

Final Frontiers Foundation, Inc.

**1200 Peachtree St.
Louisville, GA 30434**

Phone: 912-625-9050 / 800-522-4324 Fax: 912-625-9996

Website: <http://www.finalfrontiers.org>

**On
Location:**

The Crisis in Honduras

**A special report by
Jon Nelms**

November 29, 1998

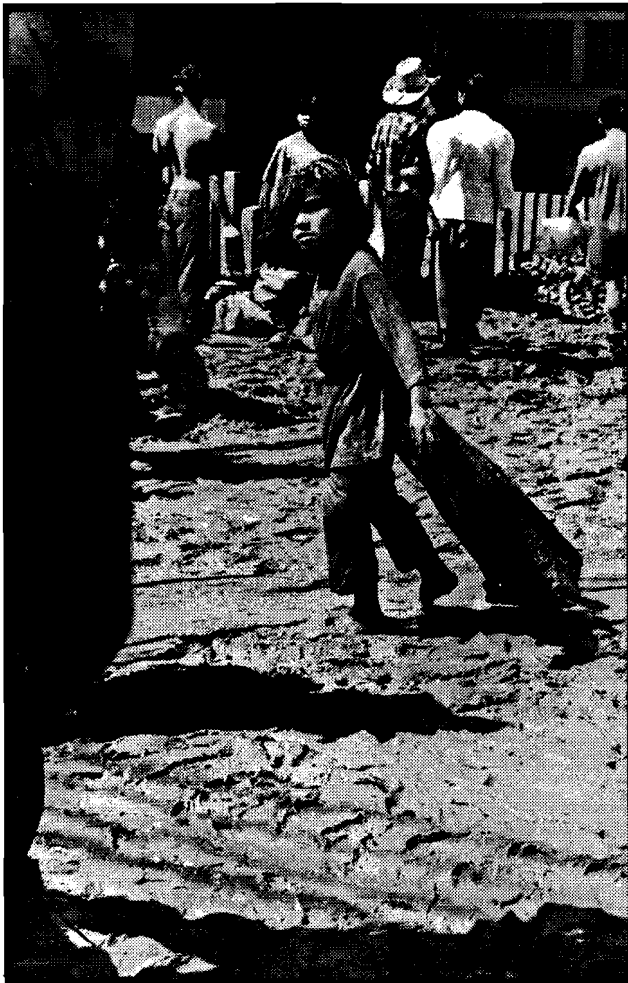
To all our *Progress Report* readers:

I have witnessed destruction before. I have seen buildings that have been torn by bombs, hillsides riddled by mortar shells, and heavy machinery twisted by the force of sheer power; but I have never been a soldier.

I have witnessed despair in my life. I have seen lines of peoples fleeing from their homes in such numbers that they appear to be trails of ants. I have seen children begging for food and rummaging through garbage heaps, men who have lost their entire families being driven to the brink of insanity, and women who are forced to sell their bodies for enough food to survive for another day; but I have never been a relief worker.

I have witnessed death as well. I have seen bodies burned on the shores of the Ganges River, people on the roofs of their homes being carried out to sea during a monsoon in Vietnam, corpses bloating in the hot sun on roadsides, swollen bellies of malaria victims in bamboo huts, and mangled limbs with their bones protruding in Nicaragua: but I have never been a doctor.

I am just a Christian. And most everything that I have listed above, irregardless of the location, I have also seen here in Honduras, in the past



Her only possession a plastic bag, this little girl wanders the muddy streets virtually unnoticed, looking for something of value to salvage and sell for today's food.

thirty days.

As I read the Bible and understand it, my job and my responsibility, is to do all I can to glorify Christ on this earth, and to see to it that everyone has the opportunity to hear the Good News of His salvation. Taking that task literally has led to the formation of this foundation, which at its core, seeks to accomplish these goals by assisting national preachers to reach their *own* countrymen with the Gospel.

In an ever-expanding effort of accountability, I have been privileged to travel around the world for the last twelve years; seeing and enduring what in my earlier years, I had never dreamed existed or perceived possible. I have endeavored to share these experiences with you, our readers and supporters in our monthly *Progress Report*. You too have shared in our burden, our successes and our heartbreaks. We have become a team, united by a single purpose.

