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Group returns from Honduras mission trip

J-T staff reports

A mission team from Marysville Church of the Nazarene recently returned from a trip to Honduras.

The 16-member team stayed in the capital city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Its mission was to participate in the building of a home that will become the parsonage for the Eternal Rock Church of the Nazarene in the village of Cruz Roja, about a 40-minute drive outside of Tegucigalpa.

Additionally the team engaged young people in soccer and gave soccer balls, clothing and other items to the community.

"It was a great joy to share and develop relationships with people in this impoverished village," said Pastor Paul Whiteford of the team's Jan. 11 to 19 trip.

Whiteford said Honduras has become a leading front in the war on Narco Terrorism and was featured Sunday night on "CNN Presents." Honduras is known as the "Homicide capital of the World."

"It did give us a little pause when the Peace Corps was withdrawn from the country while we were there, but we had no problems at all,"



Pastor Paul Whiteford of Marysville Church of the Nazarene receives some appreciative hugs from children in Cruz Roja, Honduras. Members of the church recently returned from a mission trip to the Central American city after helping build a home that will become the parsonage for the Eternal Rock Church of the Nazarene.

(Photo submitted)

Whiteford said. "We took prudent precautions to enhance our safety."

This was the fourth mission team that Marysville Church of the Nazarene has sent to

Honduras in the last seven years. During those seven years, the Marysville church has contributed nearly \$60,000 toward various projects in the Central American

country.

"We have fallen in love with the people of this country," Whiteford said. "Our local congregation has assisted in the building of a compassion

center where undernourished children are fed, sent funds for a library, assisted twice in the construction of the Nazarene Seminary in Tegucigalpa, and built a church near Puerto Cortez."

Whiteford said each team member paid his or her own way to go on the trip, and the church raised \$10,000 for the construction of the parsonage.

"We will very likely be planning to return to Honduras with another team in the future," Whiteford said. "It is an eye-opening experience that not only changes lives in Honduras, it changes the lives of those who go. I think everyone should have an experience like this in their lives. It sure makes you appreciate what we have here in the U.S."

Whiteford, of Marysville, acted as the team leader. Other team members were: Adam Hicks, Hannah Whiteford, Craig and Corey Elrod, Becky Eichorn and Bill Colley of Marysville; David Heizer of Ostrander; Rick and Teresa Scott of Milford Center; the Rev. Tony Robbins of Columbus; Chip, Kim and Ashley Wall of Bellefontaine; and Russ and Florence Borland of Richwood.