

WORLDWIDE HEART TO HEART MINISTRIES

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Gifts From God - Our True Heroes **Spotlight on Daniela, Marco Tulio, and Jehovany** By Amy Serrano



As you read these monthly reports it becomes apparent that the task ahead of us is much too great for us to conquer alone. God knows this. He already has resources at His disposal that we know nothing about, and in His timing He reveals them to us. This month we want to share one example of how He accomplished His glory through His servants. Some local and foreign heroes joined forces to bring three young people, Marco Tulio, Daniela, and Jehovany, out of a frightening and dangerous situation. This is their story.

In June, Mercy Ships, International construction and medical teams were working at our Village. Some medical volunteers from another American organization had been working in the border town of Corinto, about 15 minutes from here. They had seen the Village and had been told that it was a children's home, so they stopped to introduce themselves. They left us tons of useful resources like school supplies, clothing, bedding and medicines.

In that group was a wonderful woman named Thelma Thompson. She became very fond of a Corinto family she had been working with and was concerned for them. Thelma revealed a grim story of a grandmother with untreated cancer, her mentally disturbed son, and his three children that lived in the mountains. She asked if we could do something for this family and she would help any way she could..

We went to meet the family to make an assessment, something that proved to be a big mistake. Upon arrival, we found the 3 children and the grandmother in their extremely primitive home. The children slept on the dirt floor and had only rice and beans to eat on most occasions. The meeting with the four was pleasant and plans were made for us to return the next day to bring the children to our Children's Village.

As we prepared to leave, the father showed up. With upraised machete in hand, he demanded to know who we were and what we were doing there. We explained the situation to him and he became extremely angry. He said the Gringos were trying to rule his village (referring to Thelma's group that had just left)

and he threatened “to kill someone today”. We excused ourselves and somehow made it out of there. We are completely aware of how close we came to being seriously injured or worse. The other residents of the village said he was crazy and would kill someone some day. It was obvious that the situation was critical for these children.

We knew we could not return for them alone. So we enlisted the help of the local police force. The next day, two young armed officers and the District Attorney accompanied us back to Corinto. Oscar and the officers marched up to the house and removed the children and the grandmother.

We initially brought the grandmother, Maria, to the Children’s Village until we could find another secure place for her to live and receive treatment for her cancer. Unfortunately, she also had mental problems. A short time later in the middle of the night, she took the two boys and made a run for it. She brought them back to the home in Corinto where the angry father lived. We, of course, had to go after them. When we arrived, the local residents told us she came only to grab some belongings and was on the run again. She told them we wanted to kidnap her and the children, and that we were going to kill them. They thought she may have another son living in Bajamar, about 20 minutes from Puerto Cortes.

We went to Bajamar and began to search. Oscar, amazingly, by the grace of God, found this son. He is a very nice man who lives with his wife and children in a remote area of Honduras. Judging by his home, he is a hard working man, but very poor. He said he would have taken the family into his home had he been financially able. His mother had a long history of emotional problems. We were very concerned because we knew the children were now alone on the run with their emotionally unstable grandmother. Fortunately, her son had an idea where they may be hiding. We told the son that Thelma had offered to help financially if he could take his grandmother in and get her to medical appointments. He was more than happy to do that.

A few days later, he found them in very bad condition, hiding out in Guatemala. He brought them to the Children’s Village. Today Marcos Tulio (age 11), Daniela (age 10) and Jehovany (age 8) are safe and sound. Their grandmother is under the care of her son and his wife. The three children are enrolled and doing well in first grade. They absolutely love it here. We take the children, from time to time, to Bajamar to have supervised visits with their uncle and grandmother.

Jhovany, the youngest, could easily pass for a three year old. He had chronic diarrhea and vomiting when he came to the Village and one of the worse cases of parasites we had ever seen. He was severely anemic and malnourished, sleeping 14 to 16 hours a day. He suffered with health problems for many years and it was Thelma who had kept him alive by helping the family financially and taking him to the clinic when she was in Honduras. I really don’t know how much longer he would have survived in that condition as diarrhea is the #1 killer of children in Honduras.

