



WORLDWIDE HEART TO HEART MINISTRIES

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March 2006



David showing Dean King his Karate moves

Gifts from God - Our True Heroes - Spotlight on David

CHILDREN'S VILLAGE NEWS

By Amy Serrano

Last month we began this "Gifts from God" series in our monthly newsletter to honor the most important individuals in our ministry: The children. Our hope is that, through these articles, you can get a better understanding of this ministry and the ones that we serve. We also hope that you will be able to see *the depth of the need*, and *the reality of the hope*, through the eyes of those who have experienced it.



This month we bring to you 6 year old David. He has been with us for a year and a half. We first met David through his aunt. She worked at one of the local internet cafes that we use to send our emails. One day when we came in, she asked to talk to us and began to tell a very grim story of her 3 nephews. Their mother abandoned them when David, the youngest, was only a baby. They now lived at the local garbage dump with their alcoholic father. She told us the children, the oldest being 10, had never been to school. They spent their days begging for money (which was used by their father to buy alcohol) and their nights wandering in the streets. Their livelihood was basically the generosity of the local minute mart stands that would supply them with their diet, potato chips and scraps from the garbage. Our first question was, why didn't the aunt, who was family, take responsibility for the children.

She invited us to her house so we could see for ourselves her situation. The whole house was the size of my living room and she had 14 people living there. Her husband absolutely refused to take in any more. David's father was also there. He did not even weigh 90 lbs and never looked up at us from the table. His shame was unbearable. We then asked to see the house where the children lived. Each time we take in a child, we investigate their situation to make sure that they are really in need.

Their "home" was the most deplorable I have ever seen. It was a small 10 ft by 10 ft shack made out of whatever garbage could be scrounged. The shack sat in the middle of rotting, stinking garbage. Outside it was surrounded by stagnant water that was infested with mosquitoes. The aunt said that sometimes the children would go and play outside in the water and come back covered in leeches. The inside, if possible, was even more repulsive. The only object was a single bed mattress lying on the floor. It was so filthy it was completely black. Mold was growing on it, as the children slept and urinated on the mattress every night.

To make matters worse, David was born with a clubfoot. The aunt said that the doctors told his mother that it could easily be fixed at the time of his birth in the hospital. But she felt it was too much of an inconvenience for her and she brought him home that day. Obviously, we decided that the children's situation was urgent. That day they were brought to their new

home at the Children's Village in Tegucigalpa.

David is love in a little twisted foot package. He can steal your heart faster than you can blink an eye. He and his brothers never had any form of discipline in their lives. David was often given whatever he wanted, as many had sympathy with his condition. So, when he came to the Children's Village, he threw multiple temper tantrums daily when not given his way. David had never truly been loved. He had never felt the security of discipline around him, the security of knowing that someone was in charge and in control. David still has small struggles, but has become a truly happy child.

Last year, we had a wonderful blessing. An orthopedic surgeon in Centralia WA, became aware of David's condition. He has volunteered to perform the necessary surgeries to correct his foot. We are hoping to get David to the U.S. this spring to have all of this done. Please join with us in prayer over this matter, as getting the documents necessary for his travel out of the country can be complicated. At the moment David can run, turn cartwheels and do all the things that normal children can do. However, it is my understanding that he will be in a wheel chair in adulthood should this not get corrected. We also ask you to pray with David's host family living in Kelso, WA who would like to adopt him. Adoptions from Honduras are almost impossible. But with God, all things are possible.

On a final note, the children have recently been officially declared "orphans", as their father passed away in January due to alcohol poisoning. I think this has helped the children have some closure, as they now truly consider the Children's Village home.

David has endured a lot in his short time on this earth. Life has handed him many challenges, however God has glorified himself in this little life. Psalms 27:10 says, "Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me". David has been a blessing to me. He is a living breathing expression of God's abundant love, and power to save.

The children have been so excited this month, as school has started again. Some of our children, Keilin and Daniel, are going for the first time. Zulima, our full time teacher, is now the onsite manager of the Children's Village, as Baltimar was unable to continue his work with us. Zulima has been one of the greatest blessings we have ever had. Oscar says that for the first time since the village began operating, he feels that he can leave in the afternoon and feel secure that everything is "under control". She is a true leader that we hope to keep with us, God willing, for many years to come.

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Our main building complex is now complete. All four homes are ready to take in children. Some minor work, like the finishing of the storage cabinets and some other small woodwork items remain. But we are looking forward to filling all the buildings this year.

