



WORLDWIDE HEART TO HEART MISISTRIES

Gifts From God - Our True Heroes- Spotlight on Denis and Francisco A Wonderful Rescue!

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By Amy Serrano

This month we want to take you inside the lives of two amazing young brothers who God blessed us with last August. Examples of the powerful grace of God, they are two of the most charming children I have ever met.

Their story begins in Puerto Cortes where they lived with their mother. Denis, the older brother, is 10 and Francisco is 7. One afternoon while I was at home making dinner, I received a phone call from the local police station, saying that two children were found begging for money in the street in front of a gas station. The owner had called to complain. They asked if we could come and pick them up. When I arrived at the police station, I saw two very small boys sitting in the lobby. They were dirty, with no shoes and of course crying and scared. I went into the office and filled out the necessary paperwork, and with a few signatures, these two boys were now residents of the Children's Village in Tegucigalpa.

The district attorney told me that the owner of the gas station was very concerned about them. In Honduras there are many children begging in the streets, but he said that the children often slept there near the dumpsters and he was afraid that they were very sick. The D.A. knew nothing of who they were or where a parent might be, but told us that IHNFA would do the investigation and pass it on to us.

The ride back to our house was an interesting one. At first, Denis was afraid and asked me to just take him home. He said they were only playing, not begging, and that his mother loved them both so much and would be worried about them if they did not come home. I



promised him that we would make contact with his mother, so that she would not

worry. Francisco, however, fell asleep a soon as we got in the car. After Denis had calmed down, he actually began to talk my ear off. He asked what part of the U.S. I was from and what it was like. He asked if I

liked Platense (the local soccer team), and if I went to church. I found it so interesting to be having such an intelligent conversation with such a small kid, a street kid!

As soon as we arrived at our house, evidence of their life on the streets began to appear. Francisco immediately began with violent diarrhea. Having never used an actual toilet before, he just went in his pants. I spent much of the night trying to keep him clean. His stool was filled with parasites and blood. I could see why the man at the gas station was concerned, as **diarrhea is the #1 killer of children in Honduras**. I was very concerned for him. I also found it strangely odd that Denis did not want to eat. He said he wasn't hungry, but at that time I thought it was just shyness. I noticed how very thin he was for a 10 year old child. He could pass for a 5 year old.

Two days later, a representative from INHFA (the Honduras equivalent to CPS) came to the Village to investigate the case. It was her first time there and she could not stop praising us for how well it was managed. She said that she had found their mother's house, but no mother, and what was inside was terrifying! After knocking on the door and getting no answer, she heard children crying. The police officer who accompanied her, forced entry. She said the house stunk of soiled diapers and rotting food. She found two small children, maybe 2 and 4 years old, alone in the home. The children showed

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SPOTLIGHT

Denis and Francisco still held high loyalties to their mother and denied most of this as being true, saying anything to protect her.

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signs of being abandoned there for more than a day. They immediately took the two smaller siblings and brought them to the hospital in San Pedro Sula. We don't know anything more of their whereabouts or condition.

After talking to some of the neighbors, the investigator discovered that this is another unfortunate case of extreme mental illness. The mother lived alone with the 4 small children. She often went out into the streets and started screaming at the cars going by. They also said that she took off for days at a time and the children were left alone. It appears that Denis and Francisco's begging in the streets was the only income for this family.

Denis and Francisco still held high loyalties to their mother and denied most of this as being true, saying anything to protect her. For this reason, we didn't yet know what the reality of living at home was like for them. When the mother returned home, the neighbors informed her that the children had been taken to our Children's Village in Tegucigalpa.

The next day she arrived at the Village with an older, grown son and demanded her children back. She said that she was really rich and had millions of limpera in her bank account. Oscar told her that the children had been placed there by INHFA and that she would need to talk to them. At that point, she began to attack him. Oscar said he didn't know what to do, so he simply turned his back to her and called the D.A.'s office. When he turned his back to her, she stopped hitting him. The older son saw that Oscar was calling the police and began to scream at him, "You can see my mother is not well mentally! Why are you doing that?" The truth was Oscar was not calling anyone. When he turned back around the woman had pulled a Bible out of her bag and began to tell Oscar about the love of Jesus and that he needed to get saved.

She had calmed down, but at that point Denis came home from school. She told him, "Come on Denis, get your stuff. I came to take you both home". Francisco began to cry and ran away to hide. Oscar again repeated she could not take the children. At that point their mother said, "Denis, tell him you want to come home!" Then something amazing happened.

Denis, this gentle, intelligent 10 year old child, said to

his mother, "Let's sit down". Oscar stepped away, as he could see the mother crying and Denis comforting her and telling her that he wanted to stay, so that he could study and make a lot of money to take care of her when he grew up. Oscar said that he could see at that moment what was perhaps, the pattern in this family - Mother freaking out and Denis taking the role of having to bring her out of her panicked and out of control state. This he did very well. His mother thanked us for taking care of her children and left.

