



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

JANUARY 2008

Children's Village: Christmas Holidays in Honduras

by Amy Serrano

Christmas in Honduras is such a magical time. I have always believed that Christmas is for children, and when you have nearly 60 of them, it becomes a spectacular event. Christmas for the Village began in November when the building team from Addy, Washington came to town. The decorations went up and the Christmas spirit came to life. All of the children helped decorate the tree and string ribbons and bows throughout the entire house. For 30 of our children who are new since last year, it was their first real Christmas.

Christmas Dinner at the Church

The Annual WWH2H Church Christmas dinner was on Sunday, December 23rd. Each family in the church invited a very poor family to come to the traditional Honduran Christmas meal of baked pork leg, baked chicken, tamales and rice. Each guest family was given a large basket of food to take home, including toys for the children. For many, this was their only Christmas gift.

The youth of the church have spent the last month working tirelessly on this event. They did a wonderful drama portraying the real meaning of Christmas, written and directed by Fredy Castro, a WWH2H board member and employee. Our older boys from the village starred in the play, and impressed everyone. Next, Josué and his fiancée, Cesia, did an

amazing puppet show for the children. They spent the whole week before to the dinner building the set. It was remarkable!!

Our older girls practiced faithfully each day last month for a special Christmas dance. It was adorable! They also sang "The Little Drummer Boy." They were responsible for many of the beautiful decorations that now adorn the church. They went each day, spending hours painting and making the crafts that are in the church. They have taken a lot of pride in this work and say that they have learned a lot of new craft ideas. Miss Ana, a retired

teacher that goes to the church, and one of the youth members, Yolibeth, have been teaching the girls craft classes for the last several months.

Christmas for Prison Inmates

The church started a new tradition this year: going to the prison in Puerto Cortes. On December 21st, we served a Honduran Christmas meal to the inmates and guards. The worship group sang several Christmas songs, and Salvador, a brother from the church, gave the message. He has been involved with prison ministry for some time.



At the end, some of the prisoners raised their hands to receive Christ as their Savior.

Some of the older boys came along to help serve the plates. They said that this is exactly what they were saved from—ending up in prison.

The prisoners have only beans each day for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The prison building, housing over 200 prisoners, is hardly big enough for 100. The living spaces are deplorable, and without fans, the heat is unbearable. Many of the prisoners say that their families have abandoned

continued on page 2



Christmas Holidays

(continued from page 1)

them and no one comes to visit them. We would like to make the prison ministry something we do more often, perhaps once a month.

Monies earned by the cooks and others who helped facilitate the Addy, Washington team here in November, funded the entire prison dinner on the 21st. What was generated that week went toward feeding 250 prisoners!! Thank you Addy group!

Christmas at the Village

On the 24th, it was time to celebrate Christmas in Tegucigalpa. Many of the families from the church loaded up in the bus and headed out to the village. The night started out with another Christmas meal. Then

we sang a few songs. Finally, the moment they had been anxiously waiting for arrived. It was time to hand out presents.

Each child came up one by one to receive the gifts that were the fruit of the Adopt-a-Child-for-Christmas Program. In addition to the gifts that came from the U.S., Juan and Diomar Cardozo, the owners of the Flamingo Hotel, also gave a gift to each child. If that was not enough, a church in Miami, Kendall Bible Baptist Church also sent gifts for each child, provided by a local private school there.

That night, all our Mommies were given the night off to go be with their families while our church members took care of the kids.

Gifts from the Bank and Others

And I am still not finished! One of the large banks in Honduras, HSBC, contacted us and said that they would like to come and hand out a gift to each child sometime at the beginning of January. On top of all of this, many groups have come out to the village

from different churches and clubs to hand out candy and play with the kids. It has been an amazing Christmas. The children have been saturated in joy and kindness from so many people that love them. They are so thankful for all of this. All of you who gave are truly special people. You have made these children feel loved, valuable and part of a family with lots of people who care about them. God bless you all.

Honduran Aunts and Uncles

So, Christmas was done and then came New Year's with the youth back at it each day preparing for a new drama. On the 29th through the 31st of December, each child went to their Honduran adoptive home. For those of you that don't know, each child has a Honduran

Visit the MISSIONS page on wwh2h.org to read about the Summit Valley trip, and the PHOTOS page to see pictures!

