



Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries

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Gifts from God - Our True Heroes - Spotlight on Josue

By Amy Serrano

I hope you have enjoyed the reports we have made in these past newsletters that have spotlighted the amazing children we've been blessed to know. This month I wanted to bring you up close and personal with one of our first residents, a young man that came to the Village before there was even a place to sleep. His name is Josue. He is 16 years old and has a fascinating story to tell. I will let him tell you in his own words. This is his story.

"...well, it mattered to this one!"

*(reference: The Starfish Story)

Hello, My name is Josue and I am 16 years old. I live at the WWH2H Children's Village in Tegucigalpa Honduras. I have lived here for 3 years. I really like this place. My life before I came here was very ugly. I was born in Puerto Rios (Puerto Rios is a very poor mountain village about 20 minutes away from where the Children's Village is located.) I lived with my mother, my grandmother and my two brothers. I do not know my father. My grandmother is very old and sick and my mother is deaf. We were very poor and didn't always have enough food to eat. I did not go to school. When I was 9 years old, my mother sent me out of our home to go to Puerto Cortes to try to find work. I didn't really know where to go or what to do. I found my aunt who lives there and asked her if I could stay with her and look for work. She said yes I could live with her.

I started going out everyday to the Pizza Hut and Wendy's in Puerto Cortes and asked people if I could watch their cars for a little bit of money. My aunt was very mean to me. She demanded that I give her all of the money I made, and made me the slave of the house. I had to do all of the cleaning and take care of my cousins that were all older than me. She would hit me a lot and use the money that I made to buy stuff for herself, so I could not send any to my family. Also, if I didn't make enough money begging on the streets, she would not let me eat. Sometimes, I would go a week without eating. I finally met a man from Guatemala who owned a farm and asked me if I wanted to work for him. I was so unhappy with my aunt I said yes.

That job was good. They let me live there and work. They did not pay me a lot of money, but what I made was mine, and they treated me well. About 5 months after I started working there, the old man died and his kids were selling the farm, so I left Guatemala and came back to Honduras. I tried to go back home with my mom, but she said there was not enough food to eat, that I had to go back with my aunt. I thought living on the street was better, so that is what I did.

Life on the street is so ugly. There are a lot of people that want to hurt you. I lived and slept under the bridge in Puerto Cortes. The only way to stay alive on the streets is to be in a gang. They take care of you. They share food with you, and they defend you if someone wants to hurt you. When you are in a gang, you have to steal for them. They teach you how to sniff glue. They tell you if you try to leave, they will kill you. But they are your only family, so you stay. I am so thankful to God it was only about two months after I went out to the streets until I meet Brother Oscar.

He was taking some of the other boys from under the bridge to live and work out at Tegucigalpa. They told me about him and that I could go and work, too. At first I didn't trust too much, because a lot of bad men want to do bad things to boys. One day, I decided to go and work with them. The only house had no roof. (the present day clinic) Brother Oscar said that we could stay out there and sleep and eat and Brother Freddie would stay with us.

We all slept on the floor, but we were so happy to not be sleeping under the bridge.

Even though those days were hard, we felt safe. Then we got beds. Everyday we got a little bit more. Gringos started to come, and bring us stuff from the U.S. We were eating 3 times every day. Brother Oscar and Brother Freddy started telling us about God and how much he loved us. I asked Jesus to live in my heart, and now I go to church and read my Bible all the time. Brother Oscar taught me how to play the bass guitar, and now I play for the worship group at my church. I started school 3 years ago in first grade when I was 13. Now I am in the seventh grade and at the top of my class, because the people here have helped me and showed me that I can do it.

I want to say how thankful I am to all of the people that have believed in me. I pray for you all the time, that God would bless you and give back to you more than you have given me. Always remember, we are friends forever and you are always in my prayers. Please continue to pray for me.

God Bless you

Josue

POSTSCRIPT (BY AMY SERRANO)

As you can see from this amazing story, this is a great young man who has experienced much in his 16 years. There is a popular T.V. program in the U.S. called "Survivor", that portrays a group of people thrown into difficult circumstances and the one who fairs the best wins a million dollars. However, when I think of the word "survivor", I picture Josue. He is not just alive, after his difficult childhood, he is full of life! He received an award from school at the end of last year for finishing at the top of his class. He wants to go to college to study to be a social worker. His dream is to work with street kids. Josue is also an excellent soccer player. He will be trying out for the Honduras National Soccer League soon. It would be wonderful if we could send him to college in the U.S. on a soccer scholarship. He would need a sponsor in the U.S. to help him. Keep this in prayer. He will be ready in just 2 or 3 years.

