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Helping Hands in Honduras

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Helping Hands in Honduras

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

“God knows what He is doing. In your weakness, He is going to be strong,” says Elkid Alvarez, an education major at Andrews University. She went on her first-ever mission trip to Honduras last December. The ten-day trip proved more than Elkid could have hoped for.



Elkid Alvarez and friends

One weekend in late September, during Youth Sabbath at a local Spanish church, Elkid was impressed to be a missionary during Christmas break. With just several days to decide, no passport and limited funds, she stepped out in faith and signed up for the Honduras trip.

After much prayer, donation letters were sent to her church family, who “really came through,” Elkid recalls. Responses poured in, and she raised 100 percent of the needed funds in almost no time. Not only that but, just two weeks before leaving, Elkid received a new passport free-of-charge.

“Little things along the way reaffirmed my decision to go,” she claims. “God finished the rest.”

In Honduras, Elkid spent her days with the local children and the 25 or so young adults she came with. The group ran a friendship camp and taught five Bible classes each day. Elkid translated these lessons into Spanish. The group also worked to improve the plumbing at a local orphanage, cleaned out roof gutters and served in a soup kitchen. Elkid says she’ll never forget the experience and the lifelong friendships made with her group and children along the way.

“It was the scariest and funnest thing to let go and let God,” she says. “I learned more along the way than I expected. ... Humans were indeed meant to reach out and help one another.”

Currently, Elkid and several others from the trip are in the early stages of a project for the people they met. The missionaries are contemplating ideas to solve the plumbing/water issues in the community they visited.

Her mission work doesn’t stop there. Elkid continues her ministry as a leader at One Place Sabbath school at Andrews. In the summers, she works with kids at Camp Wakonda as a girls’ counselor and ceramics teacher.

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she is majoring in physical therapy at Andrews University.

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