



Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



Organization: P.O. Box 372, Carson, WA 98610, 509.427.8585
website: <http://wwh2h.org>; email: maryf@wwh2h.org

Orphanage: Children's Village, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Oscar & Amy Serrano, Honduran National Directors

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2007

Gifts From God: Updates on Our True Heroes

by Amy Serrano

Last month I brought you up to date on some of the children featured in previous newsletters. This month I want to introduce you to someone new. She is a wonderful young lady who has been at the village for about six months. Her name is Brenda. She is 14 years old and has a very sobering story to tell.

Brenda was born in Progreso just outside of San Pedro Sula. Her mom was a single mother that loved to party and did little to care for Brenda. When Brenda was nine, her mother sent her to live with her grandmother. This is when Brenda's life took a terrible turn for the worse.

Brenda's grandmother was a hard, cold woman. She subjected Brenda to very hard work in the home. Worst of all, her uncle (her mother's brother) began violently abusing her sexually from the first day she came to live in her grandmother's house.

Brenda was trapped in a nightmare. When she cried to her grandmother, who knew full well what was going on, she told Brenda, "Well you are such a tramp, you ask for it!" Brenda's uncle was a very violent and angry man who hit everyone in the house, including his own mother.

Brenda and her little brother, then seven years old, ran away. She said they didn't know where they were going; they just took off into the jungle. After they were found, Brenda watched as her uncle beat her brother

ruthlessly, leaving him inches from death. Brenda lost all hope.

When she turned 12, her grandmother laughingly told her that she would eventually get pregnant by her uncle and then he would kill her. Brenda went to an aunt, told her what was going on, and asked how to commit suicide. Her aunt told her



not to think about it. Her aunt invited Brenda to go to Puerto Cortes to do some shopping with her the next day.

Brenda's uncle never let her out of the house, but Brenda's aunt said it would be safe to go.

At the bus stop, Brenda's aunt said, "You get on first." Her aunt talked to the bus driver, but she did not get on the bus. The bus pulled away.

Frightened and alone, Brenda sat and cried. The driver stopped in front of a store in Puerto Cortes. Waiting out in front were some of Brenda's paternal relatives: her grandmother, an uncle and one of her older brothers. Her aunt had arranged for these other relatives to rescue her. But her aunt had to do it in secret, for fear of what her brother, Brenda's uncle, might do.

Brenda said her dad's family treated her well. They were very poor, and she had to sleep in the bed with her grandparents. She began to wonder about her mom. Where was she? Why

continued on page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 16-August 6, 2007, *Serrano's on furlough to Washington State*. Gary and Sylvia Thacker, Mission Coordinators for Mercy Ships and longtime friends of WWH2H, will live at the Village in their absence.

June 23, 2007 **WWH2H Board Meeting** at Freners' home in Carson, WA, 2 p.m.

July 22, 2007 **WWH2H Board Meeting** at CRCC, 2 p.m.

September 22-29, 2007, *Mission Relief International*, a division of Antioch Bible Church in Redmond, WA, is sending a medical/dental team

October 2007, School construction team (tentative)

November 24-December 1, 2007, *Summit Valley Community Church* in Addy, WA, sending construction team

January 26-February 2, 2008 (tentative), *WWH2H VBS Team*

February 16-24, 2008, *A Touch of Hope Mission Team* from Longview, WA—kids helping kids team.

March 25-April 3, *Washington Overseas Missions* medical/dental team to Honduras

August 2008, *WWH2H Medical Team* to Honduras



(continued from page 1)

didn't she want her? She was safe but very depressed. She could not eat or sleep and cried most nights.

About a month later, her mother showed up with the police, claiming that Brenda had been kidnapped. The aunt who had rescued Brenda told her she had to tell the police about the abuse she suffered in her other grandmother's house. Brenda was afraid to tell the police and get sent back to the abusive grandmother and uncle anyway. She was sure her mother's brother would kill her. Her dad's brother told her that he would report the abusive uncle if she didn't.

Brenda went with her dad's brother to the District Attorney's office. To Brenda's surprise, the D.A. (a very good friend of this ministry) believed every word, and her mom's brother was sent to prison that day. They also told her that she should go somewhere else because it was not safe to stay where she was. Brenda's torment ended when they called and asked us to take her.

Brenda's mother called recently, desperate to talk to her. She asked Oscar to send her to San Pedro Sula, but he told her she was out of her mind and hung up the phone. Oscar reported this conversation to the D.A. Her mother had also called the D.A. trying to get to Brenda. He said her mother wanted Brenda to take back the story

of her uncle's abuse, and sign papers to get him out of jail. The D.A. assured us that her mother no longer had any rights to Brenda.

Brenda is now in the third grade and doing very well. She enjoys some of the more innocent things in life. She collects and plays with Barbies. She is making lots of friends and is well liked by the other girls at the Village.

After hearing Brenda's story, I can't help but cry out, "Lord, if we had only been there sooner!" It reminds me of the story of Lazarus. God allowed Brenda to "die", in a sense, as He has so many of these children. Out of all of this hopelessness, one beam of light is this: It was for God's own glory that He allowed Lazarus to die, because the miracle of restoring life would be so much greater.

