



## Susan serves as medical missionary to Honduras

Nurse Practitioner Susan Eastman sees her medical skills as a gift from God. "And when the Lord gives you a gift, you feel compelled to share it with those who need it most," she says.

So who are some of the most needy? The people of Honduras.

Susan joined a "Work and Witness" team through the Nazarene Church. She, along with Judy Korby, RN of Harrington, Judy's husband Mike and Susan's friend Muriel Anderson of Davenport, flew to Honduras for two weeks to dispense not only medicine, but hope to those with so little.

"People are so poor there," says Susan. "A good wage is \$5 a day *if* you can find a job. To visit a doctor costs \$10, so most people do without."

Susan's team held four medical clinics at churches in San Pedro Sula and its suburbs. "We saw between 100 and 400 people at each clinic, and they were so grateful for care. They have a lot of the same problems we have — asthma, pneumonia, ear infections, tonsillitis," says Susan, noting many problems are more chronic because of living conditions. "We saw a lot of abdominal parasites due to bad food and water. There were infections, which were helped with the medicine we took along."

Susan and Judy saw the patients and wrote the "prescriptions," while Mike and Muriel acted as pharmacists. The Nazarene Church, through donations and careful spending with a wholesale pharmacy, was able to send a good array of medications. "And Lincare donated nebulizers for asthma patients."

At the fourth and final clinic, Susan says they treated 400 patients in one day. "It's easy to do when you don't have to dictate, fill out paperwork or worry about a HIPAA violation!"

The group did do a little sight seeing and visited some Mayan ruins, but the greatest sight of all, Susan says, was her patients.

"I went to Honduras to help the warm, tenderhearted people there, and they ended up helping me," she says of the reward for sharing her medical know-how. "They showed me how to appreciate the blessings in my life and the freedoms I have."

Susan says that because of the extreme poverty, Hondurans live behind bars on their windows and walls topped with razor wire. There are armed police on every corner in the city watching for looting and gang violence. "You cannot go outside after dark."

Then, there are the "lesser" dangers, like driving.

"There are no driving rules or speed limits," Susan marvels. "They make six lane roads out of two lanes, pass on hills and curves with no lights. God really took care of us. I came home really thanking the Lord for my life here in the U.S."

So will she go back again? "In a heartbeat!"

