



# Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2008

## Children's Village: Edgar's Legacy of Hope

by Amy Serrano

This month I want to introduce you to a very special child who, though he never lived here, has had his presence at the Children's Village from the beginning. I don't know why I have not reported on him before. He could very well be one of the most special children in WWH2H. This is because many of our policies and the manner in which we operate this Village, were formed because of him. His name was Edgar. Many of you have heard something of him, but today I want you to know him. This is his story.

### Abused and Abandoned

Edgar was born in a town near Tegucigalpa before any of us even knew where Tegucigalpa was. His father and mother split when Edgar was a baby, and she soon remarried. Edgar's stepfather was very physically abusive to Edgar, and his mother no longer wanted him. His father had a small corner business stand of repairing shoes, but was a raving alcoholic, often sending Edgar out when he was only five or six years old to beg for money to support his alcoholism.

### Begging on the Streets

At some point in his life, Edgar was found begging on the streets by a Honduras organization called APRONIP, formed after Hurricane Mitch, to help homeless children. Some of you may be familiar with this name because this group later merged with WWH2H.

Edgar was placed by them in an orphanage, owned and operated by a church in La Pita, a village near Puerto Cortes. Our first group worked at that orphanage in January and February of 1999, shortly after Hurricane Mitch. That is where we got to know Edgar. He was nine years old.

It soon became clear to us that the church that owned the orphanage had serious managerial problems and APRONIP wanted out. We felt that we could no

longer ask for money in the U.S. to support an orphanage that we could not be sure was using the donations for the children.

### La Pita Orphanage Closes

In 2000, WWH2H parted company with the orphanage, and within six months it closed down. Edgar was back on the streets.

WWH2H was just getting established as a ministry. We had donated property in Tegucigalpa and were beginning construction of the Children's Village. Waiting for funds to build, we were getting to Honduras only once or twice a year.

### "When Will My Home Be Ready?"

When we could find Edgar, he would not ask for food or money, he would simply say, "When will my home be ready?"

"Soon," we promised.

### Glue, Prostitution, and Gangs

Three years passed. Edgar grew into a young teen and, with nothing but street life to



Note: A printable tribute to Edgar is on the website:  
English—<http://wwh2h.org/images/EdgarStoryEnglish.pdf>  
Español—<http://wwh2h.org/images/EdgarStorySpanish.pdf>

continued on page 2



## Children's Village:

*continued from page 1*

rely on, he turned to huffing glue, prostitution, and gangs.

### Redefining "Need"

By mid 2003, the main building of the Village was 50% complete. With our American mentalities, we reasoned that as soon as we had the building all completed, with all the things kids "need" such as a tiled floors and school rooms, we would open the Village for kids. God, however, in the summer of 2003 taught us a powerful and painful lesson about what the children of Honduras really "need."

### ...God Tucked Him In

Ministry president Mary Frenter and her husband Lyle were in Honduras in August of 2003 when we got the awful news. Edgar was dead. He had died trying to find a safe place to sleep in a building. He was crawling out in the morning and was killed by electric wires that the business used as a crude security system.

For the next few days, Mary, Lyle, Oscar and I grieved together

in great sadness wondering how this could have happened. How could we have been too late? It was then that we realized that this was not just about giving kids a great home. It was a matter of life and death. We had not been too late, just too ignorant. In the end, God tucked him in.

### A Safe Place to Sleep

At this point, we had the bottom floor of the main building completed, with the second story floor poured above it. The building did not have electricity, plumbing, windows, or doors. But we decided we could at least allow the kids from the streets to come and sleep in this safe place so they would not have to sneak into buildings at night.

### First Five Boys

Edgar's death also inspired us to begin our *Meals from the Heart* program to feed street children. It was at this program that we got to know the first five boys that we brought off the streets to the Village just one month after Edgar's death. We had nothing to offer them, just a concrete floor to sleep on. One of those boys was Josué, a very good friend of Edgar's—you'll read about Josué's wedding in the Village Report.

### Edgar Memorial Clinic

When the building designed to be the clinic (but has seemed to have many purposes and now serves as a nursery) was completed,



Baby Edgar, age 3 months

it was named the *Edgar Memorial Clinic*. Many times when we face tough decisions or we lose our focus, I just think of Edgar for a while. Yes, he is gone, but his life and death still guides and counsels us concerning what children really "need." He will always be part of WWH2H and will live in our hearts forever.

