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Felecia Datus
Andrews University

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A Hunger For More

BY FELECIA DATUS

In December 2015, more than three dozen students and faculty from Andrews University traveled to Honduras to conduct a day camp for the children of Santa Barbara. The eleven-day trip also centered on spending meaningful time with the youngsters who lived at the Hogar de Ninos (Home for Children). Near to the end of the mission trip, what had begun half an hour before as a quick trip to the town's center for ginger ale, quickly morphed into a blatant battle between spiritual forces.

"After worship that Sunday evening, the bus took most of the group back to the house, but seven of us, including [Glenn] Russell, drove on to find a corner store," Gabi Passos recalled. The ride was jovial and filled with laughter. Then suddenly, a woman on the sidewalk arrested their attention. The laughing in the van died down instantly as they slowly drove past the woman with



Andrews students in Honduras, including some who witnessed to Irmarosa.

became trance-like, Emory Dent, another student at the table began to pray. Irmarosa abruptly stood up and stormed out of the restaurant. Gabi, Dwagne and a group leader, Eliana Iller, followed, beckoning her to return.

The girls eventually caught up to Irmarosa. "Do you want to come back with us?" Eliana asked. Irmarosa slowly turned around to

stained and ripped clothes, digging through a trash bin. Andrews University Religion professor Glenn Russell parked the van and suggested they invite the lady for dinner.

They ordered drinks and, while they waited for the meal, Gabi engaged the woman in dialogue. "We're students working at the Hogar. Do you know where it is?" "Yes," the woman responded. "I have a son there." Turns out they had run into the mother of a little boy with whom they were laughing, eating and playing with just earlier. Irmarosa told the group of how difficult life had been for her and her eight children. When it was discovered that her young children were roaming the streets begging, the youngest were taken from her and placed at the children's home.

Suddenly, her demeanor transformed. "She got fidgety and began toying with the drink bags on the table," Dwagne Haskins said. As her body became rigid and her stare

head back toward the restaurant.

Back in the restaurant, as Irmarosa ate ravenously, ironically the "Hunger Games" was on. Emory prayed that the TV would go off and instantly power went out over the city. Now plunged in utter darkness, fear that had once gripped the missionaries was replaced with peace and unseen light.

Russell paid the restaurant owners extra and instructed them to feed Irmarosa, whose countenance was now marked with tranquility. She was smiling and conversing with everyone. Gabi took off the blouse she was wearing and gave it to the beaming woman. She finished her meal and thanked the group. As the student missionaries watched, Irmarosa walked out into the gently falling rain and disappeared.

Felecia Datus, is a graduate student in the Department of Visual Art, Communication and Design at Andrews University, and participated in the mission trip to Honduras.