The farm continues to grow. We have planted a fruit orchard in the back of the property. "Unfortunately", we are just going to have to get used to eating tons of fresh avocados, mangos and oranges. It gets tough down here sometimes, but we will make the sacrifice.

At the end of February, we threw a celebration for the February birthdays for Ilsy and Cesar. Cakes, Piñatas, presents, games. It was easy to tell that the children were very consumed with the feeling of personal value and family: A day celebrating their existence after years of rejection.

March 19th is Father's Day in Honduras and March 17th is Marlon's birthday. So, on Sunday the 19th, we had a big celebration at the Village. Our neighbors, some wonderful Christian people who have donated eggs since we started in 2003, came with piñatas, cakes, games, and small presents for all of the kids. We had a birthday cake for Marlon and a Father's Day cake for Oscar. All of the children also presented Oscar with a Father's Day card and present. These children really know how to have a party!

In conclusion, this has been a very productive and blessed month. The children are growing each day, physically and spiritually. Please join with us in prayer that while we will bring in more children, the Lord of this harvest will send in more laborers. God bless you and thank you for your prayers and support.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

May 20 - WWH2H Annual Benefit Banquet - Castle Rock Christian Church - 6 p.m. - Contact Tina Campbell - tiducks@juno.com 360-274-8840

June 2 - WWH2H Benefit Christian Concert - Stevenson, WA at Rock Creek Center. Presenting Christian Songs. Featuring Bryce McCollum, Margie Michaels and Steve Jacobs, as well as several other local artists. Refreshments served. Donations accepted. Contact: Bernice McCollum 509-427-4590 corridor3@gorge.net

CONTAINER TO BE SENT TO HONDURAS

Thank you to everyone who is collecting items to be shipped in the summer container to Honduras. Please email me a list of all items you have so far. We plan to have a collection point in Castle Rock where the container will be loaded. If you are able to donate any of the following items or the funds to purchase them, please contact Mary Frenter (509-427-8585 or maryf@wwh2h.org)

FOR CHILDREN'S VILLAGE:

In General:

1. A 60 KW Generator,
2. A Tractor to work with cutting grass, and planting
3. At least two newer computers with a printer
4. Blankets and Towels
5. Clothes and Shoes in sizes for boys ages 3 to 17.
6. Two washers and Two dryers
7. Large White Board, Large world map, Large map of Honduras
8. Art supplies, P.E. Equipment, Musical instruments,
9. Fiction and non fiction books of all kinds and for all ages in Spanish.

Clinic:

1. Medicines that do not expire for at least one year (contact Karen Kearcher for a complete list - karenkearcher@msn.com)
2. Medical equipment and furniture to furnish a three patient room clinic.
3. Newer Computer with printer.

Technical School:

Mechanic shop: Air compressor, pressure washer, all kinds of mechanic tools, coveralls of different sizes

Welding Shop: Welders, Torches, Grinders, Metal cutters, Disk for metal cutter and grinders, All kind of tools for welding

Electrical Shop: Power testers, wire cutters, Screw driver sets, All kind of tools for electrical shop

Carpenter Shop: All kind of carpentry tools

TENT MINISTRY

While our main focus is filling all four homes at the Village with children and securing monthly support to care for them, we are thinking ahead to outreach ministry in Honduras. To that end, we will be looking for Youth Ministries to come to Honduras to share the good news with the young people of the country. We will need a tent we can set up in the villages we visit to house these programs. The tent will also be used for Crusades and community events we host at the Children's Village. With rain always a concern, a tent is a must for these activities. The tent has a one time cost of \$5000. Please contact Mary Frenter (509-427-8585) if you would like to schedule your Youth Group to minister in Honduras, and/or would be able to raise the funds for the tent.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- Good health and Holy Spirit wisdom for Serranos, our children and their caretakers
- God's wisdom for the board as we move forward in 2006
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Print this out and mail to the address on front page

My name is _____ and I want to help with World Wide Heart to Heart's work in Honduras.

- I want to donate \$ _____ on a one-time / monthly basis (circle one) for the Building Fund of the Children's Home/Medical Clinic.
- I want to donate \$ _____ per month to sponsor a child.

I want to receive WWH2H updates. My address is _____

I would rather get e-mails:

My e-mail address is: _____

I am a skilled: (please circle)

Doctor, Nurse, Other medical training _____

Electrician, Welder, Plumber, Other trade _____

And I may be willing to donate my time and services to the children of Honduras. Please contact me at _____ (phone number) so I can get more information on up-coming trips.