### Two More Edgars

Recently, the police of Puerto Cortes brought a three-month-old baby boy to the Village. The child did not yet have a name. When we thought about it, one name came to my mind: Edgar. A few years ago, when ministry board member Rafael Valle and his wife Oneida

**"It's not just about giving kids a great home. It's a matter of life and death."**

were surprised by a son late in life, they said they did not have to think about what to name him. Young *Edgar Valle* carried the Bible in Josué's wedding early in April.

Edgar's memory lives on, along with his poignant question, "When will my home be ready?" In Honduras, these children don't have time on their side. If we can't take them in, there is not another orphanage that can. The kids are literally dying in the streets. There are more Edgars, and this time we pray that, with your help we won't be too late. Help us bring them home and tuck them in. -AS



The five original boys in 2004 (L-R): David, Marlon, Josue, Eduardo, and Norman



## Village Report for April

by Amy Serrano  
Honduras National Co-Director

April was a joy-filled month, and we continue to praise God for His faithfulness, love, and provision for this ministry and these children. So many things have happened, but I must start with news of the event that we have all been waiting for. Josué and Cesia are now husband and wife. Our “son” is now a married man!



### Josué and Cesia

The wedding, all glory be to God, could not have been any more wonderful. Cesia was beautiful, and Josué could have posed for GQ. The WWH2H church decorated, prepared, served food, and cleaned up. Ilsy and Idalmy, Josué’s “sisters” from the Children’s Village, were flower girls, while our own daughters, Rachel and Sarah, brought the rings. Marvin, one of our “sons” and Josué’s very good friend and “brother,” was *Best Man*. Heidi, daughter of Marcel, a ministry employee and board member, was Cesia’s *Maid of Honor*. The newlyweds enjoyed

their honeymoon at Los Glorias Resort at Lake Yajoa.

Thanks to our church for doing so much to bless our son and his new wife. And thanks to all of our friends in the U.S. that blessed Josué and Cesia, helping them have this beautiful wedding. Welcome to the family, Cesia, and know we love you very much. All of us at WWH2H in Honduras and in the U.S. wish Josué and Cesia all of the best. You will always be in our prayers.

### Medical Missions

Washington Overseas Missions spent a week of ministry working with WWH2H. This ministry held six days of clinics in poor villages,

including Concepción del Sur, WWH2H’s newest frontier, where later this year we hope to begin building God’s second WWH2H Children’s Village. Thanks to everyone involved. You are such a wonderful blessing to Honduras!

### Tour of the South

The Serranos and Frenters are preparing for a “Tour of the South” as we are calling it. In May, we will travel to Florida, Louisiana, and Texas and touch base with some very good friends of the ministry. Please pray that God will build strong relationships of support for our children in Honduras.

*continued on page 4*

## *Bernadette’s Blessings*

*We have been blessed with the presence of a new volunteer, Bernadette Campbell from Washington State. She will be staying with us for a year. Her main objective will be to work with the nursery children, speaking to them only in English. She is also teaching English classes with the boys and managing the boys’ library. -AS*



*¡Hola!* I am Bernadette Campbell from Washington State. I am volunteering for a year at the Children’s Village. I will be writing a short article each month for the next year giving you a peek, from a volunteer perspective, about life here.

For starters, I am beginning to understand the language a bit better. While I spent the first two weeks working at the Girls’ House, now I work each day at the Nursery, helping to care for our littlest ones. I also teach English and manage the library. God is blessing me with good health and a tremendous love for all the people here. The boys are trying to teach me the finer techniques of soccer. I am having so much fun and feel so blessed to get to have this experience. *¡Adios!*



## Children's Village:

*continued from page 1*

### Village Kids Pray for You

All of the kids are continuing to do well at the village. They are anticipating the next visit from their friends in the U.S. So many of you have become family to them. Each group that comes and genuinely loves on the kids, leaves something there at the village and the kids will never forget you. The Mommies say that, when they are praying, the kids lift each one of you up by name in prayer. So, be blessed by that, all of you who have come down. You are surely being prayed for by some tiny prayer warriors! -AS

## Missions

There are many opportunities to volunteer for mission with WWH2H trips in 2008. Please pray for the success of fund raising and planning efforts of these teams. Please visit the MISSIONS page on the website for information.

