

BYU students to help in Honduras

NewsNet Staff Writer - 20 Jan 1999

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By JENNIFER JONES

jones@du2.byu.edu

BYU students enrolled in an organizational behavior course are planning to go to countries recently struck by Hurricane Mitch to provide much-needed economic and humanitarian aid.

Warner Woodworth, one of the founders of Enterprise Mentors, a non-profit organization, and co-author of the new book "Working Towards Zion," is teaching the course. Among other humanitarian projects, Woodworth and his wife traveled to Mali, Africa in December 1995 to instruct poverty-stricken locals on the set-up of a new economic plan.

Students in the two sections of the class are not required to go to Central America. However, they will have the opportunity to go to either Honduras, Nicaragua or El Salvador this summer.

The students will meet in groups during the semester to plan and implement fundraisers to fund their travel and stay in the hurricane-struck countries. They will also work to get public and media support for the project. The main emphasis of the course will be to organize and generate money to create small banks in these countries.

Students in Woodworth's course will learn the basics of micro-enterprising. Micro-enterprising consists of organizing small banks and providing loans as low as \$20 to citizens of third-world countries. The individual can then have the necessary money to support a small trade or skill and earn an essential income for their family.

Woodworth said that surprisingly, a majority of these tiny loans will go to the women of the families, as 98 percent of women pay back the micro-credit bank. Woodworth explained that women in many poorer, foreign countries are very much discriminated against and yet, impact the family unit so much.

"We will be empowering women and changing social structure in these countries," said Todd Manwaring, co-founder of Humanitarian Link, another non-profit organization, of Orem.

This special course, taught by Woodworth, is offered in two sections. The professional development seminar is for undergraduates and the advanced seminar in organizational behavior is designed for graduates. Woodworth told his students their purpose would be to magnify their own efforts in order to help provide training and assistance for others.

Students in the course seemed excited to help provide aid for the Central American countries. Woodworth said, "We are going to take a hold of a little piece of the world and try to make a difference."