The children revealed stories of the physical, emotional and verbal abuse that they suffered from their father. Between the obvious health risks and social risks that were present in their lives, it is safe to say they were rescued just in time. However, this would not have been possible without the help of some real heroes that came through for these children.

One such hero, of course, is Thelma Thompson, who could be considered their “patron saint”. Without her, who knows where these children would be today. We also want to thank the young police officers that came out that day to remove the children from their dangerous situation. We thank Bernardo, Maria’s son, and his wife. All of you have been used in a mighty way by God to see His will be done in the lives of these three brave and amazing children. And, we thank all of you, each and every person that supports this ministry, prayerfully and financially. You are our heroes, because we can do nothing for these children without you. Thank you so much! Now, has this been a great rescue story or what? There are still more out there. Let keep going for Jesus!

VILLAGE NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER

BY AMY SERRANO



Nelson, “dressed for business” and ready for the parade

Children’s Day is celebrated in Honduras on September 10th. Our celebration began on the evening of Friday the 8th. A group from a private school in Tegucigalpa came with piñatas to celebrate with the kids. But the “mega” celebration was on Saturday, the 9th. Juan and Diomar Cardoza, owners of the Flamingo Hotel in Omoa where most of our groups stay, are huge supporters of this ministry and have a huge heart for children. They came and provided half of the food that went into feeding the 170 people who participated that day. Principal Rafael Zicados and the students and faculty of ABCD Christian School in Puerto Cortes provided for the other half of the food, pinatas, toys and candy, as well as entertainment and games. Some local residents of Tegucigalpa who have celebrated Children’s Day with us in the past brought cakes and disposable plates and cups. We also want to thank the Port of Puerto Cortes that donated cakes, as well as toys and other odds and ends, such as hair clips and fire works.

The day dawned bright and early for us at 5 am to begin preparations for the festivities. The main item on the menu was a traditional Honduran dish called “Arroz con Pollo”, with a side of potato salad and bread. All of our Honduran Board of Directors was on site to help with the massive task of cooking and serving this large group.

The school came with games, music and activities for the children. Each child received a present and awards for the games. The program continued about 3 hours until it was time for lunch. Then came time to break the piñatas and eat cake. The day was over about 3 pm. To say the least, we were exhausted, but the children were so blessed and so content. Thank you to all that contributed to this wonderful celebration of Children’s Day, a day that celebrates that reason we are here.

We want to congratulate Nelson and Kellin this month as well. They both made the honor roll at school. They are very proud of their accomplishments as they worked so hard to achieve this honor. September 15th is Honduras Independence Day. All the children marched through the streets of Tegucigalpa in the local parade. Because Nelson made the honor roll, he marched in a special line. He was dressed for business right down to the tie. Unfortunately, it was about the hottest day of the year, but all of the children were so happy to be part of the parade.

Construction continues at the Village as we complete the windows and doors on the Tech School. The 40ft container filled with donated items from the United States is scheduled to arrive on October 5th. We need to have the Technical School secured so that we can use it as a sorting center for unloading the container. We are hoping to begin classes in February, the traditional beginning of school in Honduras.

And the blessings just keep coming. The biggest blessing is always the sight of our wonderful children, safe and sound at their home here in Tegucigalpa. But we are also continually blessed by the

generous hearts around us. Nothing is quite as beautiful as watching love in action and I get to witness it everyday. I see it in groups that come to minister and show love to the children. I witness it in prayers lifted up for this ministry and I witness it in every donation that comes in. In a world where hatred and wars are on the rise, it is a blessing to be in a place where one can still experience “love” practiced on a daily basis.



