

# Losing Dr. Feather

By Marco Cáceres

I would like to acknowledge First Baptist Church of New Albany, Mississippi, and specifically Dr. Ron Feather who lost his life during a recent mission trip to Honduras. Dr. Feather was a dentist who was part of a medical/dental/construction volunteer team sent by First Baptist to work at the Hospital Bautista de Guiamaca.

Dr. Feather died on July 26, 2005 when the pick-up truck in which he was riding lost the use of its brakes and overturned in the mountains near Guiamaca. The truck was carrying about 20 team members, including volunteers from Crosspoint Baptist Church of Sumter, South Carolina; a student leadership team from Helps International Ministries of Asheville, North Carolina; and staff members of the Hospital Bautista. All of the passengers were ejected and were injured during the accident... six of them critically. Dr. Feather was killed instantly.

The team was returning from one of its daily mobile clinics to the mountain communities near Guiamaca.

Each time I travel to Honduras and return to the US, I make it a point to observe at airports the members of volunteer mission groups that visit Honduras daily. There are hundreds of these groups, usually consisting of anywhere between 10-100 people. Most are either professionals with an expertise or skills to contribute or students wishing to help in any way they can.

I always make an effort to approach these humanitarians, these volunteers and thank them for their work. It is the very least we can do for foreigners who freely choose to give their time and money to help the people of Honduras. These individuals could easily be playing golf or tennis at a country club somewhere. Instead, they are trudging through the mountains of Honduras. Usually, they are having the time of their lives. That's the kind of stuff North Americans just love to do. The loss of Dr. Feather, however, tends to bring us all back down to earth.

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