

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin Sends Mission Team to Talanga, in February, 2008

On Sunday, February 17th, the 6-person mission team from the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin traveled to Tegucigalpa and on to Talanga where they conducted a 4-day construction project. Hosted by Pastor Luis Soto, the team worked on laying the brick foundation for the walkway that surrounds the parsonage at Talanga Central. Work on the new parsonage, as is usual with construction projects, included carrying bricks, laying bricks, sifting sand, pushing wheelbarrows full of concrete and, of course, the time-honored task of mixing concrete by hand. As team leader, Jeff McClellan put it, "Our group spent four days of hard manual labor, but, boy, did we love it!" Jeff reports that the parsonage construction is about 70% complete. The team was guided in their daily construction activities by the local site foreman, Moricio. A small local workforce worked with the team. The team enjoyed the wonderful hospitality, generosity, and the love of Christ that was shared with them by the congregation of the Talanga Central Church. They stayed at the mission house and also had their meals there. The team attended Sunday and Tuesday worship with the congregation and found the regular daily devotional opportunities to be inspirational. The team has hopes that the Talanga Central Church will develop a "sister-church" relationship with Whitefish Bay United Methodist and looks forward to continuing work with this congregation as it grows to become a "rock for Christ" in the community of Talanga. On Friday, 2-22, the team visited Valle de Angeles and headed back to Whitefish Bay on Saturday, 2-23.



Alyson Waeltz & Melissa Swanson prepare mezccla, the solid components of mortar



Mixing mortar takes teamwork



Pastor Luis Soto and his wife Norma



Jeff McClellan with Moricio, "the maestro"



Christina Fernandez on the job



The work team, (left to right) Alyson Waeltz, Melissa Swanson, Christina Fernandez, Moricio, Jeff McClellan, and John Wierschem; Linda Hunter is not pictured.

The team from Whitefish Bay included Christina Fernandez, Linda Hunter, Jeff McClellan, Melissa Swanson, Alyson Waeltz, and John Wierschem.