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September 8, 2009

Dear Mission Honduras International Supporter,

In light of our current suspension of funding to the mission in Honduras until an effective Child Protection Program is implemented — a situation that we have documented in previous communications with you — we are writing to assure you of three things:

1. We are continuing to support the mission in Liberia, which includes a boarding facility and St. Anthony of Padua school. In fact, we are now the sole supporter of that mission, so it is even more imperative that we continue to raise funds for them. The over 200 children served at Liberia Mission are safe under new child protections, and the mission is being run by two of our best people, Jerome and Clarisa Cabeen. If you choose to donate through Mission Honduras International, you can be assured that your donation will go directly to support the Liberia Mission. Your donations continue to be tax-deductible, and we publish a financial statement each year that is available to the public upon request.
2. Superiors in the Franciscan Order have taken strong action to review and resolve the situation in Honduras. Fr. Emil has been ordered by these superiors not to travel to the United States or do any type of fundraising here until the situation is resolved. They are planning to hold a summit of the parties involved, including Mission Honduras International.
3. APUFRAM INTERNATIONAL, a U.S. based group that supports the mission sites administered by Honduras-based APUFRAM, continues to send out requests for funds from the United States that include much misinformation. We have decided not to respond in kind to APUFRAM's statements or allegations. However, we are willing to answer any and all questions our donors might have. You can send them to us at [info@missionhonduras.com](mailto:info@missionhonduras.com) or call us at 773-349-4001 and we promise to respond completely and truthfully.

We would also like to warmly welcome Fr. Christian T. Moore, OFM Conv., and Fr. Donald Halpin, OFM Conv., who are generously serving as spiritual advisors to Mission Honduras International. We are grateful for their service to this ministry and look forward to their guidance as we move forward.

We also think it might be important for you to know about the other leaders of MHI. Attached are short biographies of our spiritual directors, board members and key staff. Truly, the MHI family is all of us — donors and volunteers like you are the hands and hearts of the mission, providing the opportunity for children and their families to break the cycle of poverty.

Please join us and continue supporting this life-changing work. If you have any questions, please contact us. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

God Bless,

Bob O'Dwyer (773)-349-4001, [bodwyer@missionhonduras.com](mailto:bodwyer@missionhonduras.com)  
Acting President

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Mission Honduras International

# Mission Honduras International Biographies

## SPIRITUAL ADVISORS

**FR. CHRISTIAN T. MOORE, OFM CONV.** As MHI's Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Christian shares a life of ministry as a teacher, campus minister, hospital chaplain, and pastor. Born in Denver in 1938, Fr. Christian attended grade school in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1952, he went to Mount St. Francis and has been with the Franciscans ever since. He became friends with Fr. Emil Cook in college at the University of Dayton and Theological Seminary in Chaska, Minnesota.

In 1971, Fr. Christian spent the summer with Fr. Emil and was very impressed with his simple living, his close connection with the people, his ability to get American volunteers to come visit the missions, and his focus on a few simple goals which he was very persistent in following. Since then, "I have been impressed by the growth of his missions and recruitment of volunteers over the years. It has been spectacular." Fr. Christian has visited the missions in Honduras four times, leading two of his parishes on a short visit.

Fr. Christian holds an MA from Assumption Seminary (1965) and an MA from the University of Minnesota (History and Sociology, 1965). In 1969 he earned his professional principal's license. And, in 1979, he received a D.Min. (Doctor of Ministries) from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

Throughout his years of ministry, Fr. Christian has been a teacher and principle at Mount St. Francis (1965-75) where he organized youth retreats, Junior Third Order, men's retreats, and was the coordinator of Released Time Education for Floyd County. He has been a campus minister (1976-81); a hospital chaplain (1983-85); Pastor of St. Joseph in Chicago Heights (1985-1990); Pastor of St. Anthony in Lorain, Ohio (1990-2000); and a Spiritual Assistant, Secular Franciscans (2001-02).

Since 2002, Fr. Christian has been the Pastor of Incarnation Parish in Louisville. He writes, "I want to do all I can to help heal the situation with the Honduran/Liberian Missions. The ministry is so important." Welcome Fr. Christian!

**FR. DONALD HALPIN, OFM CONV.,** Spiritual Advisor. I was born in Toledo, Ohio, May 23, 1943, son of Donald Cass Halpin and Blanche Marie (Welter); we were seven siblings, and I was the youngest. My family calls me Philip. Then as Friar Donald, my first profession as a Conventual Franciscan took place in July 1962; then I was ordained a priest, July 1972. Parish work involved positions in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Louisville, Kentucky. Retreat work then has taken the greater portion of my priesthood, working in Franciscan Retreats in Prior Lake,

Minnesota; Mount St. Francis, Indiana; Carey, Ohio. Also for five years, I worked in a freelance retreat ministry while living in Canton, Ohio. During that time I was giving parish missions, along with frequent retreats, especially one-on-one directed retreats for segments of eight to thirty days.

After a preliminary visit in Africa, 1984-1985, I returned as a missionary in 1996 and worked in Zambia and other countries of Africa (including Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya). In Lusaka, Zambia, I directed a house of prayer called Assisi House, located at St Bonaventure College in Lusaka. Again, those were a lot of directed retreats, along with ongoing spiritual direction. I said goodbye to Africa in July 2008, and I am presently located at a retreat center at Mount St. Francis, Indiana. The lovely hills of southern Indiana are a pleasant home, living in a community of twelve Franciscan priests and brothers, and the work of retreats continues on. A specialty within the retreat work of Mt. St. Francis continues to be directed retreats. In a house on the property — Loftus House — private and directed retreats are offered in a "house of prayer" setting. I am presently director of that house. I enjoy striving to practice meditation, deeper prayer styles, prayer with Scripture.

