection of questions is designed to help you reflect as you embark on this incredible journey. Each page provides questions for a given day of the trip. There are also questions that should be filled out a few weeks before the trip and a few weeks after the trip, respectively. You need not follow a specific format; the questions are merely designed to stimulate thought. What you write is for your own personal benefit; these booklets will not be collected at the end of the trip. You may wish to transcribe the questions into another location if you are already keeping a personal journal. Whatever the case, reflecting on your experience, before, after, and most importantly while you are in Honduras, will help you get the most out of this journey. Happy writing.....*

- Dave and Shawn  
(Dr. D and Dr. G)

## **Pre-Trip Reflections**

Why are you going on this trip?

What do you hope to get out of this experience?

What was the reaction of your friends and family when you first told them of this adventure?

What do you think you will miss the most about "home" while you are in Honduras?

What is your biggest fear or apprehension about the week that you will spend in Honduras?

What are you most looking forward to while you will be in Honduras?

If you have not been on a mission trip to Amigos de Jesus before, what do you think a typical day will be like? If you have been to Amigos de Jesus before, what do you think will make this trip different compared to your previous trip(s)? Is there anything special you are looking to accomplish?

What do you think is the most important aspect of the trip for Drs. Dinehart and Gross?

How aware are you of the current state of international affairs? Did you consider this state prior to making your decision to leave the US?

## **Sunday**

The bus ride from San Pedro Sula to Amigos de Jesus was the beginning of your Honduran journey. What images from the ride stand out the most in your mind?

## **Monday**

You have had a day to take in the sights, the sounds, and the people of this world. Perhaps you went to town, or perhaps you got to know the children and staff at the orphanage better. What do you see as the primary differences between these people and yourself? What do you see as the primary similarities?

"Home" might be one of the last things on your mind, but for many of those that you have left behind for the week, whether parents, friends, spouses, children, or significant others, you are surely close by in their mind. What would those closest to you think if they could see you now?

## **Tuesday**

Many things make Amigos de Jesus special, but above all else, are the children. Which child has made the greatest impression on you so far? Why?

One of the most significant aspects of the trip is clearly the group dynamic that develops among those of us placed in a foreign land for a week. You have had an incredible opportunity to meet people, build new friendships, and learn more about those that you have embarked on this journey with. What one member of the group, that you did not know "well" before the trip, has made the biggest impression on you?



**Wednesday**

What has been the funniest moment of the trip in your mind so far?

What has made your heart break?

## **Thursday**

Based on your experiences this week, how will your daily life be altered when you return home?

How will this experience make you a better engineer?

## **Friday**

Your work here this week has been significant. We did, after all, come here under the premise of contributing physical labor and engineering knowledge to help the children of Amigos de Jesus. How do you think that this week's worth of work will impact the people here after you leave tomorrow?

What do you think Amigos de Jesus will look like 10 – 20 years from now? Will there be a significant change on this region?

Where do you think future Villanova students can have the most important impact?

## **Saturday**

The week has wound to a close, and you have hopefully had an incredible and memorable journey. Describe the sense of accomplishment that you have for both yourself and the group.

## **Post-Trip Reflections**

After a day or so in Honduras, you reflected on the differences and similarities between the local Hondurans and yourself. Now that you have been home for awhile, look back at your previous answer. After spending a full week and some time at home now, how do you feel your answer would change (if at all)?

What one thing do you miss the most about Amigos de Jesus?

## **Additional Post-Trip Reflections**

**2008**

