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Opportunity Hope

APPLYING MICRO-LENDING PRINCIPLES TO GLOBAL POVERTY

Opportunity for Hope endeavors to address spiritual and material needs, in a an ever increasing way, for people in underprivileged areas of the world using economic development tools. The Foundation will use an incremental approach to strive and obey the commandments of Jesus Christ to influence people to His glory and their good.

Certificate of Success

What makes O4H different than the other micro lending organizations? Past stories have documented the spiritual and financial successes of the O4H model. The other component of the O4H strategic approach is **education**, developing the business skills necessary to grow a sole proprietorship to a larger enterprise, hiring employees, and enriching the community.

O4H sent a team of board members back to Honduras in September to conduct the second business skills seminar. The previous year's purpose was 'Train the Trainer' to plant the fundamental business skills with the O4H partners. This year's focus was to build up the O4H partners by co-leading with them. Attendees this year included more local business leaders, and for the first time, loan recipients, the ultimate audience for the training.

The workshop was conducted all Spanish and included interactive presentations, case studies, skits, and table discussions to encourage collaborative approaches to problem solving. Topics included business plans, marketing, customer loyalty, and integrity in business. Just as important, the spiritual message of salvation and God's rule in our lives was presented.

The workshop concluded with a ceremony that presented Certificates of Recognition to each of the participants, commemorating their successful completion of the workshop. "It was like the Academy Awards. Each person came forward, some cried, gave speeches and thanked everyone," said David Brincks who developed and coordinated the training. "The certificates were a huge endorsement. That's how important, how needed, how encouraging this training is to these people."





God's Provision

David Brincks is a former corporate executive and currently owns a business and executive coaching firm. Here are his personal reflections on the business workshop training seminar.

"It is **amazing** what God will do when you step out in faith" David stated when asked what he took away personally from the recent workshop. Dealing with different cultures and from thousands of miles away, David could not be sure who would show up and what their expectations and needs were going to be! "We wanted to build on last year's success, but most of all, we wanted to be obedient to the vision God has given O4H and blessed over and over again. We had to trust His provision for resources and prepared hearts for what we had planned." In Honduras, Karla Cordona joined Linda Brincks to facilitate and direct the case studies and discussions. "Karla is from Honduras and active in the O4H mission. She added great insight and local presence which made the workshop very successful," David commented.

"The other amazing thing is what God reclaims and then multiplies. Many of the loan recipients are women, and had never been to training before. Karla and Linda did a wonderful job walking people through the material. Not only did they learn, but they also saw successful business women giving back from the blessings they had received. The spiritual mission underlying our efforts is very important," David noted. "God's truth was made relevant to where they were as an individual and as a business person."

"The highlight was the booths they setup Sunday at the church," said David. "They were excited to share what they had learned and display their presentations and certificates. They were also applying some of the marketing and networking skills they learned from the workshop. Above all their message was very clear: God was part of this, blessing their efforts, and they were directing their praise back to God."

Not wasting any time or excitement, the next workshop is tentatively scheduled for June 2011. "We believe the next training will be primarily locally driven in content. We will have some business focused work projects and possibly look at larger enterprise loan recipients," noted David.

"I guess the biggest take away," said David "was that we were highlighting the love of Christ. That motivates and empowers us to invest money and knowledge into these people. That is where you see God move. That's a step of faith that is a thrill to take."

MICRO LENDING

How does it work ?



- Micro-lending is a tool for socioeconomic development.
- The concept and structure are well understood and successfully employed in impoverished countries.
- Micro-lending unleashes the power of a dollar in a third world economy. The value is multiplied in its economic impact.
- The return on investment is continual so your contribution is repaid and reinvested over and over.
- New businesses create new jobs, better infrastructure, and a climate of hope and belief.
- O4H partners with carefully researched local entities to identify and screen applicants, administer, and account for all funds.

We have seen this economic tool, when combined with prayer and God's discernment can dramatically change lives of an entire people, to the honor and glory of God.

Message from the President



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What makes O4H unique? We have had to ask ourselves that question since the beginning. I believe it is because we attack poverty with a holistic approach. One distinctive is the training emphasis of O4H as described in the article above. This training will be the ongoing thrust that will break the cycle of poverty in these mostly forgotten communities. Please commit to join us in the adventure and opportunity laid out before us.

ALAN MEUNCH, PRESIDENT, OPPORTUNITY FOR HOPE FOUNDATION