



Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007

Children's Village: Finally Home

by Amy Serrano

The time has come again to bring you the story of another one of the very precious little blessings from the Lord. This month I am proud to introduce you to a very special young lady that we will call Diana (*names of the children in this story have been changed to protect their identity and privacy*). At just eight years old, Diana is very intelligent, makes friends easily, and is generally very well behaved.

Diana and one of her two older sisters were brought to us by INFA, the Honduras version of Child Protective Services. There is little information about what had happened to them prior to coming to the Village—just a small two-paragraph statement that they were orphans at social risk. There was no explanation about how they became orphans, and Diana either doesn't know or doesn't want to talk about what happened to her parents.

Before being taken into INFA custody, Diana and her sisters Esther and Valerie lived with their aunt. Diana said that their aunt did not love them and treated them very badly. She said that the only way that she ever talked to them was screaming and hitting. They had never been to school.

At some point, their aunt decided that she no longer wanted responsibility of the children and turned them over to INFA. The older sister, Esther is 18 so only Valerie and Diana were taken. INFA placed them in Nueva Esperanza public orphanage in San Pedro Sula, until they could find permanent placements for the girls. This is the same orphanage that we visited some time back and brought food donations when we heard reports that the children were starving. The conditions are extremely heartbreaking. It is a warehouse of children who receive very little care. Many have severe emotional and physical problems, and frequently the older children abuse the younger.

What Diana and Valerie may have suffered in the orphanage is now only known to God. Diana seems to have blocked it from her memory.

Last spring, INFA called and asked if the girls could be placed at our Village. From the beginning, Diana's older sister Valerie was disrespectful, loud, and disobedient. Though Valerie often fought with the other girls at the village, Diana stayed close as her sister was all she had. Both girls entered first grade.

A few months after their arrival, Valerie ran away. This left Diana alone. Diana never said much, but you could see that she was very sad.

Diana played well with the other children but stayed pretty hidden emotionally, until one day last week. During one of the Kids' Day celebrations, she came to Oscar, hugged him, and said, "Thank you for

being my daddy, because my mommy is dead." She looked up at him, smiled a big smile, then ran along with the other children and continued to play.

We wondered what her comment meant. Now I think we know. Diana has not had anything or anyone. Everyone that she has ever had in life died, rejected, or abandoned her. Now she has a family in the Village. Diana ran back to enjoy *her* family and *her* party and *her* home.



Teen volunteers from the Damascus Christian School Drama Team offer the blessings of love and family.

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Finally Home

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The best thanks that anyone could ever receive is to see a child enjoy his or her gifts. It is reward enough for me to see this child, and all of these children, finally happy. And, after many years of looking and praying, they are finally *home*.

The stories of these children could be our stories. Once we were homeless, forgotten, abandoned and rejected. And then God... (*finish the sentence with your own story*). The truth is that it's God's heart to give the orphan a home. In some ways, we are also orphans. I know many of you support this ministry for this very reason. God picked you up and showed you love, and now you are paying it forward. Still others of you reading this perhaps feel orphaned by God. My prayer is that your faith will be stirred. If God can do this for Diana, He can do it for all of us.

God bless you, and thank you for your prayers and donations that make this all possible.

-AS

by Amy Serrano

Hurricane Felix

We would like to give a special thanks to all who stayed in prayer throughout the arrival of Hurricane Felix. Honduras, and in many ways Nicaragua as well, were spared tremendously.

One night about two days before the storm hit Honduras I woke up with a urgent need to pray. I had a vision of a monster sitting right off the coast of Honduras ready to rip it apart.

The next day, Mary Frenter called to say that the hurricane had been downgraded to a Category 4 from a Category 5. I knew in my heart that God was doing this. The storm remained a Category 4 all day and continued to lose strength. The next morning, we awakened around 4:00 and turned on the news. It had gained strength and was again a Category 5.



Friend Ships sends the Mer Sea for Hurricane Felix relief in Honduras

I continued to pray, as many others were also in prayer. I prayed that God could take all of the strength out of this monster storm. We watched the news helplessly as Felix moved onshore to the east of us.

I went to Tegucigalpa to our Children's Village that morning to prepare things. By around noon, Felix had been downgraded to a Category 1 and was expected to become only a tropical storm. This was surely a miracle.

Felix caused few deaths or destruction in Honduras or Nicaragua, and it holds the record for the fastest dissipating storm. It could have been another Mitch, but the prayers of many saved Honduras.

Overall, there was little damage in this area except to homes and plantations in Puerto Cortes that were flooded with 3-4 feet of water. I ask for your prayers for those families. Please pray that the Honduran banana and plantain crops will rebound and that these poor farmers will be able to keep their land. Thank you so much.

-AS

Upcoming Events:

- October 19-November 3, 2007—Immanuel Lutheran Church from Centralia, WA, is sending a volunteer construction team
- October 21, 2007—WWH2H Board Meeting, CRCC, 2:00 pm
- November 18, 2007—WWH2H Board Meeting, Carson, 2:00 pm
- November 24-December 1, 2007—Summit Valley Community Church from Addy, WA, is sending a volunteer construction team

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.

WWH2H is managed internationally by our USA Board of Directors. In addition, we are incorporated in Honduras as Asociación Mundial Corazón a Corazón (ASOCORA). Visit our website at <http://wwh2h.org> for a list of WWH2H and ASOCORA board members and volunteer teams.

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 expenses for construction, furnishings and equipment
- 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!!!



by Amy Serrano

Village Report

It is my honor to bring you this month's village report once again. It is a testimony to the blessings that the Lord continues to send. We are forever amazed at His grace and we give Him all of the glory for the beautiful things that are happening each day around us. We have once again been blessed by the charity of many in the United States, some long-time friends of this ministry and some new friends.

