



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

AUGUST 2008

Children's Village: From Farm to Faith

by Amy
Serrano

This month, I want to introduce you to a very interesting young man who has come a long way. To protect his privacy, we will call him Ken. He is now 14 years old and has lived at the village for two years. This is his story.

Ken grew up in an area near Los Flores in Santa Barbara, Honduras. His village is so remote that the nearest source of electricity is over an hour ride away by car. Ken grew up on a farm, but not just any farm—a marijuana farm. His mother is a gay woman that lives with another woman. He does not know his father. His grandfather, who runs the marijuana farm, mostly raised him. For as long as Ken can remember, he was required to work on the farm. Ken never went to school and he grew up in severe poverty, often going without food.

We began visiting Ken's village several years ago when Marvin, our first resident from that area, came to live with us at the Children's Village. Gradually, we became aware of what was going on in Ken's life. We went to speak with his grandfather about Ken needing to go to school and having a better life. Ken's grandfather reluctantly let him leave with us.

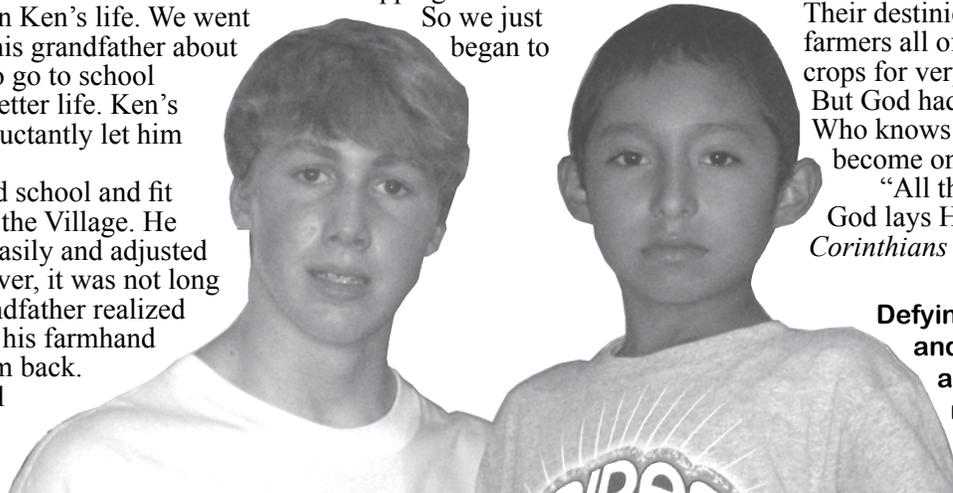
Ken started school and fit in very well at the Village. He made friends easily and adjusted quickly. However, it was not long before the grandfather realized that he needed his farmhand and wanted him back. He sent several messages to Ken to come back home.

We reminded Ken of what his future would be if he went back.

One day, the demands of his family became too much for him. One of the older boys from Ken's village who was living in Tegucigalpa at the time, convinced Ken to run away with him back to their village. Swayed by concern, and his grandfather's pleas that the family needed him, he consented.

By this time, Ken's mother had found work in San Pedro Sula and was living there with her girlfriend. The boys stopped at Ken's mother's house on the way back to their village. The older boy went on his way, but Ken's mother made him stay with her to work. Soon Ken called us, admitting that he made a mistake in running away, that he was miserable and wanted to come back. The unfortunate thing was that our hands were tied. He was no longer working on a marijuana farm, and we could not just take him from his mother. That would be kidnapping.

So we just began to



pray hard that God would move the situation. And, of course, He did.

One day, Ken's mother showed up at the Village with not only Ken, but his younger brother, "Ben." She said that Ken would not stop pleading with her to come back to the Village and finish school. She asked, "Please take Ken back and will you also take my son, Ben, and give him a chance as well?" We were happy to oblige.

Both of the boys are doing extremely well. Ken is so thankful to be back. He is a very hard worker who understands all too well what life could have been for him. He is also a brilliant soccer player and could potentially have a professional future in the sport. His little brother Ben is also doing very well. He loves school and everything about life at the Village.

Our hearts were so broken when Ken left, but we understand that each of these children is on a journey to wholeness. Sometimes that journey may mean that they have to go back out one more time to appreciate what they have at the Village. I guess that is the hard thing about parenting. I just rejoice over these two little lives that are now safe in the hands of God. Their destinies were to be poor drug farmers all of their lives, growing crops for very dangerous drug lords. But God had another plan in mind. Who knows what these kids may become one day?

"All things are possible when God lays His hand on a life." *1 Corinthians 1: 26-29.*

Defying language, economic, and cultural barriers, faith and fellowship make new friends every day at Children's Village. Praise God!



Village Report for July 2008

by Amy Serrano
Honduras National Co-Director

This has been another exciting month here in Honduras. The Lord has continued to bless His work and has glorified Himself again and again. We have had many new friends with us that we want to thank.