After multiple trips to the hospital, Francisco is slowly being relieved of his parasites. Denis also had a parasite problem. His not wanting to eat at my house was actually part of a larger problem. He continued to reject food even at the Children's Village and said that it was painful for him to eat. The doctors said that this was related to an intestinal infection caused by parasites. They are just now, after 7 months, beginning to get well. However, Kim Sharp, our pediatric nurse, said that Francisco may suffer from loose stool for the rest of his life due to the damage caused by such severe intestinal infections.

The brothers are now thriving at the village. I still like to have my little conversations with Denis. It is like talking to an adult. He has an enormous vocabulary. As you can imagine, he excels in school. Francisco is the cutest child. He knows how to flirt with the adults and steals lots of hearts.

Yeah, Jesus! for such a wonderful rescue!

He saw these children when they were sleeping behind the dumpster and maneuvered circumstances in order for them to come to a place of safety and security, a place that would not exist if it were not for the diligent and compassionate work of so many - people like our Board of Directors in the U.S. who push forward each day with this ministry to see that we have all that we need down here in Honduras to make this all happen - people such as you who keep this ministry alive with your prayers and financial contributions. Denis and Francisco say thank you. They all say thank you. God bless you all.

Upcoming Events

Washington Overseas Missions team arrives March 21st. They will install a water Purification system at the Children's Village. Housing for the system is being built right now.

Med Team 31 will conduct clinics in Honduras March 21-29

Estacada construction team construction of school building at Village, June 2007.

Estacada Drama team and Senior Class will conduct a Drama Camp- June 9-16, 2007 at the Children's Village.

Serrano's on furlough to Washington State- July 2007- Gary and Sylvia Thacker, Mission Coordinators for Mercy Ships, Int. and longtime friends of WWH2H, will take their place, living at the Village in their absence. Please contact Mary Frenter (509-427-8585 or maryf@wwh2h.org) to schedule a presentation at your church or organization

LIFE AT THE VILLAGE – February 2007

Endless Possibilities

By Amy Serrano

February, like so many of the recent months, has been filled with new faces. We were blessed to welcome the 2007 VBS team this year. It was an amazing success. The VBS was held in two locations, first in Tegucigalpa and then in the WWH2H Ministries Church in Puerto Cortes. So much planning, as well as prayer and fasting, have gone into this project and God proved so faithful. Each week our church still picks up many of the children for Sunday School, that came to the VBS. It is a beautiful harvest of little souls that we greatly rejoice over. Thank you, Jesus!! Thank you, VBS team!!



We also want to say thank you to our pediatric nurse practitioner, Kim Sharp, for taking 10 days out of her life and coming to Honduras to attend to these children. Kim comes every 6 months or so, to update the children's medical charts, and to do current evaluations on each child. The kids love her so much and she is always such a blessing to have here. She gave wonderful news. Three of the children that were very much underweight when she was here in July, have now gone up and improved significantly. One of the young girl's, Martha, who came to us very malnourished, has gone up 10% in her weight and height. Praise God!

We have been blessed with 5 new children this month. The first ones are **Myra 6 and Olvin 8**, a brother and sister from Cuyamel, a nearby village. We also received **Ana 6 and Enrique 9**, a brother and sister that were brought to us by INHFA. This week the police department of Puerto Cortes brought **Brenda**. She is 13, older than we normally take in, but after hearing of her circumstances and seeing how small she was for her age, we believed she would fit in. Today, Oscar called to report the arrival of another boy, **Santiago, age 10**. All the children are doing very well.

Marvin, our 18 year old, has some good news. Two weeks ago he officially became a licensed driver on the streets of Honduras.

This is very helpful to us, as he can now be in charge of transporting the smaller children the few blocks to and from school. He is very proud of his license and shows it to everyone

Soon the children will be starting school. This year we will be doing something new. The Honduras Department of Education has given us permission to have our own small school at the village for children ages 10 and older who are not at grade level. Since "homeschool" does not exist in Honduras, simply teaching the children at the village would not give them

a legally recognized education. So, we will begin a government program called *Educadores*, which is specifically designed for children or adults who are behind in grade levels for their age. This constitutes about 50% of our population at the village who will

use this program which allows two years of education in one. All of the smaller children that are in their appropriate grades will be going back to the local school this year. However, we are in the process of applying to be a private school in Honduras. This will allow us to homeschool all of the children. This could possibly start as soon as September of this year if we get our license.

As was mentioned in the previous newsletter, the ministry has been donated a piece of property by the city of Puerto Cortes. Last week we had the opportunity to see the land. It is an enormous piece of property that is in an area of Puerto Cortes that is now under development. It is definitely large enough for all of the plans we have envisioned.