Josue is on fire for the Lord and spends almost every night at the church with his youth group. He wants to serve the Lord and hopes to go to seminary after he is out of college. His is an amazing testimony to what the Lord can do with a life seemingly without hope. Who knows how far this young man will go, what lives he will touch? His chance for success is the direct result of your prayers and support. We can't save them all. But with your help we saved Josue.

On a final note, Josue has been dating a nice young girl from church for the last few weeks. We had a barbeque on Easter Sunday and he asked if she could

come. When he introduced Oscar and me to his girlfriend he said, “ I would like you to meet my mom and dad”. I am sure the young girl didn’t understand why I started crying.

CHILDREN'S VILLAGE NEWS

By Amy Serrano

April has been a month full of great change at the Children’s Village in Tegucigalpa. I really don’t even know where to begin. One of the local Baptist churches “Dios con Nosotros” (God with us), blessed the children with a full day of activities. A crew of about 20 from their youth group arrived with piñatas, games, and of course, lots of candy. They presented puppet skits to entertain and teach valuable Bible lessons to the children. It was a blessing for our children to have their own Honduran people loving and blessing them, in addition to the foreign teams that come.

This month seven new faces arrived at the Village from three families, bringing our total to 18 children. First there was Olga and Juan. Olga is 12 years old and her brother Juan is 9. We became aware of their situation when Marvin, our oldest child at the Village, (18) went to visit his family in Los Flores. It is a small village, literally in the middle of nowhere, high in the mountains of Santa Barbara Honduras. They have no power, running water or telephones. Most survive by sustenance farming.

While there, Marvin was told about a mother and two children that lived even deeper in the mountains than Los Flores. Her husband had been murdered with a machete 5 years earlier in the middle of a church service. The children, now 12 and 9, had never been to school. They walked the five miles to Los Flores everyday looking for anything they could do to earn money. Their mother was desperate for help.

Oscar went to Los Flores to investigate the situation. He found it just as Marvin described. While there, he also found another family in great need of help. Three young sisters, Karla (11), Kenia (10), and Ana (9) were living alone. Their mother had left 6 months earlier to go to Guatamala to find work, leaving the 3 girls alone. One of her family members said the mother had found work as a prostitute and was now living in Guatemala. The girls were delighted to come along as well.

The last two children, Jelsi age 2 and Elen age 5, came with their mother who is one of our house parents. The children have adjusted well. There are signs that the children from the mountains have suffered forms of abuse and neglect. We are thankful we got them when we did. The mother of the 3 sisters actually made a surprise visit to the Children’s Village last week. She kissed her children, thanked us for taking them and left. We don’t know if they will ever see her again. They did not appear upset when she left.

Easter week in Honduras is one of the largest holiday celebrations of the year. Most people have the whole week off work and the whole country heads to the beach. The kids had the week off from school. We took the opportunity to take them as well. For the new children from Los Flores, it was their first time ever to see the ocean. We also gave some of our workers the weekend off. So, we spent the week in Tegucigalpa.

We were blessed Saturday night and Easter Sunday with help from the girls who live at the Eternal Family Project Ministry, located in Puerto Cortes. The Eternal Family Project, directed by American, Allison Alexander, is an organization that takes in young woman that are thrown out of government run orphanages when they turn 18. We

barbequed fish, set up the swimming pool and had a wonderful time with the children. That night they taught the kids how to paint Easter eggs and made chocolate chip cookies. Easter morning, after breakfast and a short devotional with the children, the Easter egg hunt was on. This, of course, is an American tradition that these Honduran children quickly embraced after their first egg hunt a year ago with the Medical Team.

Another new change in the Children's Village is our three new employees. While on a mission trip with our church in a southern Honduras town, Oscar met a woman pastor of an Assembly of God's church who told him she had some women in her congregation who needed work. They are all single and leaders in the church. She highly recommended them to us for houseparent positions. They arrived on the seventeenth ready to work. As all new employees, they are subject to a 3 month trial period before being considered for permanent employee status. But we really feel that God is bringing these people our way as we are filling the orphanage with children.

We are so thankful for your prayers and support that make this all possible. This is a mission that we do together, you and I and all those that love these children.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

As new children join the Heart to Heart family, the cost to support this important work goes up. This month, before we even asked, God touched hearts and provided an extra \$6000, all of which was used to supply clothing, beds, bedding, food, school cost, medical and dental cost and more houseparents for the new children. We actually received the funds before we knew about the new employees and children. Just one more faith builder that God knows our needs before we do. Just one more confirmation that this is His Village and His work!! Please consider inviting a friend or family member to join us as a regular monthly supporter to help with this ongoing challenge. Any monthly pledge amount is appreciated. Right now it takes over \$5000 a month to finance this work. We receive \$4500 in regular monthly pledges. Serranos do miracles making it stretch. Imagine feeding, schooling, doctoring and clothing 30 people each month with that amount! We estimate it will cost \$10,000 a month to finance this work when we are at full capacity with 48 children and 12 employees. This includes our Honduras National Directors, Oscar and Amy Serrano, 8 house parents, a day guard and a night guard. Our house parents double as cooks, teachers, and nurse caregivers.

