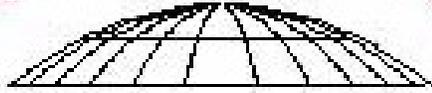


WORLDWIDE



Heart To Heart



Gifts From God - Our True Heroes

"Only You, Lord..." Spotlight On Daniel

by Amy Serrano



When you look at Daniel, you see a child that smiles from the inside out. You know that kind of smile, the one that is not just the bending of the outside of the mouth, but something that comes from the inside. When he smiles he just beams with a joyful radiance. However, if there ever was a child who should not be beaming, this is the one. Some time ago, I brought you up close and personal with Daniel's brother, Marlon. Now, I want you to know this child, because his story needs to be told. Daniel is 8 years old and has been with us since November of last year. His mother actually brought him here. She dropped him off on her way to the U.S., like someone dropping off their laundry at the dry cleaners. That was actually the fortunate end of a season in what was the story of this child's bizarre and disturbing life.

As I wrote in the story of Marlon's life, their mother makes a living by selling grilled corn on the cob. Daniel is the youngest of

her sons. Selling corn is not a very lucrative business. It barely put food on the table for this family. Daniel's mother looked to her children as a means of income. All of the children from a young age were sent out to sell.

Daniel's story of going to school is a bit like Cinderella's story of going to the ball. Each year his mother would take him, Marlon and their sisters to the school and sign them up. They could go to school on one condition; they must sell all the corn their mother had ready before the school day started at 11:00 a.m. Daniel says that he had only been to school about three or four times in his whole life. On the days that he did attend, he went barefooted, wearing old and dirty clothes, because he never had a pair of shoes and they were too poor to afford anything else. He said that all of the kids just laughed and made fun of him. Selling things on the streets for children in Honduras is a very dangerous part of their young lives. As with many third world nations, law enforcement is lacking, and there are many child predators. Those who make their living on the streets, eventually and inevitably become victims. This is true especially for young ones like Daniel, who since the age of 5 sold corn in the streets sometimes until 10 p.m.

As I also mentioned before, their mother suffers from mental illness. She was extremely abusive to these children. Daniel says that she often hit them with any object that she had around to grab. But most often she hit them with a metal cable. She demanded they sell all the corn they left the house with in the morning. Marlon and Daniel say that the cruel punishment they got, should they not sell all of the corn, was she would force them to get on their knees and eat every piece that was left over. Daniel says he remembers eating until he was very sick. He said he felt like it was more than 20 cobs that he had to force down, crying, with his mother standing over him screaming with her metal cable in hand.

When Marlon arrived at the Children's Village nearly three years ago, he often expressed concern for his younger siblings. But there was not much that we could do, as Honduran law prevents us from just taking the children out of the house. Then one day last November, his mother showed up at the Children's Village with Daniel. She said she had an opportunity to go to the U.S. and did not want to take him. She had left the sisters with some neighbors and just had Daniel that she needed to do something with. At that time she was

very pleasant and thankful for what we had done with Marlon. (Marlon ran and hid when she showed up). So we took Daniel and she disappeared.

Daniel started school. It was obvious from the beginning, he was a very bright child. Perhaps if he had grown up in the U.S., he would have been in a gifted class. He made friends easily and just settled into life at the village so well. And then it happened; about 3 to 4 weeks after his mother dropped him off at the Children's Village, she showed up again. "Give Daniel back to me," she said. " Things did not go as I thought they would in the U.S., so I will just take my kid and go home." We, of course, were not going to stand for this. She had signed legal documents giving us parental rights to Daniel, and she could not just take him. Daniel flew into a panic. He was literally grabbing Oscar around the legs and crying, " Please, Hermano, don't make me go! I can't go back!" We told his mother that the child was not leaving. By this time, we had come to know this woman as they had described her to us. She began to tell us if we did not give him back, we would be sorry. She said she knew where we lived and began to make threats. She told Daniel, "So, you don't want to go with me? Then you are garbage. You don't have a mother anymore!" It was at that moment that Marlon, Daniel's brother, jumped in. He came out from hiding where he had overheard the conversation. He told his mother that if she continued this, he would go to the police and tell them of all of the horrible things that she had done to them. Their mother left and has never returned.

With all of this you would think children like Daniel would not smile, but the truth is, he is all smiles. He is not depressed, nor does he show signs of being emotionally distraught due to his abusive young life. He amazingly seems undamaged. I look at Daniel and from the depth of my soul all I can say is, " Only you, Lord, can do this." We know all too well from experience that children can often hide behind smiles. But something inside of me tells me that Daniel has been rescued in his young life by a power that he cannot yet understand. By a loving God who saw him when he was selling corn in the streets. Who saw him forcing down large quantities of corn and being hit with a cable. A loving God who heard the cries of this small Honduran child, when no one else could see him or hear him. A loving God who brought him into a place of safety and security. Aren't you thankful that you could be part of that? I know I am.

