



WORLDWIDE HEART TO HEART MINISTRIES

Gifts From God - Our True Heroes- Spotlight On “Little” Cristian The Miracle of

VOLUME IX ISSUE 3
MARCH 2007

By Amy Serrano

March is already here! Each day so much happens at the Village, it seems the months fly by and our work here just gets bigger and bigger. I had not even thought about who to write the March report on, when Mary called and said “I need your report”. After talking with Oscar, we decided this month’s report should be on a young man we call “little” Cristian. We call him that because we also have another child named Cristian who is older, and he is... you guessed it, “big” Cristian.

Little Cristian is a tiny 8 year old stick of dynamite.. This child has personality bursting out of the seams. His life story, however, is truly heartrending. Cristian is from the nearby village of Cuyamel. One day we received a call from Medical Mundis, a charity organization from Spain operating here in Honduras. The goal of this organization is to fight hunger and malnutrition in children. They had been treating Cristian for extreme malnutrition for the last 8 months and felt that he was now healthy enough to exit their program. However, they were afraid to send him home. They had received reports that he had been subjected to terrible abuse. They wanted to know if we could take him. We went to get him the same day.



When Cristian arrived at the village the signs of abuse were obvious. He was a violent kid, constantly getting into fights. He was also very disrespectful and rebellious to authority. Whenever there was an incident, a fight, or

someone crying, you could almost be assured Cristian was somehow involved. The report that we received from Medical Mundis was that Cristian was brought to them by his mom saying he was sick. He was actually starved nearly to death and had severe diarrhea. It was reported that the mother’s boyfriend was an alcoholic and was very abusive to Cristian, beating him often. There were reports of sexual abuse by a neighbor.

We began our own investigation by getting to know the mother. She seemed a very caring mom, but unfortunately an accident had left her brain damaged and unable to work to support the children, so she was dependant on her “boyfriend”.

She also told us that her boyfriend was a alcoholic and very physically abusive toward Cristian, but said nothing to confirm the reports of sexual molestation by the neighbor.

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SPOTLIGHT

Many pieces of Cristian's life remain a mystery to us, as he himself denies almost everything.

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Cristian's mom and boyfriend would come once every two weeks to have a supervised visit with him at the village. One thing that Oscar and Fredy both said about the boyfriend was that they had a distinct feeling that something was not right.

Then one day the mother called us from La Ceiba, a town about 4 hours away. She had gone with some family members to get away from her boyfriend and had taken her other children with her. She begged us not to let her boyfriend visit Cristian. In a round about way, she said the sexual abuse was not only from the neighbor but hinted that the boyfriend may have also been abusing Cristian sexually. Since he was not Cristian's father, he had no legal rights to the child. We assured her he would not be allowed to come near him.

At that time we were not sure if the boyfriend had been involved or if it was just the accusations of an angry girlfriend. I think our questions came to rest on the day that this boyfriend, with no legal rights whatsoever, showed up at the village demanding to take Cristian home for a few days. Oscar asked him why, since Cristian was not his child. He replied "Oh I just would like to visit with him". Oscar told him to leave immediately and never come back.

Many pieces of Cristian's life remain a mystery to us, as he himself denies almost everything. But one thing is for sure - Cristian is finally safe. As far his

behavior is concerned, he is now a completely different kid. He is still hyper, but has learned to respect and obey. His first grade teacher tells us that he is doing well. Cristian is good at soccer and all sports. He now plays well with the other children, and is well liked at the village.



Please keep Cristian in your prayers. He has a lot of emotional issues to work through. Nevertheless, it is clear that the Lord is holding this young child in His hands. **A miracle is slowly evolving in his life, the miracle of restoration, which is the theme of this whole ministry. This slow and profound work of healing is now at work in Tegucigalpa in 46 different little lives on 46 different levels. Each of these children is on a journey, one which God himself is leading. We just have to be faithful to create an environment in which God is fully free to work.** We have only been able to do this through the generous and caring support of our sponsors and prayer partners. Thank you all who are loving these children! Believe me, there is no better investment of your time or money. You really are making a difference!

Upcoming Events

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.



“Come and go with me, to my Father’s House”

Dedicated to all who assist with this ministry by your love, prayers, volunteer and financial support

Brothers all, entwined in His Love,
This road leads to His House, Their Father’s above.
Cristian, Daniel, Nelson and Jose Luis,
Accompanied by Oso who protects and obeys.

Though birthed far apart, a family they’ve become,
Accepting each child, no matter where from.
They came sick and starving, Heart to Heart in their sights,
Now well fed and thriving, their futures look bright.

The comfort God gave, you have given to others,
With your prayers and resources, supporting your brothers.
We thank you for praying and giving them bread,
Not only their bodies, but souls are being fed.

They are learning to give, you planted the seeds,
Now, they share this comfort, paying it forward in deeds.
When you stand before Jesus recounting your trials
He will want to know first, how you treated each child.

Please tell Him you did all the things you were able,
To clothe, feed and care for those brought to His table,
At Heart to Heart Ministries in Honduras far away.
“ Well done, faithful servant!” I believe He will say.

