



Missionary Air Group

Help and Hope by Air

December 2020 Ministry Update

“Partnerships Empower Honduras Hurricane Relief”

[LaCeiba, Honduras]

■ The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season was one of the most active in recent history. Even so, one might expect to experience a direct hit from a major hurricane once in a lifetime, maybe twice. Twice in two weeks would be unheard of. And yet, that’s exactly what the people of Honduras and Nicaragua experienced in the first two weeks of November.

Hurricane ETA made landfall in eastern Nicaragua and eastern Honduras on November 2 as a deadly Category 4 storm. The storm cut a north-westerly path through Nicaragua and Honduras on its way toward Guatemala and Belize, dumping 24-36 inches of rain in as many hours, washing away roads, bridges, and infrastructure. According to the UN, one of the hardest hit areas with the greatest rainfall was in the lower-lying terrain to the east, home to the Miskito people group and, providentially, to MAG’s hospital and main mission base in the village of Rus Rus.

Against the backdrop of a presidential election, the US news media had virtually no coverage of the destruction, but international aid organizations, including Missionary Air Group, along with a host of ministry partners, sprang into action immediately. Relief flights launched from the US and emergency food distribution were underway. The first plane loads arrived in Rus Rus and then, just two days into the effort, flights had to be suspended due to the approach of a second, even stronger Category 5 storm, Hurricane IOTA, that arrived on November 17 along the very same track.

With the help of US and international partners, food and supplies entered Honduras through the international airport in LaCeiba and were then staged in the villages of Rus Rus and Ahuas, in the eastern department of Gracias A Dios. From there, distribution commenced to the hardest hit villages by means of smaller aircraft, by air drop, by four-wheel drive truck, on foot, on horseback, and even by way of dugout canoes to areas still impassible due to flooding. [to page 2]



On the ramp in LaCeiba, Honduras, the team from Agape Flights unloads food sent by MAG partner, Feed the Hunger (Left photo) from the Embraer cargo plane. It was then transferred to smaller planes (Right photo) sent by another partner in Guatemala. Honduran military helped secure the food when it arrived in the village for distribution.



In some villages in the Brus Laguna area, flooding made it impossible to get supplies through by road or by plane. MAG worked with local pastors from the Honduran Moravian Church who used dugout canoes (left) to get emergency food supplies out to those in need. With all their crops washed away, it will be months before they can replant. This woman (right) receives a bag of emergency rations, enough for about 30 meals.

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The most remarkable part of the entire operation was how many different ministry organizations came together to make it happen. Within days of the first storm, a coalition had formed consisting of MAG-US, MAG-Honduras, Agape Flights (Venice, FL), Feed the Hunger (Burlington, NC), AGAPE Guatemala, Mission Aviation Fellowship (Nampa, ID), the Moravian Church of Honduras, Midwest Food Bank (Fort Myers, FL) - eight different ministries from three different countries, all with one heart and purpose—to show compassion to those in need after the example of Jesus!

Relief efforts will be ongoing for months. An estimated 20,000 pounds of supplies will have been delivered through December, with another 50,000 pounds slated for January as containers begin to arrive. Besides food, the other critical needs have been for medicine, seed to enable crops to be replanted, water filters, mattresses, tin to replace roofs, and cleaning and hygiene supplies. PRAYER and CASH, in that order, will allow this effort to continue, accompanied by the Word of God and a credible Gospel empowered by tangible LOVE! ■

“2021 Launches Next Chapter of MAG Ministry in Honduras”

[Burlington, NC]

■ Gifted individuals with skills, commitment, and courage—that’s *good*. Individuals able to work well *together*—that’s *great*. A cohesive TEAM of people working seamlessly, devoted to each other and to the mission, willing to work and live together in a remote environment for the cause of Christ, whose kids all get along with each other—*absolutely PRICELESS!*

Four years in the making, MAG’s new team of full-time missionary staff is set to deploy to Honduras early in 2021 to re-anchor our medical, aviation, and Gospel ministry program and the Rus Rus mission base. They’ve completed the last three months of intensive pre-field training and will now begin the process of moving out to the village to make final preparations to receive a MAG Cessna 206 aircraft and begin flight and ministry operations later in the year. ■



The new MAG Honduras Team, from left to right, the Hoblit family, the Hochenburger family, and the Crothers family, ready to deploy in early 2021.



MAG is a Christian organization utilizing aircraft to deliver medical care and to support humanitarian, relief, and ministry operations in poor and remote areas. Contact us about how to be part of delivering “Help and Hope by Air”

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