Tia or Tio (aunt or uncle). This is their family away from the village. Each member of the church has three to four children that are "theirs." They take them to their homes, out to eat, shopping in town and the kids usually come back with new toys and clothes. The whole purpose is for our kids to experience celebrating the holidays in a family. This also provides a way for our Mommies to have some much needed time off. Then we all met back at the church on the night of the 31st for our New Year's Eve celebration.

New Year's at the Village

The youth had prepared three skits that all spoke about the love of God and salvation. The girls did another dance. The kids showed off their new clothes that most were allowed to pick out by themselves, and told their stories of how their families took them to Pizza Hut or Wendy's or Burger King. Some of the children said they

got to go to the beach. For some of the children from Los Flores in the mountains, it was their first time to see the ocean!

That night we headed out to The Village and counted down the New Year. With all of the hard work that the youth put into the events of the night, some of the young folks didn't make it till midnight. The next day *Dios con Nosotros* Baptist Church of Puerto Cortes came out to the village with about 30 of their youth group. It was what I would call the "complete" fun day. It started out with games and face painting. Then they brought all of their props and materials, presenting a wonderful puppet show that ended with piñatas. The finishing touch was a rousing game of soccer with the Village vs. the Baptist church. (I don't know the score but I'm pretty sure we stomped 'em).

Your Blessings

The members of our church are not rich. In fact, to do all of this is a real stretch for them financially. But many of you are not aware that you are responsible for much of what was able to be done in the prison, and with the dinner, baskets and toys that were given out on the night of the 23rd.

The church members provide the meals, transportation and many other valuable services that are needed to effectively facilitate a group. Church members contributed more than \$650.00 for the dinner on the 23rd; that from families that make less than \$300 a month. -AS

Until the holiday season next year, when there will be more children, more dances and more food, we in Honduras want to say Happy New Year to each of you. This has been a truly special year that these kids will remember for the rest of their lives.



Village Report: Thanksgiving to New Year's

by Amy Serrano

It is my pleasure once again to tell you about all of the exciting things that are happening here in Honduras. School has been out, so the kids have had lots of extra curricular activities. Each week a retired schoolteacher comes to the village and teaches the girls crocheting. So far, they have made scarves and some beautiful Christmas ornaments. Most of all, it is a time for the girls to explore their creativity.

Daniela's 6th Grade Graduation

In Honduras, 6th grade graduations are celebrated, as many young people in this country cannot afford to advance any further in school. One of our proud young ladies, Daniela, celebrated her 6th grade graduation on the 23rd of November. Maria's sister made her dress and she was just gorgeous! It is amazing to see these kids start raking in accomplishments. After so many difficult challenges in her life, Daniela finally felt proud of herself, and we are so proud of her as well.

Summit Valley Construction Team

We were blessed this month by a construction team from the Summit Valley Church in Addy, Washington. This was the first time that most of this group has worked with us in Honduras, and we hope that it will not be the last. The trip was a huge success in so many ways. The objective of the group was to do the finishing work on

the girl's house building. This included electrical work, plumbing and plastering, as well as hanging doors. Many of those jobs they completed or brought to 90% completion. Each team member worked with such determination. We are thankful beyond words to you all.

Thanksgiving

Another special activity was Thanksgiving dinner with the kids. Many did not know what Thanksgiving was. The electricity was out that day, but we made the traditional turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, veggie casserole, and pies of every sort without lights or running water. The plates all came back clean!

Wrapping Christmas Presents

In addition to the work that was done on the home, some on the team helped me with some massive projects. In August when the bus arrived in Honduras, it was loaded with Christmas presents for all of the children. The team members helped me wrap each present, (quite a feat when you realize that means more than 300 items!) They also helped with the delightful project of getting the building decorated for Christmas. We

put up the tree, hung the stockings and decorated the walls and windows. It really looked beautiful.

Beautiful Relationships

As with all groups, the most beautiful accomplishments are in the relationships that are formed. This group was able to bond so much with the children. Some of the children cried to see them leave. The relationships were not only with the children. Mary Hopkins, who worked in the kitchen each day, bonded with our kitchen staff, and they became such a blessing to each other. Again, Summit Valley Team, God bless you all richly, and please come back soon.