Marlon with Max

CHRISTMAS IS COMING – GIVING OF THE FIRST ORDER

We are hoping to raise \$3000 to send to Honduras for Christmas to buy clothing and at least one toy for each child at our Village. Please pray about how you might help with this over the next two months. Read on to hear about how God is blessing our children with the gift of giving. I want to tell you a blessing story Amy told me this week. Marlon, our 13 year old at the Village, was in church recently and heard a young man, 17, go forward for prayer for a bicycle. He needed it to get to work to provide for his parents and family. Marlon asked Oscar if he could give this person his bike that he got for Christmas two years ago. He said the other three bikes at our Village were shared by everyone and he did not need it as much as the young man at church. After a long discussion, Oscar told him OK. Marlon gave his bike to a weeping, God praising young man at church last Sunday. Please know that the prayers you pray for our children and the spiritual development they are getting is working. We are seeing the fruits of your prayers in our children already!! Imagine how God is going to use their lives for His glory as they mature. God says our relationship to Him will show in the fruits we produce. You are helping to fill the fruit basket with your prayers and support for this ministry. Thank you, Jesus!!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The following teams are planned for the coming months:

Dec. 26- Jan. 2 - Youth Group from Immanuel Lutheran in Centralia - contact person is Youth Director 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

March 24- March 31 – Construction team from Estacada. Contact Mary Frenter, 509-427-858

THIS AND THAT FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Mary Frenter

Update on David - David has a soccer game almost every Saturday. Check with Denise for a schedule. (360-577-8170) He is a wonder to behold on the soccer field! At his first game he made 3 of the 4 goals made by his team. At the second game he made 4 goals. Haven't had the goal report from last Sat. yet. We go for his first Shriner appt. Oct. 30th. :

Container Report - Thanks to all of you who helped load the container and to everyone who donated things to send. *A special thank you to Denise and Arnie Bardal and their children who supervised all the loading and closed it lovingly on September 17th with a huge sign they made that said, "WE LOVE YOU, FROM YOUR HEART TO HEART FAMILY"* This will be the first thing Serranos see when they open the doors on Oct. 5th when the container arrives in Honduras. God has placed one of our WWH2H Honduran Board members in an influential position at the port. She is going to help us. Also, Wilmar Valle, a former board member, now owns a trucking company. He is taking care of all the arrangements to truck the container to our Village!! Then, through Sen. Pam Roach, I met Dan Smith of Direct Relief International headquartered in Santa Barbara, CA. He is going to provide medical supplies and meds to us in the future and will even ship them free of charge to us in Honduras. We will have to pay the port fees to get them out but the rest is free. With all this help, we definitely need a Doctor to staff our clinic. I just love how God orchestrates all of this!!

Meeting with the First Lady One of our Honduras board members is Douglass Uritia who is also our ministry's lawyer in Honduras. His wife is the secretary to Dr. Marlon Lara, the current Sec. of State for Honduras. Marlon was the mayor of Puerto Cortes when we first began working in Honduras. We used to do the presentation of wheelchairs from his office with him present and, of course, the national media. I am assuming that is how the First Lady, Xiomar de Zelaya Rosales, found out about our work. She has requested that we meet with her and her cabinet on Oct. 5th in the Capital. The First Lady has the authority to provide us with a full time doctor for our clinic. The doctor is provided by the World Health Organization and is financed by them. She decides where to place the doctors. Her agenda while her husband is President is three fold: to provide food to the desperately poor, to support and develop education programs for abandoned children, and to provide medical helps through brigades. Since this is our agenda as well, we are hopeful she will be able to help us help her people, who are now OUR people, too! More on this next month!

PLEASE JOIN WORLDWIDE HEART TO HEART MINISTRIES IN PRAYER FOR...



Nelson asks the blessing

- Good health and Holy Spirit wisdom for Serranos, our children and their caretakers
- Safe journey for our container
- God's wisdom for the board as decisions are made
- Monthly support for our growing number of children at the Village. We have two new little girls this month bringing our total up to 25.