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Dear board members and staff,

I have just returned from our Honduras program which I visited with Chris Dunford. I would like to share with you some reflections on that extremely interesting and rewarding trip.

Freedom from Hunger literally came alive for me. The program participants became real people; people who are improving their lives and are proud of their accomplishments; people who are intelligent and capable but in need of information; and people who are grateful for what Freedom from Hunger is doing in their communities.

I was truly impressed with the reality of our self-help, sustainable strategy. We piloted a project that is successful and is decreasing the incidence of malnutrition in children and decreasing the incidence of infant mortality. Freedom from Hunger is continuing to spread the process we have established to more villages while we begin the task of making the Ministry of Health personnel capable of continuing what we started. It is self-help at the village level as well as at the district level.

In the area of loans we have helped the program beneficiaries enormously. There is a striking, visible difference between a program-area village and one that is not yet involved. The villages where FFH loans have been issued have more vegetable gardens and improved houses. You can see the difference with your own eyes! But the loan system in Honduras is not quite yet in line with our strategy; therefore refinement and fine-tuning continue. This impresses me. Freedom from Hunger is not a stagnant development organization sticking to one, outworn formula. We continue to improve on our techniques and methods of enabling hungry, malnourished people to better feed themselves.

If ever the opportunity arises for you to visit one of our programs, I strongly recommend doing it. You will come home, I am sure, as I did with a better understanding of the importance of assuring hungry people of an adequate food supply and an enthusiasm for our approach.

I am looking forward to seeing some of you at the New York fund raiser/executive committee meeting when I can rave more about my trip. (Board members, did you remember to send in your list of invitees yet?),

Yours truly,

Francie Mallery

October 6, 1989