



Members of Light of the World Charities who visited Comayagua, Honduras as part of a Medical mission in March are: (top row) Plastic surgeon Mark Schreiber, nurse Sandy Berch, student tech Shannon Deal, anesthetist Bob Simpson, nurse Josefa Ramos and nurse Theresa Banks. (Bottom row) Nurse Sally Van Shoick, anesthetist George Bennett, volunteer George Mahr, ophthalmologist Steve Spector, technician Stacy Barron and nurse Mary Alice Robertson.

Volunteers travel to Honduras to provide free medical care

A group of volunteer medical workers from Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast recently returned from Comayagua, Honduras, where they provided free medical care.

The members of Light of the World Charities performed 96 surgical procedures in a five-day period, said Fernal "Bob" Simpson, the group's vice president and medical director.

"We formed this group three years ago as a denominational group, seeking to help those of the Third World countries who could not readily get surgical intervention," Simpson said. Money for the group's missions comes from churches, community groups and private donations. Its first sponsor and leader was Holy Redeemer Church in Palm City.

Light of the World Charities first sent team members to Peru, where they visited twice. It completed its second 10-day trip to Honduras in March.

The team usually spends the first day settling into its living quarters and checking its equipment.

"We bring about 98 percent of surgical, medical and working equipment with us to ensure production and safe medical care is given," Simpson said.

They usually spend the second day setting up operating and recovery rooms and interviewing and preparing patients for the next day's surgeries. The patients varied in ages from 18 months to 88 years

old. Many of the children had severe burns from accidental fires — cooking in an open pit fire.

eye problems, such as congenital cataracts and eye muscle disorders. There were a lot of people with burns that were scarred badly, which needed to be surgically released so that they could have mobility in the area of the burn. Many of the children had severe burns from accidental fires — cooking in an open pit fire.

"We also repaired a lot of cleft lips and palates on children and adults," he said.

The team spends five days doing surgeries, usually from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., sometimes longer, Simpson said. The final days are spent providing post-operative care, smaller procedures and packing up gear.

"The days are long and trying, but the team is motivated, with energy always in reserve," Simpson said.

Light of the World Charities team members are: anesthetists Fernal "Bob" Simpson of West Palm Beach and George Bennett of Jupiter; plastic surgeons Mark Schreiber of Boynton Beach, Luis Vinas of West Palm Beach and Harold Bafitis of Juno Beach; ophthalmologists Steve Spector and Robert Bentz of West Palm Beach; nurses Josefa Ramos of West Palm Beach, Sandy Berch of Hobe Sound, Sally Van Shoick of Stuart, Theresa Banks of Palm City and Mary Alice Robertson of Jupiter; and medical and surgical technicians Steve C. Brown of

Out of state schools

Notre Dame Academy/Curley High School, Class of '62, May 17-19 at the Boca Raton Marriott. Call (305) 582-2562 or e-mail mrbower@worldnet.att.net.

Erasum Hall High School (Brooklyn, N.Y.), Class of 1962, June 8. Visit www.erasmus1962reunion.com or email johnb217@aol.com or EHHS62@psync.com.

Simon Gratz High School (Philadelphia), Class of June 1942, is planning a reunion in the spring in Philadelphia. Call Doris at 968-0480.

Pershing High School (Detroit, MI) is looking for alumni for a 50th reunion on June 22 for the January and June classes. Call Robert Weigard at (248) 777-6007.

Cleveland Heights (Ohio) High School will have its 40th class reunion July 5-6. Call Sharon Ishee at (440) 338-5942 or email at sharonishee@aol.com.

Arundel Senior High School (Gambrills, MD), Class 1971, is seeking alumni for a reunion on Aug. 10 at the BWI Marriott in Baltimore. Contact Carol Medina Wright at ginalo561@aol.com or register on classmates.com.

The Alumni Committee of Industrial/ Roosevelt High School (1929-1970) is looking for administrators, staff, graduates and classmates for its yearly reunion scheduled for August. Call Bessie Collier Harvey at 842-1667 or Georgia Smith Gilbert at 841-0200; 833-3775 or email ggilbert@pbcwdb.com.

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School (Philadelphia, PA), Class of 1952, will have a reunion on Sept. 21 at the Wyndham Plaza Hotel. Call Peg Sullivan Heineman at (609) 898-0639 or Rita Krynski Szerbin at (609) 926-0663 or email szzerbin@gte.net.

Weequahic High School, Class of June 1952, is looking for classmates for a reunion on Sept. 29 at Newark Airport Marriott. Call Lois Berg Jacobs at (973) 731-7402 or e-mail loisjake@aol.com.

The Florida Chapter of Abraham Lincoln High School of Brooklyn, New York is looking