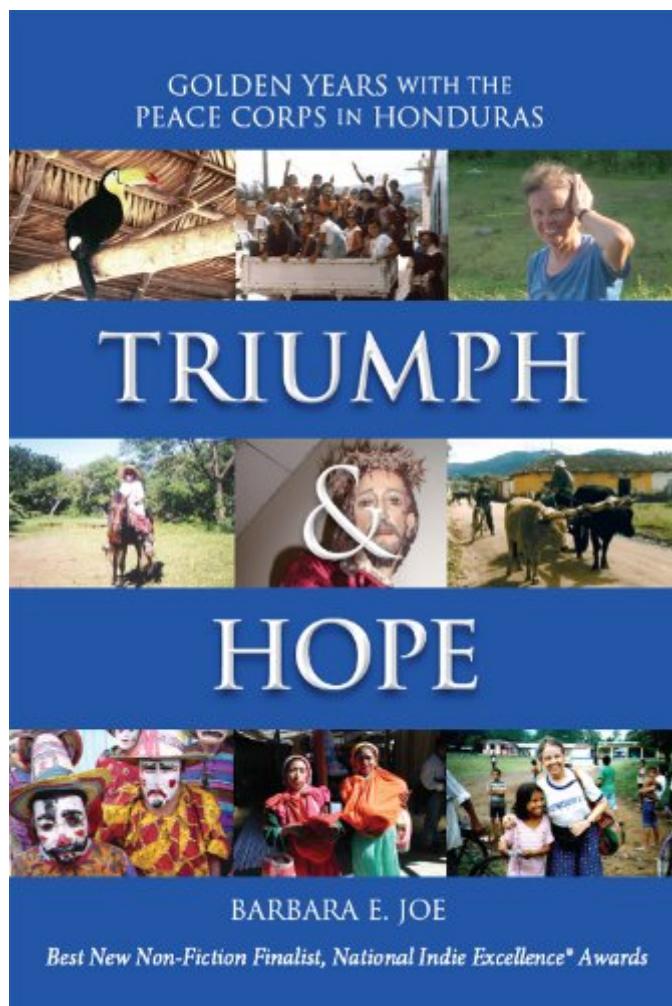


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# Triumph & Hope: Golden Years With The Peace Corps In Honduras



## Synopsis

New Book Sheds Positive Light on Joining Peace Corps at Any Age

Triumph & Hope: Golden Years with the Peace Corps in Honduras by Barbara E. Joe is a documentary of one woman's experience in joining the Peace Corps in her sixties

WASHINGTON- Triumph & Hope: Golden Years with the Peace Corps in Honduras, a new book by veteran human rights advocate Barbara E. Joe, takes readers on her autobiographical journey of self-discovery, healing, and a chance for a new beginning upon joining the Peace Corps. When the author announced her plans to join the Peace Corps at age 62, a male friend was skeptical, predicting that she would return home by Christmas at the latest.

However, what she found in her encounters in two towns, El Triunfo (The Triumph) and La Esperanza (The Hope), was adventure, new challenges, and the motivation to extend her service beyond the usual term. Most important, she was able to finally make peace with her son's untimely death and, in her words, "forge a new direction."

Just as President Carter's mother, Miss Lillian, set an example for me to join the Peace Corps in my sixties, I hope to do the same for others now,

she says. The author strives to offer an intimate look into Peace Corps service—both its highs and lows, its common elements and amazing surprises. During her service, she posted regular updates on a website she created and, after receiving numerous responses and encouragement from readers, felt compelled to share her experiences with others and inspire them to join the Peace Corps and other overseas services. The book also provides photos throughout of her time spent in Honduras.

The author wrote Triumph & Hope: Golden Years with the Peace Corps in Honduras as a fresh approach to observing the various benefits and challenges of Peace Corps service. Not just for baby boomers considering their next step or those interested in Latin America, this book is intended for anyone who recognizes the importance of living life to the fullest. The author hopes to provide an enlightening read, displaying the value of recruiting older, experienced volunteers.