In the next few weeks we will have filled three of the four houses at the village. We will need extra funds for these 18 new children. They too, will need food, medical care, school fees, and clothing. If you are able to increase your giving this month, it is certainly needed. God bless you all for your help with this.

The cost will be \$4500 to provide the furnishings needed for the 4th house of 12 children. In addition there will be costs for two houseparents, food, medical care, school fees and clothing. Please pray about how you can help us help these children yet to come.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

You are cordially invited to attend the WWH2H annual benefit dinner at the Castle Rock Christian Church, 542 Huntington Ave. on Saturday, May 20 at 6:00 p.m. The program will include music by Richard Sayles and Friends, and an update on the Children's Village and the teams who have blessed this ministry over the last 12 months. Please join

us for this chance to visit and see what is planned for the rest of 2006. Contact Tina Campbell (360-274-8840 email tlducks@juno.com) or Mary Frenter (509-427-8585 email: maryf@wwh2h.org) if you plan to attend. Donations will be accepted.

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

HOORAY!! OUR LIBRARY HAS BEGUN!

A generous Scholastic Book Grant for 200 children's storybooks in Spanish valued at \$1220 was gifted to WWH2H this month. These books will form the foundation for our Tegucigalpa Children's Village Library. If you wish to donate age appropriate fiction or nonfiction books in Spanish to the library for our kids, please contact Mary Frenter. (509-427-8585)

UPDATE ON SURGERY FOR DAVID

A huge thank you to reporter Julia Nicholls of The Chronicle newspaper in Centralia, WA for her wonderful article about David and his impending surgery to correct his club foot. This is the first in a series of articles she plans to write as this story unfolds. The surgery will be performed by Dr. Keith Birchard of Centralia. Without it, David will eventually be wheelchair bound for life. We are working with our Honduran lawyer and a judge to secure an emergency passport for David. At the moment WWH2H has guardianship of David and his three brothers, but no one has custody. This is a huge hurdle to leap in Honduran politics. Please pray that God will intervene and a passport and visa will be granted very soon.

April Showers bring May Flowers!

Let it sprinkle, let it shower, let it rain, let it pour!! We are asking you to host a Blessings Shower at your church or your home for one of the rooms at our Children's Village. We plan to send a container to Honduras this summer filled with all the much needed supplies and equipment to care for our kids. Jean Costello gave me the idea when she told me she was going to host a Kitchen Shower for the Village. If you wish, pick a room from the list below, call me (509-427-8585) for a list of needed items, and invite your friends and family to help bless our kids.

- Toy Shower
- Spanish children's books for Library
- Bedroom Shower
- Livingroom Shower
- Diningroom Shower

- Bathroom Shower
- Kitchen Shower
- School Shower
- Tech School Shower

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)

WWH2H CONTAINER NEEDS
DEPARTURE DATE - AUGUST 2006

- 1. 30 PASSENGER BUS**
- 2. 6 COMPUTERS WITH PRINTER/SCANNERS**
- 3. 2 WASHERS AND DRYERS**
- 4. 60 KW GENERATOR**
- 5. TREADMILL AND WEIGHTS**
- 6. ALL KINDS OF P.E. EQUIPMENT**
- 7. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**
- 8. FICTION AND NON FICTION BOOKS IN SPANISH FOR OUR LIBRARY FOR ALL AGES**
- 9. ESL PROGRAM FOR K-12**
- 10. TRACTOR**
- 11. WHITE BOARDS**
- 12. LARGE WORLD MAP**
- 13. LARGE MAP OF HONDURAS**

- 14. SUMMER CLOTHING, SOCKS, UNDERWEAR, SHOES FOR GIRLS AND BOYS AGES 2 TO 17**
- 15. BLANKETS, PILLOWS, TWIN SHEETS, HAND AND BATH TOWELS.**
- 16. AIR COMPRESSOR**
- 17. PRESSURE WASHER**
- 18. MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE FOR 3 PATIENT ROOM CLINIC**
- 19. WELDERS**
- 20. TORCHES**
- 21. METAL CUTTER AND DISKS**
- 22. GRINDER AND DISKS**
- 23. WELDING TOOLS**
- 24. COVERALLS OF ALL Sizes**
- 25. POWER TESTERS**
- 26. WIRE CUTTERS**
- 27. SCREW DRIVERS SETS**
- 28. CARPENTRY TOOLS**
- 29. SEWING MACHINES**

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

Monthly Support for our growing number of children at the Village