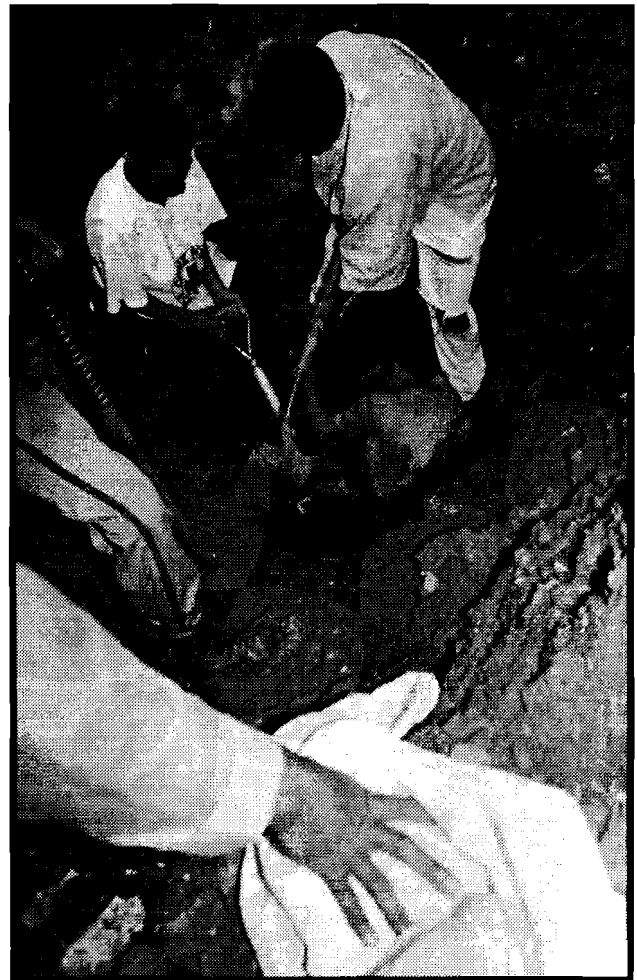
The continued success of this team required an increase in our efforts, further expanding the scope of our ministry. Different men stepped forward to take responsibilities for different areas of the world; Asia, Europe, and Africa. Being no longer a necessary figurehead at our home office, more than a year ago, our Executive Board approved for my family to base our share of the work out of our Latin America office in Honduras. It is there that I have labored to increase the number and quality of preachers that we are now supporting in this region. Of course I have frequent trips to the States, and am in daily contact with our office staff and Regional Coordinators, via the internet.

As a result of being a Honduran resident, my family has lived through what most of the media in the States has forgotten about, which is the fourth worst hurricane in recorded history. By now, you are probably tired of hearing about it, after all, life goes on. Yet the people here still endure and suffer the consequences of the storm. My family has not been dramatically effected. We live uphill, and therefore were not touched by the rivers that swelled more than sixty feet above their normal levels. Our power has only been out a small amount, and though we have not had water for more than five weeks, we are able to purchase it one truck load at a time. The curfews and every-other-day driving is a nuisance that we tolerate, and certainly makes work difficult, but after all, we can't complain, because our car, unlike others, was not covered in mud.

My purpose for the change in reporting style this month, is to concentrate all our efforts on the opportunity to help these people, and most importantly, the pastors and brethren that are in need. It is a biblical command that we are to do good to all men, *"especially those of the household of faith"*.

Not a day goes by it seems, that I don't witness

Red Cross workers dig out the body of a man who appears to have died in a standing position, drowned in mud.



more rotting bodies being dug out of ten foot deep mud, or from the debris of a landslide. On most every street corner it seems, are a growing number of beggars. Things have changed. In the past, as you would sit to eat at a roadside table, a beggar may ask for a small amount of money; now they ask for your table scraps. The other day as I ended a meal, a little boy and girl actually asked if they could have the bones of a fish I had just finished. Last night as I was rushing to get home before the curfew, I saw an entire family picking through a trash can in our community, looking for some small scrap to eat. The people are desperate. There seems to be no end to the suffering:

- More than 1,000,000 people are homeless (that's one out of every 6.5 people in the country)...
- More than 10,000 bodies have been recovered...
- More than 11,000 bodies are still unaccounted for and presumed dead...
- Entire towns have literally disappeared...
- More than 70% of the nation's agriculture has been destroyed...
- And now what I feared, is becoming a reality. Because of the lack of pure water and sanitation, epidemics are beginning to spread. Already in one area in the south, several communities have been quarantined due to an outbreak of cholera. Unless it is checked, this will spread like a forest fire, and could be followed by malaria, typhoid, hepatitis and other killers.

