



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, Honduras National Directors

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2007

Children's Village: Rescued from Poverty & Drug Abuse

by Amy Serrano

I want to introduce you to two gentlemen that have been with us for about a year. They are Arturo, 14, and his younger brother Stefan, 13. The boys are from an area about a 30-minute hike higher up the mountains from the village of Los Flores, near the Guatemalan border. Several other children at the Village are also from Los Flores.

Consuming Alcohol & Marijuana

The boys were raised by their father who plants pineapple for a living. Arturo has been drinking regularly since he was 10 years old, and doesn't even remember when he first tried alcohol. His father, grandfather and uncles are all alcoholics and gave him alcohol from the time he was a small child. Even worse, they all smoked marijuana and grew it on the property. Arturo said they consumed alcohol and marijuana everyday. He can remember being sent home from school on many occasions because he was drunk or high.

Wanting a Better Life

When Arturo was 12, his father took him out of school and put him to work in the pineapple fields. Arturo hated things as they were and wanted out—he wanted to finish school and somehow make a better life. Arturo heard that 19-year-old Marvin from Los Flores was living at our Village and going to school. Arturo began to

pray that somehow he could have an opportunity like that. Arturo's biggest concern, however, was not for himself, but for his younger brother, Stefan. Stefan was still in school, and Arturo didn't want that to end.

The next time Marvin came to visit his family in Los Flores, the boys' father went to talk to him about taking Stefan. Marvin told him that he would have to talk to Oscar. The next time Oscar was in Los Flores, the boys' father talked with him. Admitting that

they were all big drinkers, the father asked if Oscar could give Stefan a better life. Oscar knew the father was about to take Stefan out of school to work in the fields. Stefan was also drinking and smoking marijuana, so Oscar agreed to take him to our Village.

Walking on Faith

Arturo, however, stayed behind. The father had never mentioned Arturo, because Marvin told him that we didn't accept kids over 12. Arturo was 13 at the time.

Arturo continued to pray and ask God for the chance. One day, he asked his dad if he could go. His dad told him he didn't think that we would take him, but that he could go and ask. Los Flores is a 3-hour walk down the mountains to the Children's Village, but that did not deter Arturo. He showed up one day and begged Marvin to talk to us for him. Because of his age, we were very hesitant at first, but told him that he could have a one-month trial.

We are happy to say that he did not disappoint us and has been a great help to us ever since. Arturo and Stefan are both in junior high school and receiving excellent grades. They are beyond thankful for the chance to study and get out of the dead-end world of drugs and alcohol that once



Paula Barr holds 2-year-old Daniela during the Immanuel construction mission trip in October.

continued on page 2



Rescued from Poverty

(continued from page 1)

marked their destiny. Arturo and Stefán, like Marvin, are experts in growing and cultivating anything. They oversee most of the planting at the village.

Arturo gave his testimony at youth group a few weeks ago and many of the youth came up for prayer afterward. The greatest thing is that both boys have come to know the Lord and are now living for the great God that saved them from their situation.

Father Shot by Bandits

Recently, when the boys' father was on his way to do some shopping in Guatemala, the bus was attacked by thieves. He ran during the assault, and was shot in the leg. Marvin and Arturo went to see him, and reported that thankfully the shot didn't cause much damage, and he is healing fine.

Saving Lives with God's Grace

This story is just another testimony of how God is so wonderful.

It reminds me of where we were before God saved us. We were going nowhere without any power to change course. God Himself stepped down out of His glory and comfort in heaven and made a way for us that we could not make for ourselves. These two boys, like all of the other children that live at the village, had a destiny before them that they were powerless to change. Then someone like you, through your prayers and support said, "I will step out of my comfort zone to make a way for them that they can't make for themselves."

Many of us have at least one thing that we are thankful for: our salvation, our education, our freedoms. And when we think about it, it was really the sacrifice of someone else that made it possible for us to have those blessings.



House mother, Rosie, puts away some of the weekly food donation from Juan and Diomar Cardozo, owners of the Flamingo Hotel in Omoa.

When we give selflessly, others can prosper. Perhaps we aren't able to see the immediate outcome. We do it because we have a sense that if we make this or that sacrifice for our children, our church, our neighbors, or even for some child way down in Honduras, it just may make a difference. Often it's those sacrifices, like taking five minutes each day to lift them up in prayer, or a check in the mail each month to take care of their needs, or making a trip to Honduras to help on a mission team, that just may be saving someone's life.

-AS

Upcoming Missions:

- January 19-26, 2008—Castle Rock Christian Church from Castle Rock, Washington VBS team
- February 16-24, 2008—Touch of Hope school supplies and puppet show team from Longview, Washington
- March 25-April 3, 2008—Washington Overseas Missions medical/dental/optometry team from Washington, Missouri
- August 2008 (dates TBD)—WWH2H medical mission 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!!!