New Children at the Village

Perhaps some of you remember the story that we did on Joanne, the little girl that had many other siblings we were hoping to take in soon. Well, we've got them! All six of them, with Joanne making it seven! The four smallest are all under five years old and this inspired us to do something that we have been praying about for some time—open the nursery and

take in babies. The nursery now has all of the children five and under living there. At the moment it houses seven children.

The new children recently went to see Dr. Nelly for checkups. She told us they all are severely malnourished, and have parasites, ringworm and other funguses, scabies and other illnesses. One of the little boys suffers from seizure-type episodes due to his poor



Members of the Summit Valley construction team made a lot of friends at Children's Village during their visit, November 24-December 1, 2007.

continued on page 4

Birthdays at Children's Village

January 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Visit the KIDS page on wwh2h.org to see photos of the new kids, as well as new photos of all the kids!



Martha
9 years old

Favorite Subjects:
English

Favorite Activities:
Jumping rope, hide-and-
seek and dolls



Mayra
8 years old

Favorite Subjects:
Not specified

Favorite Activities:
Not specified



Daniel Alexis
8 years old

Favorite Subjects:
Computer and English

Favorite Activities:
Soccer and hide-and-
seek

Village Report

(continued from page 3)

health and nutrition. The good news is that Dr. Nelly expects each one to recover with care.

Girls' Home is Completed

The Girls' Home is now finished, praise the Lord! Our older girls, who have been living in a rented house in Puerto Cortes since June, moved in January 3rd and it is now officially HOME!! After the New Year's visit with their adopted Honduran families, the girls came back to Tegucigalpa to stay. We can't thank you enough for all you gave toward their home. We had a deadline to get them out and, by the grace of God and your help, "Mission accomplished!"

Josué will soon no longer be Tegucigalpa's most eligible bachelor. He will be turning 19 in May and has announced at church that he and his girlfriend of one year, Cesia, are planning to marry in 2008. A date has not been set, but they are thinking spring. Josué will continue to work for WWH2H and study in Puerto Cortes. They ask for your prayers in the plans they have before them.

Love for the Holidays

The holidays were a huge success, as you will see from the holiday report. All of the kids are in awe that so many people love and care for them. They never expected this. They have begun to truly feel part of

a family and it can be seen in their behavior. They are all excited to get their thank you's to the folks that got them their gifts. Thank you again to all of you who gave toward their Christmas.

Thank you does not seem enough for your love and generosity. Without the help of those who are praying and donating to this work, these kids would just not have a home. They would not be going to school or have a bed to sleep in at night. Without your help, WWH2H would not exist. Though the glory all goes to Jesus, thank you for letting Him work through you.

-AS

See new photos and info on wwh2h.org!



From the President by Mary Frenter

Attention Medical Team!!

On January 15th, 2008, at 6:30 p.m., at Lower Columbia College, Main Building, Room 148, there will be a planning meeting for everyone interested in helping organize the next WWH2H Medical/Dental Team to Honduras. Karen Kearcher-Joiner will join us to help facilitate the planning. Contact me at maryf@wwh2h.org or 360-600-0956 if you can join us. Thank you!!

New Girls' Home is Done!!

A huge round of applause to everyone who helped us complete the new Girls' Home for 24 of our daughters with your prayers, volunteer work and finances. They moved in January 3rd and I will be there with the VBS team in a few days to check out the new digs!!

Well, Mary, Is It Time to Open Our Nursery?

On Friday, November 30th, Oscar, Amy and I went to pick up Joanne's (*name changed to protect her privacy*) six brothers and sisters. The picture that greeted us as we drove up to their home was six shy, scantily clad children, two totally naked, standing outside what can only be described as a small shed about 10'x10', held together with pieces of aluminum roofing for walls and roof. Inside was a dirt floor with a mattress in one corner, a charcoal fire in another (no chimney), and a two-year-old girl, who sat naked and crying on the mattress. Their mother had asked us to come get her children and give them a chance at a better life.