By Amy Serrano

The months of June and July have been full of new faces from the United States, Europe and beyond. In addition we have some new children and employees as well. So, let's start with the new children. About 4 weeks ago, a medical team from the United States "just happened" to drop in. They were doing some work in the border town of Corinto, just 15 minutes away from the Children's Village. They said they had seen the Village and had always wanted to stop and see who we were. They dropped off lots of valuable things, like sheets, towels, soaps and shampoos, as well as lots of school supplies. Some members of the group had become acquainted with a Corinto family that was in real need. To make a really long story short, (I will write it all one day in a report on the kids) we now have 3 Corinto children. Their names are Marcos 11, Daniella 10, and Jehovany 8. They are all doing extremely well. Their circumstances were so unsafe and abusive that we had to have the police escort us to remove the children. They are starting in the first grade and are really excited about going to school for the first time.

We have sad news and happy news. The sad news is that 3 sisters that were with us, left. Ana, Kenia and Karla went back to their home in Los Flores. They are living with their sister at the moment. The good news is that we have two new sisters, Martha 8 and Nohelia 6. In the demeanor of these very shy little girls, we recognize the possibility that there may have been abuse and neglect in their little lives. They too, have started school and have begun bit-by-bit to open up and intergrate into our little community. Please keep all of our new children in prayer for this time of transition.

We have a new employee, Karol. She is Nolbia's sister, one of our other employees that has been with us now for about 7 months. Karol is working with her sister as a housemother for the girls' house. Many of the girls already knew and loved Karol, so they were excited to have her in their home.

The blessings continued with several groups that came to Honduras and ministered at the Children's Village. In mid June two teams from Mercy Ships came. They were from many different states and churches all around the U.S. One was a construction team and the other a medical team. The construction team built a large drainage

system for the property, as flooding from the frequent torrential rains is a huge problem in this part of the world. This drainage system has been a lifesaver. It will keep standing water and the pests and insects that accompany that, off our property. They also brought a doctor and two nurses. We opened the clinic for 3 days and treated the community. It was a great blessing for many of our children, as well as those dwelling in the nearby village of Tegucigalpa.

A ministry team from Tennessee conducted a day of children's ministry with puppet shows, music, activities and toys. One family, the Hollingsworths, left us their two eldest sons. Well, it was actually planned. Taylor, 19, and Jake, 22, have been working with us since the end of June. They have done every type of job imaginable, mostly working as night watchman with the older boys of the home. They said that they have really enjoyed this time to get to know the boys. We were so blessed to have these wonderful young men here. Jake actually wins the WWH2H first official injury award. While doing some work up on a ladder, he fell and broke his leg. It was a painful experience, but he was such a good sport about it.

WWH2H board members, Lyle and Mary Frenter, visited for 12 days. They got to know many of the new children and see what has been accomplished since their last visit. We were able to do some planning and discuss next step ideas, that will hopefully become realities in the very near future. They also brought Christmas in July. All of the children received new shoes and clothes that the Frenters stuffed in the their suit cases. It was such a blessing as the kids were in real need of some good quality new clothes.

Frenters were accompanied by a wonderful person, Kim Sharp from Cathlamet, Washington, who stayed for three weeks. She is a pediatric nurse practitioner and the wife of Steve Sharp who was our Construction Coordinator for major parts of the Village two years ago. She lived at the village and did so much for the children. Kim created a medical folder for each child, treated many big and little "owies" and inventoried and organized all the medicines and equipment in the clinic. While she was here, we made a trip to Los Flores, the mountain village we have adopted several hours away. This village's inhabitants were ravaged by scabies and other skin ailments. We brought medicines to treat these and various other infections and sicknesses. It

brought tremendous relief to these people with no other hope.

Mercy Ships Mission Team Coordinators Gary and Sylvia Thacker and their Honduras National Directors, Rick and Brittany Schommer, brought us a large ministry group with members from all over the world. They consisted mostly of medical personal. Their main goal was to teach first aid and CPR to our staff, our older children, and the members of the Tegucigalpa community. They also brought puppet shows and kids ministry volunteers who took care of the small children while our staff learned valuable life saving techniques.

And finally, we said a praise the Lord, cheerful goodbye to our little David, as he left for

Washington State on July 20th to receive surgery for his club foot. We don't know how long he will be gone, but we do know that when we see him again, he will be walking on a new foot! He is a brave little fellow who will be undergoing major surgery soon. We miss him alot, but we know that God has done this wonderful thing in his life, and we are so happy for him.

Over all this month has been one of the best that I can remember. There have been many challenges, but God has proved himself faithful in them all. Thank you to all those who have come to Honduras, who have supported those who came, and continue to support and pray for this ministry. We thank you and so do those 21 little people out in our Children's Village near Tegucigalpa.

THANK YOU TO CARDOZOS

Juan and Diomar Cardozo, owners of the Flamingo Hotel where our teams stay when they go to Honduras, told us they will provide 100 pounds of flour, rice, and beans each month for the Children's Village. They joined us at the Village for the first time at the June birthday celebration. In addition, they are bringing us fresh fruit and vegetables. This wonderful couple are also helping a small village in nearby Omoa where the Flamingo is located. Thank you so much, Juan and Diomar, for this blessing for our children!