If President Obama plans to double the size of the Peace Corps as promised,

she says, then he needs to reach out to recruits of all ages. My book endeavors to do that and show older, as well as younger, volunteers how much they have to offer and to gain from Peace Corps service.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

Barbara Joe's book is inspiring, entertaining--and helpful. It rolls along and takes the reader with it. One of the questions often asked Peace Corps volunteers is....WHY?! Why are you doing this? Some soul searching is often required to come up with a reason, but we see it here in Ms. Joe's introduction. She overcame personal difficulties, which set the stage for her decision, but she has long been involved in international efforts to aid others, especially in Spanish-speaking countries and, particularly, in Honduras. The Peace Corps left Honduras, but Ms. Joe has not. She returns every year to continue her work in health care. If you read *Triumph and Hope*, you will see why. Her endearing, and enduring, portraits (along with photos) of the people she knew and continues to care for are right there. Some are funny (love the 90-year-old with her pet chicken) and some are heart-breaking (the funeral for the 27-year-old). I'm a Peace Corps volunteer in Mexico, and I see some of the cultural similarities of the Latin way that are enriching, mystifying and a challenge at times. Ms. Joe has enlightened us, her way, in the Honduran way, and I highly recommend this book to those interested in Peace Corps work--and to those who just want a darn good read!! Five stars from Mexico!!

As a very long term admirer of The Peace Corps, (50 years in fact) Barbara's book brings home to me how very much has been gained in terms of intercultural relationships and good will through the existence of this remarkable institution with a relatively minuscule number of volunteers and a very

low budget. The fact that the budget is so low informs all concerned that this is not a charity but a hands-on commitment by the volunteers to teach, inform, assist, demonstrate, encourage, innovate, cooperate, delegate and live with the population they wish to help that they may help themselves. As seen and told through Barbara's narrative, the experience on both sides creates enduring and endearing positive actions and memories for the betterment of all concerned, in spite of a few rough patches. I know from anecdotal experience that so many returned Peace Corps Volunteers continue on with lives of service; Barbara turns this around by bringing her years of helping others into the Peace Corps. Her perspective as "An Old and Knowing Soul" (OAKS) certainly gives those of us "of a certain age" encouragement to go out and do what we can by imparting our skills and knowledge to help others sustain themselves.....and to help our own psyche and country.

This is Barbara Joe's straight-forward, deeply personal, moving and occasionally very witty account of her three years in Honduras serving with the Peace Corps or, in Spanish, Cuerpo de Paz, an ominous-sounding name for a volunteer organization. She doesn't whitewash the negative aspects of her experience while conveying her pleasure in the country and the people with whom she worked. Her book gives what seems to be to be the clearest picture of what it is like to work with the Peace Corps and people who manage to sustain life in difficult circumstances. There must have been many times when she wanted to catch the next plane home, but she prevailed and made a good life for herself there. This is the story of that life. She is a remarkable woman.

Great book. Gives a good picture of a peace core volunteer work. One also learns a lot about the country of Honduras, its people, and the conditions they are living in. This book is a must read for anyone who plans to volunteer in any of the Third World countries, but it's also an interesting read for everyone else.

Think you don't know a hero? Meet Barbara E Joe, who joined the Peace Corps at age 62. Leaving her home in D.C., she spent two terms in Honduras, living in deprivation while teaching, interceding, mentoring, and dealing with the health problems of those in need, with empathy and in Spanish. Though she became known as "Doctora Barbara," she dispensed only aspirin while soliciting and distributing clothing, books, shoes and eyeglasses from home. She was creative in handling "critters," extremes of weather, the "chicken bus", and whatever she was dealt. At 70, she is preparing for her fourth return trip to be helping out with a general medical brigade in a village near La Esperanza with the same group mentioned under "Las Hortensias" in the epilogue. She will also

be following up on young ortho patients she took for surgery two years ago. She is an excellent descriptive writer and includes many photos.

So enjoyed Barbara's insight! Very real, emotional, personal & descriptive so that I felt like I was walking alongside her on this journey. Thank you for bringing this to us! Teri

Triumph and Hope shares Peace Corps Honduras with its readers through the lens of experience, vigilance and dedication. I relate to Barbara's story as a former Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand. As I read, I relived many of my experiences which I loved so much. Pat Holland Conner, author *Doorways to Significance* (in progress)

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