We brought the children back to the Village where our mummies fed, showered and dressed them. I wish you all could have seen what happened next. The 12-year-old boy stepped outside and was surrounded

by our older boys, as they pulled him, running across the field to the ongoing soccer game. The three little boys, ages four, five, and six were enveloped in a swarm of our younger niños for a game of marbles and toy cars. Minutes later, the pockets of our new children bulged with the shared marbles and toy cars given by our troops from their own collections.

And Oscar said, "Well, Mary, is it time to open our nursery?" You see, we now have a 1-year-old, two 2-year-olds, and two 4-year-olds. With great joy, the *WWH2H Edgar Memorial Clinic* became the *WWH2H Edgar Memorial Nursery/Toddler Home* to its first five residents!!

No-Host Kitchen/Bath/Bedroom/Nursery Shower

And so join us in a No-Host Kitchen/Bath/Bedroom/Nursery Shower during the month of January for the nursery and the new Girls' Home.

We need EVERYTHING! For the Girls' Home, in the kitchen, we have

a stove, a sink and a fridge. In the bedrooms, we have beds. In the baths, we have toilets, sinks and showers. In the nursery, we have beds. That's it! So, we need everything else!

There are teams going in January, February and March that can take things down for us. If you wish to donate funds for us to buy some things in Honduras, that would also be great. If you want to host a shower for us among your friends or at your church that would be wonderful. Contact me at maryf@wwh2h.org if you are able to help our girls and babies. Thank you!!

Nine New Sons and Daughters

- Ocdelina, age 12, and her sister Reyna, age 9
- Marvin's sister, Wendy, age 9
- Yoselyn's sisters and brothers: Marlene, age 1, Nicole, age 2, Darwin, age 4, Cristian, age 5, Arlin, age 6 and José, age 12.

That brings our family to 57 children. With the completion of the Girls' Home and the opening of the Nursery, we now have room for 82 children. Visit the website to see new photos of all the kids! *-MF*



On November 30th, Mary (not shown), Oscar and Amy picked up six siblings (five pictured above): ages 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 12.



Bits and Pieces...

by Mary Frenter

Vacation Mission Trip

We have had some requests from some of you for a combination vacation/mission trip to Honduras. This would involve helping for a week on a team and then going to a vacation spot in Honduras for a few days or a week afterwards.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please let me know. maryf@wwh2h.org.

Prayer Requests

• Thanks and praise to God who has poured out His blessings on His children in Honduras through you, His servants here.

• Physical, emotional, spiritual healing and protection for all of our children.

• Continued blessings and support for our volunteers as they give of their time and finances to help the children.

• Continued closeness to Jesus for our staff as we seek His wisdom for each step in His work for 2008 and beyond.

• Sponsors for our new children and others who do not have them yet.

• "Healing" for our vehicles, as

we are down to the 72-passenger bus and an ailing two-person truck.

Happy New Year 2008!!

It is important to look back where we have been to see where we are going. A year ago we:

• Had 26 children living at the village. Today there are 57. Only God knows how many will join us in 2008.

• Had 4 houses for 48 children. Today we have 6 houses for 82 children.

• Had three working vehicles.

Today we have two, but one of those is a new 72-passenger bus!

• Were completing the Tech School. Today, it houses the computer lab, better known to the MRI team as the Dental Clinic, AND serves as a workshop for mechanics, welding, plumbing, electrical, and woodworking for our children.

• Had 60 people attending our new WWH2H Church. Today, there are almost 300! And our outreach to the poor is expanding in a food basket program and crusades to the outlying villages with our own children participating in the presentations. We

are hoping to purchase land soon to begin the construction of our Church/Community Outreach Center.

• Had all of our children in public school. Today all of our children 10 and older are home-schooled, completing two years in one. Some kids will graduate from high school in 2008 and begin college in 2009. Our hope is to begin construction of our ESL school at the Village in 2008.

• Had one, sometimes-working, washer and dryer. Today we have a new laundry building (housing two brand new washers and dryers) that was built and wired by our teens.

• Had a broken burner stove in our kitchen. Today, we have a brand new gas commercial stove.

• Had three mission teams come to Honduras to help. In 2007, eight teams came to help. So far for 2008, eleven are scheduled!

Oscar told me, "Tell everyone how much we love them and appreciate them for helping us help these kids. I am amazed at what God is doing here for so many and am amazed at how much has been accomplished this year! Thank you and God bless you all!!!"

- 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>