Village Report: Mission, Vacation & Wedding

by Amy Serrano

October and November have been great months for us. So many things are going on, and God is blessing us beyond our dreams!

Roof for Girls' Home and Bus Shelter

In October we were visited by a group of 13 people from the Immanuel Lutheran church in Centralia, Washington. The group stayed for two weeks and completed two major projects at the village. First, the roof for the Girls' Home is now on the building and looks amazing. Second, they constructed a shelter for the bus to get it out of the elements. Thank you Immanuel Lutheran so much! You should all take a little vacation now!

Winter Vacation

School is out for the winter, as the Honduran school year runs from February to November. Some of the ladies who are WWH2H Church members are helping fill the free

time by teaching the girls sewing and knitting. They are really enjoying the classes. Most of the children passed to the next grade, with only a few repeating their grade, because they came to us late in the school year.

Wedding of Rafael and Wendy

Oscar had the privilege and honor to join one of our ministry and church board members in marriage to the daughter of another of our board members. Rafael Valle Jr., our board secretary, wed Oscar Valaquez's daughter, Wendy, on the 10th of November. We wish them all the blessings of the Lord in their new lives together!

Amy's Residency

All of my papers have finally been submitted for my residency in Honduras. Until now I have had to leave the country every three months to renew my visa. The approval of my residency application will allow me

to live here hassle free. I should be a resident within two months. Thank you, Jesus!!

November Mission

As I write this, we are looking forward to the Summit Valley Community Church CCC (Construction, Cook and Cuddle) team from Addy, Washington. They will install all the electrical and plumbing in the Girls' Home. That will leave only the tile work to do. We are praying for God to provide those funds soon, so the girls can move in before Christmas. The Cook and Cuddle part of the team will teach our kids about Thanksgiving, cooking them a huge feast in honor of that day. They will also wrap all the Christmas gifts you have sent for the children and decorate the whole place for Christmas.

Many Thanks

We are forever grateful for all of you who are supporting WWH2H with your prayers and financial gifts. You have successfully brought us through another month. God bless you!

-AS

Mission Report: Immanuel Team

by Paula Barr

A mission team from Immanuel worked at Children's Village from October 19 to November 2. With the foundation and wall structures already completed by local labor and other mission teams, it was the Immanuel team's responsibility to build a roof for the new Girls' Home. In the months prior to the trip, the team raised more than \$3,000 to purchase steel beams and roofing supplies.

Men from the team worked 10 to 12-hour days cutting and welding steel beams into 35' half trusses, welding the lateral members into place and

installing the metal roofing. The team also built a shelter for the bus.

Women on the team took care of cooking, cleaning and doing laundry for the group; some building site cleaning; painting trusses; handywoman repairs; sorting a roomful of Christmas presents; reorganizing the medical supply closet; and sorting and distributing donated clothing.



Some members of Immanuel construction team work on welding roof trusses of the new Girls' Home during the mission in October.

At the end of the day, team members relaxed by playing games, singing, tickling, and cuddling with kids. We had a great time!

-PB



From the President by Mary Frenter

Please Pray for Our Funding Needs!

\$10,000 Needed for Girls' Home

We need money to finish the Girls' Home for 24 of our girls now living in rented facilities away from our Village. These facilities have been sold and we have to be out of there by the end of December.

We are about \$10,000 short of funds to complete the Girls' Home. This will cover the cost for the windows, doors and the tile work on all the floors and bathrooms that must be done before we can move the girls.

A team from Immanuel Lutheran in Centralia just returned from building the roof on the Home and a shelter for the bus. The CCC (Construction, Cook and Cuddle) team from Addy, WA is going on Nov. 23rd. They will do all the electrical and plumbing for the

Girls' Home. Please pray about this and how you can help. I cannot think of a better gift than helping us finish the Girls' Home so they can be home for Christmas. Any amount that could be donated would be so appreciated and would be such a blessing and totally wonderful Christmas gift to them.

15-Passenger Van Needed!

If you have any contacts with someone who owns an auto dealership

and would like to donate a 2001 or newer 12 or 15-passenger vehicle to WWH2H, please let me know. We are desperate for a vehicle. Except for the 72-passenger bus and the truck that seats two, our other two vehicles are beyond repair.

Amy is reduced to riding public buses to do errands for home and the Village, which often times means lugging huge sacks of supplies for hours on the bus. It is also not very safe for her to do this.

Used vehicles in Honduras are trash. We have found a new one there, but it will cost \$25,000.

Ililiana, a house mother and teacher, and the older girls pile into the back of the pickup truck for the ride back to Puerto Cortes.



Help Needed!

Thank you all soooooo much for your prayers and financial support on behalf of our children. You are giving so many a chance to make their lives successful, and most importantly, to get the opportunity to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. God bless you all and Merry Christmas!! -MF

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.

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>