As we continue to grow and be blessed, the list of all that we have to be thankful for increases each day. We are so grateful for all of your prayers and support. Alone we would never have laid the first block out at the Village, but working together with all of you as a team, **the possibilities are endless.**

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. **PRAY** for our children and our leader.
2. **Become a Monthly Sponsor** for WWH2H.
3. **Encourage your friends and family to become Monthly Sponsors**
4. **Sign up for our monthly newsletter**
5. **Volunteer for a mission team**
6. **Organize and hold a fundraiser for WWH2H**



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By
Mary Frenter

We are in desperate need of a 72 passenger bus with air conditioning for our Village. We are hoping to send it to Honduras with Serranos when they head home after their visit here in July. If you know of any person or organization or business I could contact concerning this for a possible bus donation, please contact me immediately!!

David is doing great with his wrestling endeavors. He has won most of his matches and is having a ball!! We still do not have a surgery date from Shriners but hope to by early March. We have been told it will happen in mid to late April.

Did you notice the new Newsletter format? Thank you to Jeanette Costello for our new look!!

Our board and I personally thank you for your continued financial and prayer support for this important work. You are the "heart" in Heart to Heart. Without you there would be no ministry. God bless you, and thank you!!!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are seeking construction teams to help build our new Village School in Tegucigalpa and the Receiving Center complex in Puerto Cortes. Please contact Mary Frenter (509-427-8585 maryf@wwh2h.org) if you are interested in sponsoring or joining a team this year.

1. Estacada Christian Construction Team – June 2007
 - a. Contact person –Scott Closner–
503-753-2999
2. Damascus Christian School Drama Team Camp – June 2007
 - a. Contact person –Lisa Closner –
503-753-2999
3. Mercy Ships Inc. Construction Team – Summer 2007
 - a. Contact person – Cat Sterling –
909-939-7136



Kim Sharp of boys walking to church with Oso, the dog

Life 2007

Our teens are great big brothers for the others. They often intervene in the younger children's squabbles and prevent fights.

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God's Love Manifest...

by Kim Sharp, Children's Village Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

I am just back from 10 great days at the Children's Village! We now have 31 children and the newer ones seem to fit right in. Even though the group has grown significantly, the general atmosphere was more calm to me. I think that this large group has turned into a real family. The love and care are evident in so many ways. The house mothers get along well with each other and they always have a watchful eye out for the children. The children often play together in smaller groups now. It's nice for the young boys to be able to play soccer together....and then watch in awe as the oldest boys take to the field! And then again, they sometimes all play together. Choosing teams often tends towards arguments, so

one of our teens --Marlon, Josue, or Marvin--usually line the kids up and have every other child step back and there you have it -- 2 teams! Our teens are great big brothers for the others. They often intervene in the younger children's squabbles and prevent fights. Our other teen, Olga, is certainly a wonderful older sister for the girls. She took time one afternoon to take turns swinging the girls around on the grass....and they were giggling and loving it. It turned into a water event, as she was landing some of them into puddles of water in the grass. At the end, they were all soaked and laughing their heads off.

The children's lives center around God and Jesus. Their songs are about God's love and Jesus' redemption. Zulema and Reyna take them to church and Sunday School. Zulema incorporates Bible classes into their daily routine. The children love God. And they love each other, I believe. As we walked to Sunday School, I looked ahead and saw 4 of the boys walking along, arms around each other, and I thought how lucky I was to be able to see **God's love manifest** in such a sweet way in such a beautiful location. It is my all time favorite photo. The children are growing and thriving. The development of the buildings and grounds is progressing. Know that your prayers and donations are accomplishing great things. As for me, I'm very blessed to have begun a relationship with this organization and with each child in that special Village.



ABOUT US

Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries

- **WWH2H is a 501c3 non-profit ministry organization. Every effort is made to use designated donations for that particular need.**
- **WWH2H provides tax-deductible receipts at the beginning of each year for the previous years contributions.**
- **WWH2H encourages donors to use electronic transfer for their monetary contributions. Please visit our website for details. (www.wwh2h.org) Visa and MasterCard are accepted.**
- **Many companies give matching funds. Please check with your employer.**
- **You can give by check or money order to WWH2H, Box 372, Carson, WA 98610**



- Fill the homes with children (room for 13 more)
 - Plan and hold dedication of Children's Village
 - Start, fund and staff our home schooling program
 - Find a 72 passenger bus
 - Purchase commercial stove
 - Furnish our school room
 - Furnish Library with furniture and books
 - Find more monthly support
 - Plan for building, furnishings and staff for a Receiving Center and
 - Worldwide Heart to Heart Church in Puerto Cortes
 - Parenting and first aide training for workers
 - Furnish and staff Village Clinic so it can be open full time
- Mission Team New Construction Projects**
- Stone wall across front of property
 - Finish Tech school interior and stucco in and out.
 - Build Receiving Center/WWH2H Church/WWH2H offices in Puerto Cortes
 - Build the school
 - Enclose the second and third triangle
 - Security windows and bars for clinic and four house main structure
-