## Summer Volunteers

Thank you all soooo much!!

- **Chelsea Swedberg** from Centralia, WA, will be helping Bernadette Campbell teach English at the Village from May – August.
- **Carolyn Williams** from Buffalo, TX, will help out with the children at the Village June 14-26th.
- **The Geraci Family**, Lesley, Kevin, and 8-year-old twin sons, Jackson and Graham, will be at the Village for six weeks this summer helping with the children.

*By the Grace of God, He has found sponsors for many of our children listed without sponsors in the April newsletter. With the addition of our two newest children (no photos yet), Mariela (age 11) and Elder (age 8), we now have 14 children who still need sponsors:*

These Children Need Sponsors



**Jose Cruz**  
11 years old



**Karen**  
10 years old



**Juan Carlos**  
10 years old



**Karla**  
9 years old



**Nhuan**  
8 years old



**Dilcia**  
10 years old



**Mayra**  
7 years old



**Cristian**  
5 years old



**Darwin**  
4 years old



**Kevin**  
3 years old



**Daniel**  
1 year old



**Edgar**  
4 months old

## Sorting Team

There are four storage places filled to the hilt with donated things in boxes and barrels that need to be sorted and arranged so they can be used. Our Mommies have NO time to do this with their busy schedules caring for the children, so we need a Sorting Team to go to Honduras for just this purpose, hopefully this year.

I am thinking this may happen the first week in September (3-13). If you are interested in helping, please contact Mary Frenter.

## New Truck

The new 2008 Toyota dual cab truck has arrived, donated by Steve and Melinda Kirkpatrick and Tim and Linda Nelson.

Thank you sooo much!!



## From the President by Mary Frenter

Our team of 25 from Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Canada was terrific!! We spent four days living at the Village and caring for the children while our Mommies had four days off to visit their relatives for Easter. I had no idea what it took to care for all those children. Amazing!! All 25 of us were exhausted after only four days and those Mommies do what we did, 24-7, with only eight people!!!

We have 12 littles living in the nursery, no cribs, no changing tables (sore backs bending over low beds), and no tub for bathing. Our crew was fantastic! Not only did they care for all those littles, but they also cleaned the whole place, cooked for the babies AND sorted and arranged all the clothing that had been in a heap on the floor due to no storage. They washed and sanitized all the toys each night. Then spent many sleepless nights rocking babies who could not sleep. We are in need of SO much more room. We have a dream to remodel the Nursery and add on to it and put a fence and play yard around it.

We also took tons of books in Spanish with us that were donated by Grant Kolb, a new WWH2H friend from New Mexico. He has purchased books ranging from infant to adult for our new library. Amazing Grace!!! So, of course we established our official Village Library on this trip. Our big boys built us bookshelves and a low game table. We used waiting room chairs that arrived in the container from Kathy Cadden in

Mississippi. We decorated the walls with posters and the window ledge with books and stuffed animals, and voila!! Instant Library!! The kids LOVED it!! That room was FULL every time the doors were open. Picture this: eight chairs with at least two to three kids in them, each with a book, or one reading to another, eight kids coloring around the game table, four kids on the floor doing puzzles, six more playing Spanish Monopoly in the next room, and a chess game going on outside the window on the patio!!! And the rest of the Village lined up outside waiting their turn.

The boys' classroom is all arranged with 22 desks and a chalkboard that arrived in the container. The girls' home also has 22 desks set up in one of the rooms at their new house that is designated as a classroom/library. They need a nice yard and playground like the boys have. All the children need more games and toys.

Meals are a challenge at the Village. There are no dishwashers. So all the dishes to prepare food for about 90 people and all the dishes used to feed them are done by hand in relatively cold water—three times a day! As soon as lunch was over, the kitchen crew began fixing dinner, while the rest of the team settled in and played with the kids!

The kitchen crew was up at 5:30 to begin breakfast. Then came the tribe to chow down. Next was clean-up time in the houses, with all the previous day's laundry to be done, bathrooms to

be cleaned, beds to be changed, and floors to be swept and mopped. Lunch was around noon, and then lots of playing, reading, games, soccer, etc. until dinner.

