

# Peter & Maileen SIMPSON

October 2007

## *Too many new kids in youth group*

*written July 25*

During the years we have been ministering to the youth of the Bethel Church, we have always encouraged them to love their friends and invite them to a restored relationship with God. This has had mixed results. Many of the kids just don't feel confident enough to bring people to our church meetings.

It seems that God was tired of waiting for the invitations, so He brought new kids to us. During the past few months, 20 new youth have come into our influence from two unexpected places.

In January, a children's home that houses 27 kids from newborns to teenagers moved to a village just outside of Siguatepeque. The administrators of the home hired one of our youth leaders and she arranged for the teenagers to visit our Saturday night meeting. They really enjoyed it and have continued to attend our church.



The other new youth are students from a forestry school in our city. One of the students grew up in our church but had yet to come to youth group. She brought about 10 of her classmates with her.

What a blessing!?

Well...not for everyone. Unexpectedly, many of the kids who have been a part of our group for a long time are not too thrilled about the new people. From what we have been able to gather, they are a bit jealous of the attention that the new kids are getting. (Perhaps this gives us insight into the difficulty of motivating our kids to reach out to others.)



So, over the past month and a half, we have made an extra effort to be sure the "old" kids have had some extra attention. We have had them in our home and have spent extra time with them on the ball court.

*written October 8*

After a little family vacation, we came back to Siguatepeque to find many discouraged youth, both among the leadership and the rest of the group. Many were complaining about how the youth activities were run in our absence. Others were pointing out problems with the youth leadership team. Yet others were complaining about the music. (It was a nice welcome home!?)

So, we decided to use our first youth group meeting to have a "family" discussion. Fortunately, the kids from the children's home had another activity and, unfortunately, the students from the forestry school had quit attending. So, we sat down with just the "old" kids and had a good conversation. All of them expressed their opinions in a brief survey that we used to break the ice; then several openly shared their concerns in the discussion that followed. It is a good beginning. We will need several more conversations, although just allowing the kids to express themselves has begun important changes. This past Saturday, I sensed a spirit of love among all who were present.

**Please pray that we will have the wisdom and love necessary to make changes—changes in ourselves and changes in our strategies.**

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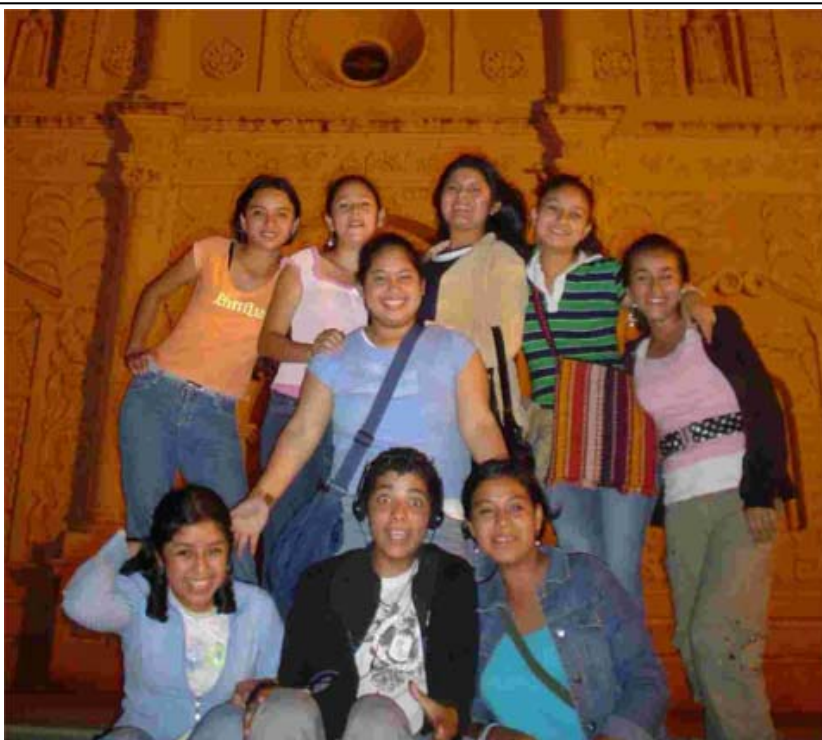
On Tuesdays, I [Peter] meet with a group of guys who are members of our youth ministry leadership team. We talk about what is going on in our lives, what challenges us, what troubles us and what God's Word has to say about it. Then, we pray together.

On Wednesdays, Maileen meets with two young professionals and two high school girls. They talk about their lives, eat dinner together, laugh a lot, and are currently studying the book of John.

Please pray for these young people. Although it seems that they all want to live the life God desires for them, many have had difficulty coming alongside us to study the Bible.



## Developing Youth to Become Disciples of Christ



Some of the kids from the Bethel Church Youth Group in front of the cathedral in the city of Comayagua

While under Spanish rule, it was the capitol of Honduras. It is a beautiful city full of colonial architecture and museums.

Back (L to R): Vivian, Rosela, Nancy, Nury, Cesia, Merary  
Front: Ana Ruth, Lester, Becky

### SOME OTHER WAYS TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH US

#### Blog:

<http://peter-maileen-simpson.blogspot.com>

#### Facebook:

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*(You'll have to look for me among all the Peter Simpson's.)*  
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