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## THE POWER OF A MOMENT

By Director Ed Shonkwiler

As I experienced the effects of a wind gusting up to 80 miles per hour, I was reminded of Jesus' statement to Nicodemus: "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." *John 3:8*

Prayer Plan Missions uses the Wild Goose as our symbol for the Holy Spirit, following Him closely, looking and listening for His leading. Like the wind, the Holy Spirit is a force both unseen and undeniable. It roars in the storm and whispers through the stillness. Some ignore it, some fear it, but others—like PPM—desire to embrace and experience the power of these life-changing moments.

While with a team in Honduras in February, we encountered this movement of the Holy Spirit in ways that could only be described as moments carried on the wind. The presence of God was undeniable—stirring hearts, changing lives, and revealing to each member that this was a divine moment and their divine appointment. My wife called it "powerfully anointed".

During the week, we witnessed two people surrendering their lives to Christ and being baptized, their



"Twenty years ago Ryan Holland recruited me in the Marines, and now 20 years later we have been reunited and he 'recruited' me to open my heart to Jesus!"

~Brittney Brummet. center, Journal Entry



old lives washed away as they stepped into the fresh wind of new beginnings. And in a beautiful, unexpected moment, a man proposed to the woman he loved, marking the start of a new journey together. These moments, along with others, were more than just events—they were glimpses of the power of the Holy Spirit.

So what if we could capture one moment—just one? Would it be a memory from the past, held close, or a fleeting instant still waiting to unfold? What if that moment wasn't behind you but still ahead of you?

Life is not measured in years but in moments—brief, passing, and powerful. And like the wind, these moments come and go in an in-

stant, offering opportunities that, once missed, may never return. The Apostle Paul urged the church in Ephesus to make the most of every opportunity—every moment, to recognize the divine appointments hidden within the ordinary. Because some moments define us. Some moments change everything.

The Spirit moves like the wind—unseen, unpredictable, and yet undeniably powerful. He stirs the heart, awakens the soul, and leads those who are willing to follow. Just as the wind cannot be contained or controlled, the Spirit moves according to the will of God, guiding, refreshing, and sometimes shaking us out of our comfort. Those who are open to the Spirit's movement will find themselves propelled into the fullness of God's purpose.

Think about the moments in your life—the ones you've seized, the ones you've missed, and the ones that changed everything. What if your next defining moment is right in front of you, waiting for you to step into it?

Maybe God is calling you to something new, something unknown, something that requires faith. Maybe the Spirit is stirring your heart, nudging you toward an opportunity, a conversation, or a step of obedience. Will you ignore it, fight against it, or move with it?

Like the wind, the Spirit is always moving. The question is: Are you ready to move with Him?

Don't let the moment pass. Lean in. Listen. Let the wind of the Spirit carry you where He leads. Because when you do, you may just find yourself in a moment that changes everything, FOREVER!

Ed

Live Full! Die Empty!

## Diverse Team—Unified Purpose

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When Ryan Holland visited Honduras last year, a vision seized him and wouldn't let go. He posted on Facebook and spread his dream to friends far and wide. In the end he gathered more than 20 folks, many strangers to each other, and led them to a school in the little village of La Campa to build a *comedor*—a dining area—where the moms can take turns cooking lunch and the children can gather and eat at tables under a shelter.

A varied group including Lexington, Kentucky police and firefighters, a family from Virginia and children from the school worked together to flatten the floor, sift the sand, mix and haul the concrete, build the walls, and raise the rafters.



# Celebratory Meal in Completed La Campa Comedor

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Team leader Ryan Holland wrote a post about his experience in leading this team. Here are excerpts:

“...I struggled with adequacy. Was I spiritually prepared to lead a group of friends, co-workers, and complete strangers? I knew [we could] complete the [physical] projects, but could I make a spiritual impact? [But] every day God showed up, even bigger than the day before!”

Ryan’s post told about his sharing with two team members about God’s love and His desire to have a relationship with them, and both accepted Christ and were baptized. [See p.1] Then he continued.

“All week we talked about being vulnerable and when we feel inadequate to just trust that God will use the right people at the right time and He will guide us through every step of His plan!”

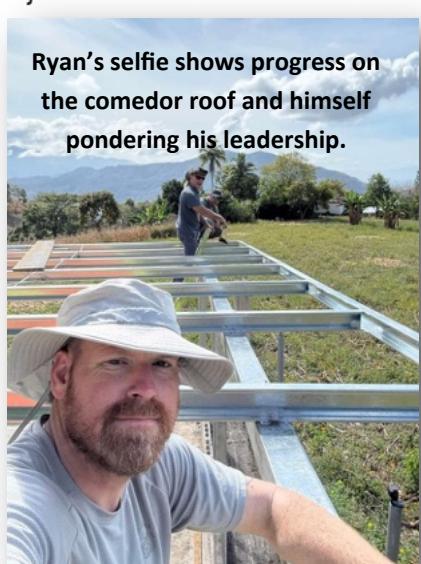
Then he ended with a confession, an intention, and a challenge: “So many times because of the feeling of inadequacy, I’ve hesitated to share the Good News or to just stop and pray for someone. Sometimes waiting until someone is at the end of their time here on earth [which means] they miss the joys and blessings of spending their life with an all-loving God. I



will no longer let those fears and doubts hold me back. I challenge you to share His Good News. I challenge you to be vulnerable and just see what God will do.”

Larkin went home, proposed to his longtime girlfriend, and married her within a few days, putting into practice his new commitment to follow Christ.