Mercy Ships, International

First I need to give a huge round of applause (you can't hear it, but clap with me) for Gary and Sylvia Thacker and the two June groups that came with them from Mercy Ships. They brought workers and funds to finish the roof on our new WWH2H Church building and feeding center at our recently purchased WWH2H Headquarters in Puerto Cortes. The progress that was made on the church by some of their volunteers was phenomenal! In addition, many hours were put in by the rest of their volunteers, sorting and painting at the Village. Their hard work and dedication have made such an impact on this ministry and the children of Honduras.

Kendall Bible Baptist

Secondly, I want to say thank you so much to the Kendall Bible Baptist Church of Miami, Florida. We are thankful for the container that came loaded with clothes, toys, furniture and many other very useful items that have been a blessing to us and to our dear friends at the Eternal Family Project. The group also worked on the church construction, helping to finish the building that will soon be the cornerstone of both ministries' spiritual enrichment. They also did the service for our church youth group that was attended by over 300 teens, many from unchurched families.

Vision to Hear Ministry

We also want to thank the very anointed and funny folks from Vision to Hear Ministry for the wonderful youth service that they provided. The kids are still talking about it and can't wait for you guys to come back next year!

The Rock Church

We were blessed in July by a wonderful group of people from The Rock Church in Lynnwood, Washington, who helped with the construction of the church. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts.



Little boys crave to be "men" of the Village like the older boys Marlon and Norman. In this photo, they crowd around Kevin Geraci as he fixes the pickup truck.

Individual Missions

The Geraci Family of Denver, Colorado, has joined us for six weeks at the "Te-pita" Children's Village. Lesley and Kevin are here with their twin boys, Jackson and Graham, helping us with many things from installing computers and programs to sorting and organizing.

Also, we have two WWH2H board members here, Lisa Closner and Joanie Swedberg. Joanie came to join her daughter, Chelsea, who has been here since May and will be returning home in August. Lisa brought her twin daughters, Allison and Meegan, and Mandy Russau and her daughter, Jessica, to help. We are so thrilled to have them with us. We ask you to pray for each person that has sacrificed to be here.

Newest Arrivals

We have also been blessed with the arrival of three new children: Rosa, Carlos, and Isaac. Isaac has Down's Syndrome and is living in the nursery. These children were referred to us by Dr. Nelly, our ministry doctor, after she became concerned about the mother's and grandmother's mental states. All three of the children are doing extremely well, as are the rest of our kids. They are working on their English, reading the wonderful new books that continue to arrive with each team from our WWH2H Library benefactor, Grant Kolb, and learning so much!!

Note: Please see photos of all the new arrivals since January on page four!

Strange Virus

In late June, we had some struggles as a strange virus hit our area of Honduras, getting everyone sick. Our Village was no exception, but praise God for all of you prayer warriors out there. Thankfully, everyone is better.

Prayers Requested

With each challenge we know that the Lord is bringing us closer to His plans and purposes. His kingdom is here and His will is being done in Honduras as it is done in Heaven. We are so deeply honored to be in His

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Village Report

continued from page 2

service. We ask for your prayers, that the Lord will continue to provide for His work to be done. We ask you to pray that He would give us spiritual strength and wisdom each day. We thank each of you that pray for and support this ministry. May God bless you abundantly!
- Amy

Thanks to Grant Kolb of Bernalillo, New Mexico, our children enjoy reading books and playing with games and puzzles he has provided in the new library.



VBS Team Coordinator Resigns

by Mary Frenter

It is with sadness we say goodbye to longtime WWH2H VBS Team Coordinator, Tina Campbell. She has assured us she is only taking a much-deserved break and will be back to help WWH2H in the future.

Tina went with one of the first teams to Honduras in 2000 before we even had our Children's Village. She organized the first VBS team and has been their coordinator and leader ever since. She organized the first WWH2H fund-raising dinner that raised money to buy our 15-



Tina Campbell and a young friend

passenger van. Tina chaired all the dinners to follow, raising thousands of dollars for our kids. Under her guidance, hundreds of children have come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

Most of the VBS sessions have had 250 plus children in attendance. Once Tina had 520 show up!!! Over the years, she has introduced countless people to this ministry and encouraged them to help. Her children and her husband have all participated on teams

to Honduras. A huge hole has been left by her absence. We will miss her immensely but wish her well in her new endeavors.

Two New Partners

VBS team members Carol Rutledge and Cathy Moore have graciously volunteered to partner as co-chairs for the January 2009 VBS team. We thank them for stepping forward to fill this challenging position. Plans and fund raising are underway right now for this team.