HOME SCHOOLING PROGRAM NEEDED

In July, when Lyle and I were in Honduras, our children only attended school two days a week. One week there was no school. The teachers just decide not to show up. We need to give our children a good education. A volunteer is at our Children's Village right now teaching ESL to our kids. We want to send a K-8 home schooling curriculum to Honduras for her to use in the container we are sending in late August. The cost for the materials will be about \$4000. Please pray about how you might help us with this important

How Can You Help?

As new children join the Heart to Heart family, the cost to support this important work goes up. ***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, clothing and paying wages for 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 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The following teams are planned for the coming months:

October 11-25 - Copan Conference and work at Village - contact person is Mary Frenter, maryf@wwh2h 509-427-8585

Dec. 26- Jan. 2 - Youth Group from Immanuel Lutheran in Centralia - contact person is Youth Pastor Shane Wood hepcat20@hotmail.com.

Jan. 27-Feb. 3 - Tentative plans for a Vacation Bible School from Castle Rock Christian Church - contact person is Tina Campbell tlducks@juno.com 360-274-8840

March 21- March 31 - Medical Team - contact person WWH2H Medical Team Coordinator, Karen Kearcher Joiner , karenkearcher@msn.com 503-728-4290

ONLY 3 WEEKS LEFT TO COLLECT THINGS TO PUT IN THE CONTAINER TO BE SENT TO HONDURAS

LOADING BEGINS IN AUGUST IN PORTLAND

CONTACT PERSON: DENISE BARDAL (360-577-8170) or Mary Frenter (509-427-8585)

KITCHEN

- Hobart Industrial Mixer
- Industrial electric stove
- Compressor for refrigerator room
- Small Mixer
- Large cast iron pots and skillets
- Rubber spatulas, potato peeler, wire whip selection
- Rolling pins
- Cutting boards,
- Trays
- Good quality plastic dishes, cups, glasses, silverware
- Commercial pots, pans, baking pans
- Commercial freezer
- Commercial electric stove, grill ,oven
- Commercial refrigerator
- Food processor
- Kitchen towels, potholders
- Large stainless steel bowls

ASSORTED ITEMS

- outside furniture - chairs, tables.
- Big screen tv.
- furniture for family room, couches, tables, chairs, lamps
- 30 passenger bus
- 6 computers with printer/scanner (we have one printer/scanner)
- 60 KW generator
- Air compressor
- Pressure washer
- Copy machine

Treadmill and weights

OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT:

bats, balls, gloves, t-ball stand, soccer balls, basketballs, pump, badminton game with net, tennis balls, racquets, net, volleyball set, hockey set, playground balls, water toys, wadding pool , Ping-Pong table and supplies, Water slide, playground slide, tether ball pole and equipment, scooter boards.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS:

- drum set, brass, wind and string instruments, keyboard, rhythm instruments

SCHOOL SUPPLIES –

- ESL program for K-12, Home schooling program K-8
- fiction and non fiction books in Spanish for all ages for our library,
- 3 large white boards
- large pull down world map, large pull down map of Honduras,
- paper, pencils, pencil sharpener, crayons, construction paper, scissors, glue, colored
- pencils, markers, rulers, globe, compasses
- Two Elmo projectors
- Dry erase supplies

CLOTHING

Summer things for girls and boys ages 2 -17, socks, underwear, shoes, shirts, shorts, jeans for younger children, jeans for older boys waist sizes 27-30, dresses, skirts, blouses

BATH AND BEDROOM SUPPLIES

blankets, pillows, pillow cases, double and twin sheets, hand and bath towels, wash rags, toothpastes, toothbrushes, mouth wash, tartar wash, bar soap, shampoos, rinses, bath mats, combs, brushes, hair spray, hair decorations

TECH SCHOOL MATERIALS

- welders, torches, metal cutter and disks, grinder and disks, welding tools, coveralls for all sizes, power tester, wire cutters, screw driver sets, carpentry tools,
- Mig Welder
- Plasma torch
- Acetylin cutting outfit
- Hand grinders
- Bench grinders
- Chop saw
- Horizontal
- Lexan plastic glass
- Riciproating band saw

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE FOR 3 PATIENT ROOM CLINIC

- an autoclave

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.

EMAIL...

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA SNAILMAIL...IF YOU HAVE EMAIL AND WOULD BE WILLING TO RECEIVE IT THAT WAY, PLEASE EMAIL [Mary Frenter at maryf@wwh2h.org](mailto:maryf@wwh2h.org) and I will add you to the email list instead. It would help us save on postage each month. Thank you!!

PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

My Name is Daniel

I need a sponsor. I am 8 years old and live in Honduras. Please return this coupon to sponsor me each month. Thanks!

\$25

\$50

\$ _____

Phone # (360) 274 - 8026
Sponsorship Department

