

# EYEGLOSS MINISTRY

Previous teams have found a great need for reading glasses by the people of Honduras. These people are located mostly in remote villages away from any optometrist and probably could not afford them if they were available.

Some teams in the past have taken an assortment of used eyeglasses as received from various sources and tried to fit the people by trial and error. Other teams have taken optical equipment and used eyeglasses which had prescriptions labeled on them. Both of these methods are time consuming and in the case of optical equipment, requires experienced people. There is some difference of opinion as to whether we should give prescription glasses away without the assistance of an optometrist.

We are suggesting at this point if you do not have a qualified optometrist you should only dispense reading glasses. They can be purchased for as little as \$1 per pair or less.

Eye Glasses: A good source for inexpensive reading glasses is Fairwind Sunglasses Trading Company 1-800-327-2266 or their website is [www.fairwindsunglasses.com](http://www.fairwindsunglasses.com)

Another good source is Restoring Vision. Their website is [www.restoringvision.org](http://www.restoringvision.org)

We hope that you will find the following information helpful to accomplish your mission in Honduras.

## **FIELD DISPENSING OF EYEGASSES**

Only the most common strength eyeglasses should be taken, i.e. +1.25 to +4.0. Remember that we are not professionals and are only trying to help people see better to read and sew. (An experienced team may wish to carry additional strength glasses as they feel necessary.)

An experienced team with an experienced optometrist is encouraged to augment the regular glasses order with any glasses the Lord provides, making sure that they are cleaned and graded before they are brought to Honduras. We have found need for 'Minus' power glasses among the children and people of the villages. Once on site, local school teachers are excellent sources about needs of particular children in the

community.

The eyeglass dispensing group could consist of one or two lay people from your team and at least one Spanish interpreter. The location of the eyeglass dispensing team works well in the medical clinic.

As each patient is examined at a medical station the doctor or nurse determines if there is a need for an eye exam. If the patient needs an eye exam he/she is issued a small distinctive card and told to report to the eye clinic which is located in the Medical building.

Each patient is examined using an eye chart or a tract or a passage from the Bible and fitted with the proper size glasses. In some cases it will take two or three tries for the proper fit. In a few cases where patients cannot read, it will be helpful to have a needle and thread or some other way to determine if a patient is fitted properly. We have included a wall chart which may be helpful.

There is a great opportunity to witness one on one during the fitting process. Don't let this opportunity slip away. After fitting, the patient is sent on to the Pharmacy.

Each team should carry a simple eyeglass repair kit as found in local stores along with oil for the hinges, rags and windex for cleaning lenses.

Each box of eyeglasses will contain a display sign which says "Reading Glasses" in Spanish or "Los Anteojos de Lectura".

May God bless you as you carry out this ministry.