LIFE AT THE VILLAGE – March 2007

Endless Possibilities

By Amy Serrano

March has whizzed by with so much activity. One of the events we seem to be experiencing a lot these days, is the appearance of new faces. There are eight new children since the last newsletter was sent out. Two young sisters from the Mosquito Coast, an area similar to the Amazon Jungle, have joined our family. They are Sintia 14 and Daniela 12. We also welcomed Katerin 10, Maria Vilma 10, Maria Dilcia 8, Yolany 9, and Cristofer and Daniel for whom we do not yet have birth certificates. We have two new staff members. Elcia is a teacher that is helping us with the home schooling program, and Maria Angelica, an excellent cook from Tegucigalpa, is working in the kitchen. The children know her from town and call her "tita"

School has begun again. This is exciting for many who are attending for the first time. Our children 10 years and older, who are behind for their age level, (which would be all of them) are attending homeschool through a government program developed for this purpose. It will take them through two years of work in one year, helping them to catch up. It is still a bit of an "experiment" for us, but Zulema, our head teacher at the Village, has reported that it is going well.

Our church surprised us with a beautiful and selfless notion a while ago. They wanted to know if some of the Church families could "adopt" the Village Children for a weekend. They were concerned that the children did not get out enough and wanted to know if each family could take children home for a night. These, of course, are families that we know and trust, like Marcel Almendarez, a former H2H board member, and current H2H board members Rafael Valle, and Oscar Velasquez.

So, one Saturday night, we found an adoptive family for the children at the Village and brought them to Puerto Cortes for their "sleep overs". We tried to put the young girls in families that had young girls and young boys in the families that had young boys, so that they could play and interact together. Sunday morning, they all showed up for church in new clothes. Many of them said that their families took them out to Burger King, Wendy's or Pizza Hut the night before. They also took them to the store to buy them new clothes. Many of the children that came from the mountains had never been in the city or at the beach, so they also took them around town. The children came back so excited, but I think the church families were even more so. They can't wait until we can bring the kids back for another weekend.

After church on that same Sunday, we had an



outing at the river. Each family brought potluck and their "adopted" children. It was a beautiful time of bonding between the children and the church. One of our church members who took Brenda and Daniela home, told me with tears in her eyes that she was so touched by the whole experience. It's all God!

There are many **building projects** under way. We are trying to make **bunk beds** fast enough to keep up with all of the new children. We just finished the **water filtration building** that will house our new purified water system. It will be installed the end of March by the Washington Overseas Missions charity organization from Washington, Missouri. Soon there will be a source of purified water right out of the tap!! Yeah!! The windows in the Clinic have been replaced. Mark Lux, a welder from Carson, Washington and his family who will be here soon, will weld the security shutters covering them. The **classroom in the Tech school** is under construction. We hope to open the Tech School in September. We will see what God has in mind.

With the arrival of the container, we received 8 good computers for the Computer Lab. A young graduate from the University with a degree in Computer Science has agreed to teach the children Computer Classes. He is also holding a class in the evening for adults from Tegucigalpa.

The Medical Team arrives shortly. We have

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. **PRAY for our children and our leaders.**
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**



Sunday School

Life 2007

I ask you to prayerfully consider giving to H2H on a monthly basis.

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been working with the Honduran board to prepare for them. The ceremony to dedicate the Worldwide Heart to Heart Village, will be on Sunday, March 25th while they are here. The First Lady and many of the local mayors and governors have been invited to attend as well.

Growth, progress and new faces - it has been a good month. Continue to keep us in your prayers. In the last month the ministry has taken a "quantum leap". Needless to say the financial challenge with all the new children will soon be felt. Also, the magnitude of the whole project has grown considerably. I am reaching out to all of you very

seriously for two things: **First, is obviously a financial issue.** Many of you receiving the newsletter are already givers, and I thank all of you. If you are not. I ask you to prayerfully consider giving to H2H on a monthly basis. Maybe you think you don't want to make a commitment because all you could spare would be \$5 per month. We will gladly accept the help! Maybe you think, "What if I lose my job or can't give one month because I have an emergency in my family." Please don't let the idea of not being able to fulfill a commitment tomorrow, stop you from giving today! If you can give your contribution this month, please do. We really need it! If you are already a giver please prayerfully consider sharing our need with someone who may also be able to support this ministry. Many of you have heard me say quite often, "If it is for myself, I hate to ask for things. I have a lot of pride and will go hungry before I ask for help. But for these children, I have no problem asking each of you to get before the Lord and help in any way you can to help this ministry keep providing for the needs of these children.

Secondly, we are asking for your prayer support. Again, I know that many of you are already doing this. We need God's wisdom continually as the size of the project grows.

We clearly see God's hand moving in all of this. Amazingly, even though more children and new workers are coming in, **God has maintained perfect order.** We are so blessed by how He works. From the bottom of our hearts, we say thank you for all of your prayers and support.



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**



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By
Mary Frenter

Bus Update - With 46 children now residing at the Village, we are in desperate need of a 60 to 72 passenger bus, hopefully with air conditioning. We are planning to send it to Honduras with Serranos when they head home after their visit here in July. Dave Scherer from Centralia Immanuel Lutheran has graciously agreed to chair this committee. If you are able to help fund this project, please contact Dave at 360-736-3619 or 360-520-3697 or famscherer4@msn.com Thank you!!

David Update - On March 19th, with the wonderful donated services arranged by Pope's Kids Place, David underwent dental work at St. John's Medical Center in Longview. He did great!! His first clubfoot surgery is scheduled at Portland Shriners Hospital on April 25th.

Serranos Home on Leave in July - Serranos will arrive in Washington on June 22nd. They will be available for presentations most of July. If your church or organization would like to schedule a time, please contact Mary Frenter, 509-427-8585 to arrange a date. We will need additional funds to cover their travel expenses. If you are able to help with this, please contact Mary Frenter, 509-427-8585. Thank you!!

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@wh2h.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
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- Fill the homes with children (room for 4 more)
- Find a 70 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
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