Money is not the answer to every problem, but it does help. After all, food cost money, medicine cost money, aid cost money. In the book of James, we are told to be wary of being the kind of Christians who, upon viewing the suffering of others say, *"God bless you, be warmed and filled"*, while all the while doing nothing to warm and fill the sufferer, though it is in our ability to do so. It is to this common attitude of affluent, non-spiritual Believers, that the Holy Spirit confronts us with the biblical reality that *"faith without works is dead"*.

Prayer is a part of the answer to all problems. *"In everything"* the scripture tells us, *"let your requests be made known by prayer and supplication"*. We have been praying, as have many of you, and we will continue to pray, as will many of you; but I am going to also ask you to give. We have not had contact with some of the preachers we support due to roads being cut off and the difficulty in travel. To my



Police, firemen, neighbors and family members - those who survived, pick through the remains of their former homes and businesses, looking for something to salvage, looking for loved ones to bury.

knowledge, every preacher we support in Honduras is safe and well, that being due to the mission with whom they are associated. But there are others with whom I have made contact and are trying to assist, that we have been cut off from, at least temporarily. We need funds to help them. They need funds to help their church members. The church members need funds to help their neighbors.

I am not asking you to give to some over-bloated bureaucracy that will consume large percentages of your gift on "operational causes". I don't need to fly down a plane load of supplies. I don't need to ship containers of medicine. Food, medicine, and clothes for the most part, can be purchased here. What I am asking for are funds to give *directly* into the hands of pastors and people that I personally know or meet; observe and interview; and determine they are truly in need. Funds will be distributed primarily through myself or pastors, who know the recipient and can vouch for their need. Can you imagine the influence this pastor will then have when witnessing to this family about the love of Christ. He, with your help, has demonstrated that love in an undeniable fashion.

Time is of the essence. People are hungry. People are sick. People are dying. To date, my family has given all we had to help others. We have used our credit cards to buy food and medicine, and are providing for other families besides our own. I humbly admit to you that we have no more money to help. If we are to do more, it will be because you enable us to do so, and I pray to God that you will.

When Mitch hit, friends emailed us and asked us to return to the States for our own protection. My family never even considered such an option. This is our chosen home, and though we have a burden for the world, we have a particular burden for the Latin people. We will stay here until God moves us on, doing whatever we can do to help His cause. I hope you will do whatever you can do as well, after all, *"it is required of a steward, that a man be found faithful"*. Pray that we will continue to be faithful, and that we will bring glory to God in all we do. And please, if you can, help us. This is the time of the year more than any other, that we turn our minds towards giving. While you are considering what God gave to you in the person of His son Jesus, would you also consider giving in His name, a small gift to help those who are suffering through *the Crisis in Honduras*?

Yours for souls,

Jon Nelms

Tegucigalpa,
Honduras



This man, and more than 20,000 others, woke up that morning not expecting to die, but they did. Life is short, only "a vapor of smoke". What will you accomplish with yours?

Here's How You Can Help Right Away...

Next month, we will share an incredible story with you on the background of the starting of our 10,000th church. I know this will be a blessing, as it will be authored by three different national preachers. In that issue, I will also give you an update regarding our situation here in Honduras, and the results of your response.

In the mean time, the question is not: *What can you do to help?* You already know your financial situation which gives you the answer. The real question is: *What will you do to help?*

Our son Daniel, while working on our new website (<http://www.finalfrontiers.org>), has uploaded an article on the conditions here, which I wrote about several weeks ago. In it are a number of pictures that will give you a greater insight to the difficulties and ministry opportunities that abound here. In the future, we will feature our *Progress Report* on-line, with color photographs, biographies on preachers needing help, our orphan work, etc. The site is still "under construction".

To be able to help expedite your support for preachers and at this moment, for the Honduras Crisis, we have arranged to be able to receive immediate donations through the use of your Visa and MasterCard credit cards. I encourage those of you with computers to visit our website, and if you want to help, be assured that the site is secure and your private personal credit card information will be protected by state-of-the-art security programming.

If you would like to be able to give an immediate gift, but don't have a computer, give our office a call, and ask to speak to Judy. She can take your information over the phone and process your credit card gift immediately. (1-800-522-4324)

The enclosed envelope has been provided for those of you who want to help by check in the traditional manner, please rush your assistance to:

**Final Frontiers Foundation, Inc.
1200 Peachtree St.
Louisville, GA 30434**

(Attention: Honduras Crisis)

Enclosed is my donation for:

The Crisis in Honduras Amount \$ _____

My regular support for:

My national preacher (name) _____ \$ _____

My TEAM fund (which country) _____ \$ _____

My *Child Care* orphan (name) _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____