My bible reading today was about the story of the blind man that had his sight restored in John 9. Jesus's disciples asked him whose sin had caused the man to be born blind. Jesus replied that it was not because of anyone's sin, but for God's glory.

So, why has God allowed Brenda or any of these kids to go through these horrible things? If God is able to take a life as badly damaged as Brenda's and restore it, how many



might see and want to know this same God! If Brenda rises from the ashes and takes the comfort she has received from God to comfort others who are going down the same road (2 Corinthians 1:3-5), then tragedy will turn to triumph. That is my hope and solace in all

of these stories that we share with you each month.

We are blessed to be a part of the amazing story that is being written right now in the lives of these children. God allowed them to suffer injustices and one day some of them will make history. As I stand among these children, I look forward to seeing just how beautiful their lives will become and just how the Lord will use them. As I work and play with them, I get goose bumps thinking that I may be standing in the midst of greatness.

In order to become what God is making them, their basic needs must be met. Our mission is to provide these basic needs. The ministry grows each day. I am so thankful for everyone that supports this ministry. If you are not already doing so, please prayerfully consider helping us with this profound and important work in Jesus's name. There are many more Brendas just waiting to be rescued. - AS

Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries is a nonprofit interdenominational Christian organization dedicated to serving poor children and senior citizens. Board members, officers and coordinators serve as volunteers without salary or remuneration. Charitable gifts are used to support Children's Village orphanage and ministry in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Administrative expenses are covered by donations made specifically for that purpose. Our mission is to bring the love of Jesus to hurting people of this world. We emphasize caring for orphans, volunteering for mission projects, organizing medical teams to treat the poor, and providing food, clothing and education. For more information, visit our website at wwh2h.org, email maryf@wwh2h.org, or call 509.427.8585.

BOARD:

Honduras National Directors
Oscar & Amy Serrano
President - Mary Frenter
Vice President - Joel Olsen
Treasurers
Brian & Sonni Ross
Secretary - Jeri Obias
Child Support Coordinators
Dean & Rachel King
Lyle Frenter
Karl Germunson

CHAIRPERSONS:

VBS Team & Benefit
Coordinator
Tina Campbell
Construction Coordinator
Steve Sharp
Medical Team Coordinator
Karen Kearcher-Joiner
Website & Newsletters
Paula Barr
Bulk Mailing Coordinator
Phyllis Haas
Spanish Translation Editor
Carrie Aadland



Life at the Village

by Amy Serrano

This has been a month of blessings at the Village. One of the greatest blessings is a new face that comes once every two weeks. A local physician from Puerto Cortes, Dr. Nelly Hernandez, has decided to help with the children's medical needs. She comes every other Sunday to do check-ups and she sees our children for free when we have to bring them into her office. Dr. Hernandez is now also in charge of arranging the clinics for our medical groups. We praise God for sending her kindred spirit our way.

The children are all doing well in school. Another child becomes an adult as Josué turns 18 on the May 29th. He will play for the National Soccer League when the season starts again in June. All of the children are

progressing in their English, as Maria is teaching them.

Recently, two judges from IHNFA, the child protection agency of Honduras, came to visit Children's Village. They had never been before, but had heard many good reports.

Many orphanages here are only "warehouses" for children. They told us that our Children's Village was the best run orphanage that they had ever seen! Now, I don't say this to our glory, I say it to yours. They were so impressed that the children had medical care, went to school, and had good food to eat. They could see the children are healthy and go to school. They inspected the lunch we served

Children's Village was the best run orphanage that they had ever seen!

and said that it was the type of home-cooked meal on which any kid would thrive. But mostly they saw that there were no walls around the property to force the kids to stay. They saw that they were smiling, playing with the housemothers and were clean and

well groomed. They felt a spirit of love, home and family which was the most impressive aspect of the whole village for them.

It is only because all of you love and pray for these children and provide for their care that we could get such a great review. WWH2H would be nowhere without you. God bless you all!

- AS

A Bus for the Village

by Jane Meckle



There have been questions regarding the transportation needs of the Children's Village in Honduras.

Why send a used school bus, and what happened with the vans? Well, the vans are reaching the end of their useful lives. Though well cared for, they have been used a great deal and the rough roads and countless miles have taken their toll. They have mechanical issues that are very costly to repair and a bus will be able to transport more people with fewer trips.

Teams of construction workers, medical and dental groups, and missionaries need transportation to and from the airport and within the country. At great expense, buses are hired to transport people from

outlying communities to the Village for treatment during clinics. The benefit far outweighs the expense as these people do not have private transportation and need treatment. Medical and dental teams also travel to other communities to help the people in those villages. The children at the Village need to go to the city for church and other outings. Bus transportation is widely used in Honduras. Support services for repair and maintenance are available. To transport large numbers, bus transportation is by far the most cost efficient method available.

This bus will help in one small way to improve the lives of countless poor people in Honduras. God gives us this opportunity to be a blessing to others. Please call Wil or Jane Meckle at 360.273.9524 or 360.273.0585 or Joan or Al Swedberg at 360.736.6548 for more information.