After dinner one evening, we celebrated all the January-March birthdays with presents and cake. One afternoon, we had a Princess Party for the little girls, complete with princess dresses, crowns, cupcakes, games and a royal story about how they are princesses in God's Kingdom.

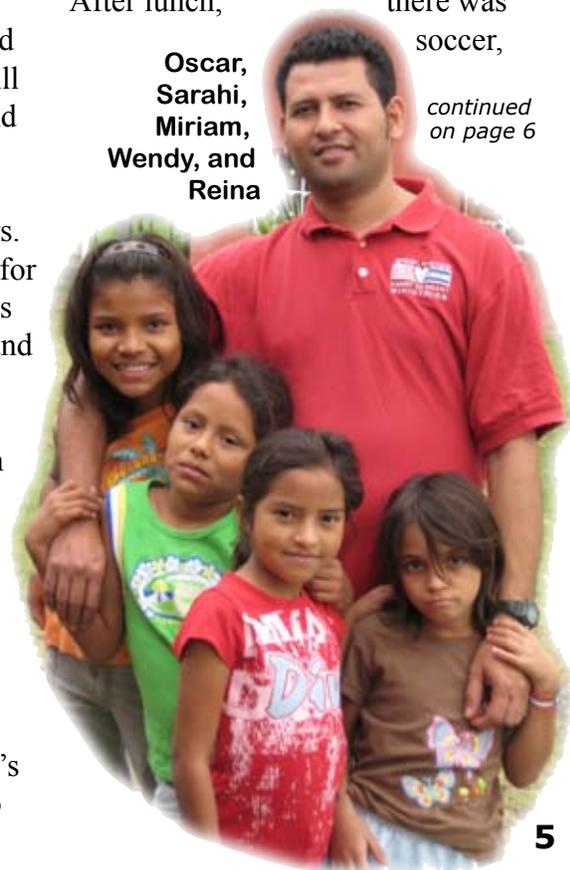
Evenings included dinner, family time, and the going-to-bed routine, complete with stories, giggling, prayers and tucking in.

Easter morning dawned bright and sunny. Our church family came to the village for services, lunch and the Easter Egg Hunt!! We all gathered to worship our risen Lord and Savior, with Oscar playing the guitar and Amy leading the singing. After lunch,

there was soccer,

**Oscar,  
Sarahi,  
Miriam,  
Wendy, and  
Reina**

*continued  
on page 6*





## From the President:

*continued from page 5*

volleyball, and basketball, going on all at once with all the visitors, Mission Team members and children mixed together in one big happy family—about 200 enjoyed the day!

Monday, we took the children out to lunch and a movie. We arrived at Pizza Hut and filed into the playroom, where seating for 80 was set up. The children, with eyes popping out of their heads, played in the gigantic play cube located next to our tables.

When the pizza arrived, the place rang with prayers of thanks for the food, the hands that prepared and

served it, and for those who had nothing to eat. My heart could barely contain the joy as I watched them experiencing “normal” for this day.

After Pizza Hut, came the three-story mall with the movie theater on the top level. As we approached the escalator, you should have seen the expressions of sheer terror on the faces of our children, who were seeing this monstrosity for the first time. No way were they going to get on that thing! There were kids pushing their way to the back of the line, squirting between legs, chaperones grabbing this one and that one and carrying them onto the moving stairway.

Finally, they were all settled in the theater to enjoy “Horton Hears a Who” while some of us shopped for wedding gifts for Josué and Cesia’s shower held that night. We flew home the next morning.

We came away with full hearts of praise and thanksgiving to our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for all He is doing through his servants for His kids in Honduras. Thank you for your prayers. -MF



## Our Financial Promise to You

We view contributions as a sacred trust, accountable to God and to you for their use.

We use all contributions as designated by our donors, and return or transfer monies to a related fund if a project is over-funded.

We use contributions to support the Children’s Village home and mission outreach activities in Honduras.

A very small percentage of money is used for printing and postage costs.

Staff in Honduras receive salary and benefits. All U.S. board members and staff are volunteers.

We send year-end tax statements to donors for all monetary gifts given to WWH2H.

Please visit our website for more information about the children we serve, our history, and our mission. Thanks!

*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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