School Bus & Contents

The arrival of the school bus brought gifts to take care of many desperate needs. The bus itself has been the answer to our prayers. Until now, we have not had sufficient transportation to transport all of the children at the same time. This meant that we needed to rent or borrow many vehicles if we were to go somewhere together.

Commercial Stove & Laundry

In August, a team from Mercy Ships built us a tortilla shed with a floor and a roof. As tortillas can now be made on the new commercial stove, we added walls and converted the tortilla shed into a laundry facility. Thanks to many generous hearts, we are enjoying two brand new washers and two brand new dryers.

Christmas Gifts

Friends from the Castle Rock Christian Church, who participate in the VBS program in Puerto Cortes each January, took on the "Adopt a Child for Christmas" sponsorships this year. Each sponsor bought clothes, shoes and toys for their "adopted" child. Most of these gifts arrived on the bus. We were blown away by the generosity of each sponsor, who spared no expense in the beautiful gifts they purchased for God's children.

More Blessings on the Bus

A washer was donated to the girls living at Eternal Family Project directed by Allison Alexander. It has been a tremendous blessing for that ministry. Also, we received clothes, toys, school supplies, instruments, air conditioners and many other things that have made life at the Village run more smoothly.

Computer & Internet

Thanks to a generous family in Oregon, we have now gone high tech. They donated the very computer that I am using to write this report and paid for Internet service at the Village. The children have been learning computer skills and can now learn to use the Internet.



Tortillas were once made under a canopy—they are now made on the new commercial stove!

Kids' Day Celebrations

September 9th was Kids' Day in Honduras, an event widely celebrated in the Hispanic culture. On Saturday, a good friend of the ministry, Paco brought a party of dreams to the Village. It came complete with an inflatable jumping gym, cakes, candy, piñatas and games. On Sunday, our WWH2H Church in Puerto Cortes went to the village to celebrate.

Many of the children who came to the VBS last January are still attending Sunday School each week. They come from unchurched families and often are in situations of abuse, neglect and extreme poverty. They were all invited to our Kids' Day celebrations at the Village, and many attended with their parents. We had a church service at the Sunday celebration that gave a salvation message and some of the parents came up for prayer.

Independence Day Parade

In other news, September 15th was Honduras Independence Day. The children in the public school at Tegucigalpa marched in the parade. Though she had never been to school before this year, 8-year-old Marizol made the honor roll. She was chosen to lead the parade and wore a special marching suit. She could not be more proud, marching through town.

Gerardo Ramirez

We were blessed this month with the visit of a beloved friend, Gerardo Ramirez. Gerardo is a professional medical translator in Lewis County in Washington State. He usually comes to Honduras to translate for our medical teams, but came this time just to see many of his old friends here. Gerardo assisted in the construction of the new girls' homes. Soon to receive an AA degree in music, he gave classes in guitar, bass, piano and voice to the kids. As always, he was a tremendous blessing.

Thanks for the love of God

This month has been filled with the love of God, expressed in the kindness, love and generosity by so many to our children. These kids have gone from children who had nothing, to children that have a family and so many people that love them. They finally have the opportunity to be all that God called them to be. We say thanks again to all of you who have supported us this month with your prayers and financial contribution. God continues to take what you give and turn it into "living water" that brings life to so many here in Honduras. God bless you. - AS



From the President

by Mary Frenter

Dental Mission

Hey, Saints!! I'm baaaaccekkk!! Great trip. The Antioch Bible Church Medical Relief International Team finished all the kids' fillings and did a lot of work on our mommies and many folks from our board and church. They also did extractions and partials for many people. Amazing!!



Mary Frenter, her brother, Dr. Bob Tutland, and a patient at a dental clinic

stop! She may have some misformed bones due to lack of use, but Bob thinks they can easily be corrected. PTL!!!

- **Mariela**, age 11, and **Karolina**, age 16, also live with Allison right now as we have no room until the Girls' Home is done.

- **Jocelyna**, age eight, has Down Syndrome, but is soooo sweet and eager to learn,

so lovable!! She has seven siblings ages 1-7 who may be joining us soon. She lives in our rented girls' house in Puerto Cortes with 10 of the older girls.

The New Girls' Home

The girls' home design is a bit different than we thought and MUCH better. One side has two classrooms, and the kitchen dining room. The other side has four bedrooms (six girls in each), one mommy room (two mommies will live onsite and two will work 7am-5pm), two huge bathrooms, a laundry room and outdoor laundry.

There is an open breezeway between the two sides and a huge yard in front for the playground. In back, there is room to build 2-3 more buildings.

The foundation, and all the hookups for the electrical and plumbing are in place and the walls are almost completed. It will be ready for the Immanuel Lutheran Church construction team (October 19-November 3) to do the roof.

Visit the Website!

There is so much more I have to share with you, but I've already run out of room! Please visit our website for more information about Sunday School, the dental mission, Hurricane Felix, Faith Tabernacle Church Benefit Concert, Karen Kearcher-Joiner's retirement, upcoming events and missions, David's healing foot, the Mississippi container, our needs list, and much more.

In Closing

Thank you all for your prayers. We covet your prayers continually!! I love you all so much!! Thank you, Jesus, for giving all of us the privilege of being involved in this fantastic work. You are orchestrating in Honduras and in our lives. Amen!! -MF

Our New Children

The new girls are so beautiful. We have two in wheelchairs who are living with Allison Alexander with Eternal Family Project.

- **Gabby** (Gabriela), age eight, was thrown down some stairs when she was three by her mother. My brother, Bob Tuland, a PT, examined her. We hope to bring her to the U.S. for treatment.

- **Aracely**, age three, spent her life in a crib at a state-run orphanage and never learned to walk. She is getting better. She walked with me holding her two fingers. Didn't want to

2 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.

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