In various times over the years, I have met Fr. Emil Cook. I appreciate his gentle enthusiasm, love of the poor. It has been said of Emil that no one who is in need, asking for help, goes away without that help through the care of Emil. He certainly has a way of making connections: the hand of a willing donor into the hand of the poor.

The projects started by Emil seem to never end: expanding and extended into other lands and countries. While I have never visited Honduras, I have been to Guatemala — seeing there the ways the poor are helped.

Also, after years of serving in Africa, I am interested in making sure Mission Honduras International continues a Franciscan identity in what has been started in Mission Liberia. I feel we as Franciscans have an easily formed bond with Africans. Their love of the soil, love of creation, all fits into our spirituality. The people of Africa have a beauty all their own: when blessed with a happy smile, self-confidence, and hope for the future, their countenance is beautiful — full of life.

As there are expressed problems, concerns, burdens for Mission Honduras International these weeks, I wish to serve out of an objective viewpoint, hopefully helping in a search for spiritual meaning in the present conflicts, as well as possibly becoming a reconciling voice.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

**JOHN AND SUE DEWAN.** John is the treasurer, board member and former president of MHI. He and Sue are both members of the Advisory Group. John began his work with Fr. Emil in 1976, when he volunteered in Gualaco, Honduras for three months. John is a licensed actuary and the co-publisher of ACTA Publications, a publisher of books on religion, sports, and community organizing ([www.actapublications.com](http://www.actapublications.com)). John and Sue own Baseball Info Solutions, a baseball information company, and were founders of STATS, Inc., a world-wide sports data provider. They also started the Dewan Foundation, which funds projects that help people get out of poverty, and Camp Dewan, a camp for city youth, boy scouts and girl scouts and other family-oriented activities. They have two children and belong to St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church in Chicago.

**DAVE DIONISI,** Board Member. Dave is married, the father of three boys, and an author of two books. He is a former Fortune 500 senior executive and has started several successful businesses. Dave is the President of the Teach Peace Foundation which works to help people with projects including delivering emergency life-saving aid and teaching children kindness. Dave's business, military, and ongoing not-for-profit service in Africa and Central America is beneficial to MHI as an organization caring for children in these same locations.

**BOB AND KATHY O'DWYER.** Bob is acting president and a board member. He and Kathy are both members of the Advisory Group. Bob and Kathy met as members of the Third Order of St. Francis. They have been married for 32 years and have 3 sons. They were introduced to Fr. Emil's work more than 30 years ago through the Franciscans. Bob is a Computer Network Engineer and Kathy teaches 7th grade Social Studies. Both have been and are still active in the Boy Scouts in numerous leadership roles. They are also active at St. Terrence parish in Alsip, Illinois where Bob taught CCD for 10 years and Kathy sings in the choir. Bob traveled to Honduras for the first time in 2003 and was deeply affected by the pervasive poverty he saw there. He has created several of the videos that Fr. Cook has used on his fundraising trips to the U.S. Bob is currently volunteering as the President of MHI.

**JOAN FABIANO,** Executive Director and Board Member. Joan has served as Executive Director since March 2004. She brings a breath of experience in education, social work, and ministry. After earning her BA in History and Teaching and teaching social studies at Lourdes Catholic H.S., Joan earned a Masters in Social Work from Loyola University in Chicago. An LCSW

and ACSW, she worked with the Chicago Department of Human Services as a Crisis Intervention Specialist, a Program Coordinator, and a District Manager. A long-time supporter of the missions, Joan has traveled to Honduras, Dominican Republic and Liberia, West Africa numerous times, including four trips to Liberia Mission. In addition to being an avid world traveler, Joan has been active in parish ministry throughout her life.

**JEROME AND CLARISA CABEEN,** Directors of Liberia Mission. Jerome is a former high school basketball coach turned missionary. Born and raised in Houston, Texas, he attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas and earned a BA in Fine Arts and Education. Jerome arrived in Honduras in September 2004 where he worked with the poor of Honduras and served as the volunteer center's house director in el Conejo. Clarisa and Jerome met in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, where Clarisa worked and Jerome often picked up volunteer groups. Married in June 2008, Jerome and Clarisa moved to Liberia, Africa and are currently serving as the Directors of Liberia Mission, Inc. Jerome loves music, going to concerts and working with children and the poor. Clarisa brings her gentle compassion and deep faith to the children of the mission as a teacher and mentor.

**MONICA DESMOND LOOBY,** Communications and Development Director. Monica and her husband Todd served in Honduras for seven months this past year. During that time, they worked closely with both the children and mothers of APUFRAM and with North American service groups. The experience will have a lasting effect on them as memories of the smiles, love and also the hardship will be with them forever. Monica's experience includes direct social service work, research, nonprofit communications, community organizing and public policy advocacy. She holds an MA from the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration. Prior to volunteering in Honduras, Monica was the Director of Public Policy for the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness and co-chair of the St. Alphonsus Peace and Justice Committee. Monica and Todd now live in Chicago with their dog, and are working on a documentary film entitled "Solo Madres."

**HARRIS MULBAH** — House Father, Liberia Mission

**HELENA GONYON** — House Mother, Liberia Mission

**AUGUSTINE NUFEA** — House Father, Liberia Mission

**OLIVIA GLAMA** — House Mother, Liberia Mission

**BENJAMIN WOLLOR** — Spiritual Director and Big Brother to the children of Liberia Mission