Ryan’s selfie shows progress on the comedor roof and himself pondering his leadership.



Speaking of seizing a moment (Ed’s challenge on p. 2) this team hit the ground running and filled 96 widow bags of provisions in 17 minutes! A record for sure!

# One Hundred Ribbon Skirts

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Beckie Langston (middle in photo) had an idea. She and her husband have planted The Peaks Church, a multi-ethnic congregation in the mountains of North Carolina, at the edge of the Cherokee reservation. One of the cultural things Beckie learned was the pride the Cherokee women have in wearing ribbon skirts to celebrate their heritage. What if she could get those women to make enough skirts to give one to each of the widows in PPM's outreach? Posting the idea on Facebook, she soon began receiving skirts in the mail, and Jennifer (right in photo), whose husband is Cherokee, organized a class for those who wished to learn how to make them. It took almost a year, but the project was a success, the skirts were shipped to Honduras, and a team was formed to deliver them to the women during the March distribution of basic provisions.

Sometimes in large groups, sometimes individually, the story of the skirts' importance in Cherokee pride was told, the widows giggled as they looked for the color, size, and skirt length they preferred, and tried them on over their clothes. Clothes shopping is a rare privilege!

A quick research online for "ribbon skirts for sale" revealed the monetary value ranges from \$50—\$200 or more, so the skirts represent some major generosity from the tribe to these widows. Beyond that, it was a beautiful sharing from one culture to another. The ladies are planning to wear these special gifts to the May Mother's Day celebration! They can hardly wait!



## A Message from Acts 9

When this team came to El Tamboral, a village PPM is reaching out to for the first time, the widows there only knew they were going to receive some basic food supplies. No one had shared with them the surprise gift that was going to be included. The ladies were gathered in the dirt courtyard where they typically hold worship services. After introductions, the pastor asked if he could share a few words. He opened his Bible to Acts 9 and began reading the story of Dorcas and how her friends were showing Peter all the beautiful things she had made for them. The team got goosebumps thinking how relevant the story was to what the ladies were about to receive! A few hours later, as the team joined the Chaguitillos youth meeting, the sermon was again on this passage! Talk about goosebumps! And this time the exhortation to the young people was to be mindful of older people, caring for them and showing love. It was a blessing to hear that our example of caring for the widows is being seen and heard by the villagers.

# Special Moments

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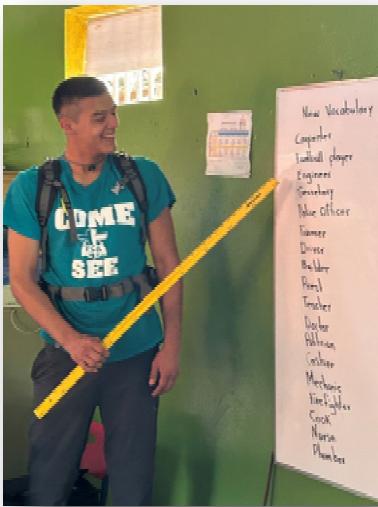


**Clockwise:** Pastor Aaron prays with 100-year-old Cecilia, Sandra prays with a distraught widow, a widow prays for the team, Cherokee Ethan demonstrates that real men can make tortillas, a toddler learns the joy of bubbles, a 79-year-old widow exclaims over the clever invention of a bedside commode, teens rejoice over pencil packs full of school supplies, and a child prays before a meal.



# Don't Neglect to Do Good

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Jimmy Pinell was reading Hebrews 13:16—**Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have with others, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God**—and had this reflection on the passage: We are not supposed to be like a lagoon where the water flows in but doesn't flow out. We are to be like a river, letting the blessings that flow into us from God, flow out of us to others. These photos show some of the ways the team from North Carolina did just that. High school senior James helped with an English lesson for the secondary students at the Saturday school. He and the other Cherokee guys moved 2000 blocks, one pickup load of 120 at a time, to the Finca del Padre where they will be used to build a caretaker house. A First Aid kit was delivered to the school in Colmenas just in time to care for this little one who had fallen and badly skinned her shoulder. And a pregnancy clinic in North Carolina donated their \$40K ultrasound machine to PPM's little clinic in Chaguitillos

where Beckie and nurse Donna trained nurse Jenny in its use and our Casa de Charlie neighbor was able to see her baby. Doing good as God provides the resources.



## Philosophy of Ministry and Contact Information

This ministry is called Prayer Plan Missions because we seek to do all our ministry through prayer and faith. God promised to supply all our needs as believers if we would totally trust Him. We do not borrow money because **we want God to be our Banker**. We do not ask for funds because **we want God to be our Source**. Yes, funds are needed to do missions, but we thank God that all giving has come from concerned people whom the Holy Spirit has impressed to give. **If God impresses you through prayer to give**, you can donate online at [ppmissions.org](http://ppmissions.org) or your check may be sent to the **Ministry Address** :

Prayer Plan Missions  
800 Ten Boom Lane, Xenia, Ohio 45385

To contact Director Ed Shonkwiler  
For Trip Plans: Carol Lynne: 937 231 3525

For Financial Questions: Pam Cook  
[www.ppmissions.org](http://www.ppmissions.org) Facebook

[ed4unc2002@yahoo.com](mailto:ed4unc2002@yahoo.com)  
[clynneusher@yahoo.com](mailto:clynneusher@yahoo.com)  
[ppmtreasurer2@yahoo.com](mailto:ppmtreasurer2@yahoo.com)

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