

Hondurans Are Starving

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and other agricultural technology and to help start a program for developing rural agricultural leaders.

How does an agricultural missionary work? This is a question that has been frequently asked of us since we have returned. Believe me, the days are long, the work is difficult.

How long are the days for an agricultural missionary in Honduras? Hondurans are anxious

to receive help. It is not uncommon for them to start arriving at the work station of the agricultural missionary by 4:30 a.m., asking for this help. They continue to come throughout the day and frequently the last of them is helped at 10 p.m. Yes, the days are long.

What makes the work so difficult? For someone without much knowledge of the native language, in this case Spanish, communications can be a problem. The intense tropical heat

and humidity also add to the discomfort. Numerous biting insects bring their special kind of pain. But to most, transportation takes first place as a difficulty. The agricultural missionary must learn to travel as the natives do. This includes walking day after day, 15 miles and more per day under the hot tropical sun. This includes riding by horseback day after day, 20 and 25 miles per day also under the same hot, tropical sun. The horse is usually saddled with a split, wooden saddle that has two vines to serve as stirrups. Another common means of travel is in a canoe made from a hollow-

ed log. Again, days and days are spent sitting cramped in these canoes traversing the slow, meandering snake and alligator infested jungle rivers.

The Rewards

But the rewards do substantially outweigh the long days and the special difficulties. The needs of the people are so great. To work with a man, teaching him how to raise vegetables for the first time knowing that what you teach him will keep his children from starving, to teach a man how to use a shovel, a new skill



Garland E. Gingerich

During the 1967-68 school year, Garland E. Gingerich was on sabbatical leave from his position of teacher of agriculture, Penn Manor High School, Millersville. During that period of time, Gingerich served as an agricultural missionary in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Central America. He served as an agricultural education adviser for a coordinated effort by three church groups to promote community development on the northern coast of Honduras.

that will help him to produce enough vegetables that for the first time in his life he will produce enough to be able to sell something at market, to make a follow-up visit to the homes of one of these men and see the good vegetable gardens they are growing for the first time in their lives and then be able to hold one of those small, starving children and know that now, because of your efforts they will have a better diet and will have a better chance at life do greatly outweigh the difficulties. Experiences like these repeated time and time again every day do soften the wooden saddles, cool the tropical sun, and shorten the long and tiring miles.

Techniques

What techniques are used to reach the people is another question that is frequently asked.

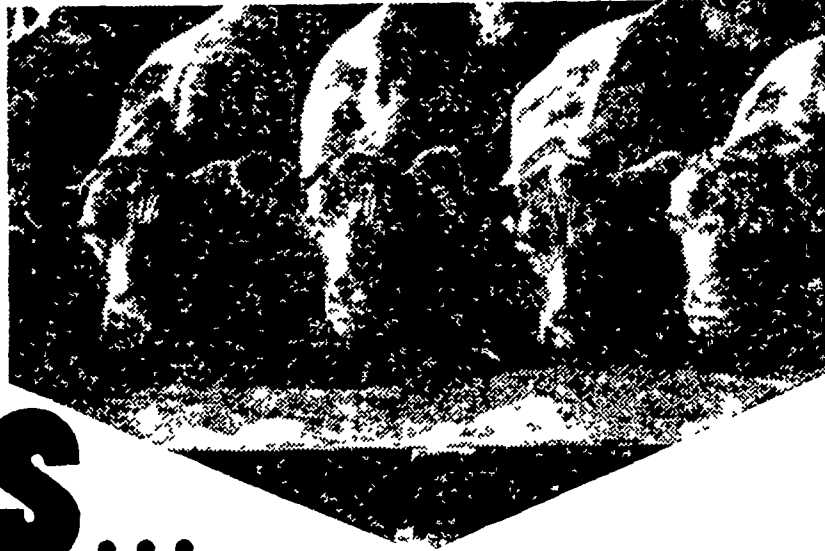
One approach to agricultural education and community development is through Caravans. A Caravan is a team of specialists sent out to villages to meet the total needs of a community and in the words of Dr. I. W. Moomaw, "Knock a village off dead center and get it moving again."

These Caravans are made up of nine people: a medical doctor with a nurse to help, a public health nurse, a dentist with a nurse as an assistant, a literacy worker, an evangelist, an agriculturist and a Christian Education worker. This team lives and works in a village for one week. During this one week each Caravan member helps organize and motivate the people in that village to start community development activities.

The medical doctor will treat 500 to 600 patients. The dentist will pull 1200 and more teeth, up to 28 from one person. The public health nurse conducts classes for the mothers of the village teaching them the importance of boiling the water, how to prepare balanced meals and how to care for newly born babies. The literacy worker uses a phonetic method of instruction can, after 45 hours of instruction, teach a number of illiterate adults how to read well enough that they are able to read a newspaper. The evangelist and Christian Education worker conduct evening prayer meetings for the village members.

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STEER FEEDERS...



PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH CATTLE GOING ON FEED

Digestive disorders and a slight transient depression in appetite in newly-arrived cattle in the feedlot have been problems for a number of years. There are numerous causes:

1. The sudden change in type of feed, for example, from grass and milk to grain, silage and/or hay and a protein supplement.
2. Too rapid pushing of grain concentrates.
3. Too much protein.
4. Not enough roughage.
5. Too much high quality roughage.
6. Unpalatable feed.
7. Too much green chopped legume or grass silage.
8. Feeding soft or immature corn. If not moldy, soft corn is satisfactory, but animals must be accustomed to it gradually (Morrison).
9. Too much green chopped corn causing green corn poisoning.
10. Too much silage fed to lighter weight calves. Calves do not have the digestive capacity to obtain their total digestible nutrients from a full feed of silage alone.
11. Digestive disorders caused by infections.
12. In Addition, in connection with supplements containing an antibiotic, there is an adjustment of the rumen microflora to the antibiotic. This may cause a slight depression in rumen function and reduce appetite for 24 to 36 hours after the initial feeding. Softer feces also may be noticed. This effect is transient and after 36 to 48 hours the appetite should be restored to normal.

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