- JM

BUS IS ON THE WAY!

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Centralia hosted a very successful dinner/raffle/auction on Saturday, May 19th. A total of \$9,359.56 was raised toward the purchase of a school bus.

Dave and Patricia Scherer and friends fixed delicious spaghetti, and Kevin and Lori McStay entertained with comedy skits between live auction items.

Enough money has been raised to pay for the bus. We ask for your prayers and support as we work towards raising the \$4-5K needed for shipping to Honduras.

Wil Meckle and Dave Scherer flew to North Dakota and drove the bus over 1,400 miles to Centralia May 24-25. Wil and Dave were impressed by the great condition of the bus. Next, the bus will be filled with supplies and driven to Texas before being shipped to Honduras the end of July.



Medical Team Reunion

On June 21st, the April 2007 Medical Team is having a Get Together No Host Dinner at Izzy's in Longview (behind Three Rivers Mall) at 6:30 p.m. Bring your spouses and pictures!



New Faces at the Village

Maria Elena, age 9, and Jose Fernando, age 10, have joined us at the Village. More information will be provided in future newsletters.



Update on David

On May 23rd, David had his third clubfoot treatment and cast change at Shriners. Dr. Sussman (*at left*) has scheduled one last major bone surgery on June 6th. David hugs host mother Denise (*at right*) who hopes to adopt him. Please keep David, Denise and her family, and the medical team in your prayers.





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 at 509.427.8585 or maryf@wwh2h.org if you are interested in sponsoring or joining a team this year.

- Build stone wall across front of property
- Finish Tech School interior and apply stucco in and out
- Build Receiving Center/WWH2H Church/WWH2H offices in Puerto Cortes
- Build the Village School
- Enclose the second and third triangles

Mission Team Projects

- **Mission Relief Int'l Medical/Dental Team**, September 22-29, 2007. Contact Claudia Blazer at cblazer@abchurch.org or 425.284.2630.
- **WWH2H VBS Team**, January 2008, contact Tina Campbell at tlducks@juno.com or 360.274.8840.
- **A Touch of Hope Mission Team**, February 15-24, 2008. Contact Tracy Beard at atouchofhope@hotmail.com or 360.751.3910.
- **WWH2H Medical Team**, August 2008. Contact Karen Kearcher-Joiner at karenkearcher@msn.com or 503.728.4290.

To Do List



- Obtain commercial stove
- Furnish school and library with furniture and books
- Find more monthly support
- Build, furnish and staff a Receiving Center and WWH2H Church in Puerto Cortes
- Furnish and staff Village Clinic full time

Funding Needs

- Replace broken TV used to watch videos
- Six (6) more triple bunk beds at \$300 each
- One (1) more closet wall with 12 units at \$600
- Sealer and paint for interior walls
- Commercial stove at \$4,000
- Tortilla maker
- Construction materials for school, church/receiving center/office, front wall, Triangles 2 and 3, library, and tech school

Vehicle Needed

Does anyone have a vehicle they could loan the Serranos from June 16th through August 6th? Please contact Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585 or maryf@wwh2h.org.

Note: Our thanks to the Olsens for loaning the Serranos a fifth-wheel trailer to live in during their stay here.

Serranos' Furlough Schedule

The Serranos will arrive in Washington on June 22nd. They will be available for presentations most of July. We will need additional funds to cover their travel expenses.

If you are able to help with expenses, or if your church or organization would like to schedule a presentation, please contact Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585. Thank you for all your prayers and support!!

- **June 16**, Construction and drama teams and Serranos fly into PDX
- **June 30**, Welcome dinner for Serranos, bus presentation and Sarah's birthday party at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Centralia
- **July 1**, Presentation at Calvary Lutheran in Aberdeen
- **July 8**, Drama team presentation with Serranos at Damascus Christian Church in Damascus, OR
- **July 15**, Presentation at Jennings Lodge Community Church, Jennings Lodge, OR
- **July 18**, Presentation at Faith Tabernacle Open Bible Church in Stevenson, WA
- **July 21**, Benefit banquet at CRCC, Castle Rock, WA
- **July 22**, Presentation at CRCC, Castle Rock, WA
- **July 25**, Presentation for CR Family Life Center family camp at Cougar Campground, Cougar, WA
- **July 29**, Presentation at The Rock Church in Lynwood, WA
- **July 31-August 1**, Presentation at Calvary Community Church kids' camp in Long Beach, WA
- **August 5**, Presentation at Calvary Community Church in Kelso, WA
- **August 6**, Serranos return to Honduras



How YOU Can Help

- PRAY for our children and our leaders
- Become a Monthly Sponsor and encourage your friends and family to become Monthly Sponsors
- Provide funds to help with Serrano Summer expenses to Washington
- Sign up for our monthly newsletter
- Volunteer for a mission team
- Organize and hold a fund raiser for WWH2H

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!!!



II Corinthians 1:3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 99
LONGVIEW
WA
98632

Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries
P.O. Box 372, Carson, WA 98610 — USA
509.427.8585 — <http://wwh2h.org>