For more info, please contact Carol Rutledge (cmrutledge1@yahoo.com) or Cathy Moore (cathygabsalot@hotmail.com). They appreciate your prayers! - Mary

Mailing List & Sponsors

Phyllis Haas is the WWH2H Bulk Mailing Secretary. She'd like to thank Nicole Haas and Ed and Lillian Haas for helping her fold, label and mail more than 800 July newsletters!

Phyllis says thanks to everyone who helps with WWH2H. We now have sponsors in 30 states and four foreign countries! Praise God for His faithfulness and abundant grace!

VBS Benefit Concert!!

Sunday, September 28
6:00 p.m.

Faith Tabernacle Open Bible Church

12 Vancouver Avenue
Stevenson, WA

You are cordially invited to a VBS Benefit Concert sponsored by the Faith Tabernacle Worship Team. All proceeds will go to the WWH2H November VBS team to Honduras to help defray the costs for them to minister to the children of Honduras.

Team members are from several local area churches. Invite your friends, and join us for a night of great music and fun!! Watch for more details in the September newsletter!



Meet the New Children at the Village:

Over the last seven months, 17 new children have joined our family. That makes 71 children now under the care of WWH2H. Please pray about new sponsors for these precious gifts from God:



Carlito (1)
Arrived January



Carolina (15)
Arrived January



Sammy (Herman) (2)
Arrived February



Jonathan (4)
Arrived February



Isaac (Edgar) (8 mos)
Arrived February



Jose Cruz (11)
Arrived March



Nhuan (8)
Arrived March



Keren (12)
Arrived March



Jose (7)
Arrived March



Daniel (1)
Arrived March



Kevin Joel (3)
Arrived March



Dunia (12)
Arrived April



Brayon (10)
Arrived May



Elder (7)
Arrived May



Isaac (4)
Arrived July



Carlos (7)
Arrived July



Rosa (11)
Arrived July

Notes: Sammy (Herman) and Jonathan are brothers. We finally have Isaac's birth certificate—we called him Edgar at first. Nhuan, Keren, Jose, and Daniel are all siblings and are aunts and uncles of siblings Kevin Joel and Denia (different than Dunia, above), who lives with Allison Alexander of the Eternal Family Project in Puerto Cortes. Dunia is sister to Maria Elena and Francisco who have been with us for over a year. Brayon joined his brother Cristian (13), and Elder joined siblings Olga, Marizol, Juan Carlos, and Danilo. Isaac, Carlos, and Rosa are siblings.

Please Pray for Sponsors for These Kids:

Brayon (10), Carlos (7), Cristian (4), Darwin (5), Dilcia (10), Dunia (12), Elder (7), Isaac (Edgar) (8 mos), Isaac (4), Jose (7), Kevin Joel (3), Mayra (7), Nhuan (8), and Rosa (11)



From the President by Mary Frenter

It is a beautiful sunny day in the Gorge as I sit down to share with you the many blessings to this ministry in the last few weeks and months. I am reminded, "The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us." Thank You, Jesus!!

Upcoming Teams for 2008

Amy wrote about the recent mission teams on page two. As we make plans for seven more teams to go to Honduras September through December, I am overcome with thanksgiving to our Father for His bounty and grace. They will follow the other 16 teams and individuals who have come to Honduras since January.

This fall and winter, over 130 people will be offering their prayers, time, and finances to go thousands of miles away from their homes to bless God's kids so far away. For many of them, this will not be their first time to serve on a team. Most have been at least once before and for some this will be their fifth time. They leave behind hundreds of others who have helped them with the finances for the trip, and who are praying for their safety and success. Volunteer missions include a combined crusade and look-and-see team, two dental/medical teams, a VBS team, and three construction teams. Thank you to all of them, and those who have come before them, who are obedient to the

Holy Spirit's call to help the hurting.

Construction Teams Needed for 2009

Teams are already coming together for 2009. Our great need is for construction teams. We have one scheduled for January and possibly two or three for next summer. There is a VBS team organizing for January, and three medical/dental teams making plans throughout the year. In June, there is a youth team planned.

Church Construction

This just in from the Serranos...
"At this point, the church has the roof on, 15 more feet have been added to the building, allowing room for 500 worshipers at a time. In addition, a roof has been added to the small storage building on site—\$18,000 has been given by the various volunteer teams and from local groups to accomplish this. Our goal is to get into the church as soon as possible. We are so close, but we still need to build a bathroom before the church



WWH2H Church building in Puerto Cortes has new roof trusses and facade on the front wall.



Building on the Girls' House in Tegucigalpa is close to being finished.

can be used for services. That will cost about \$2000. Then we will need about \$22,000 more to totally finish it. By September, we hope to at least have the floors, electrical, ceiling, windows and doors (\$10,000) done before we host Evangelist Pastor Ed Miller of Modesto, CA for a two-day crusade. Please keep this in your prayers and if the Lord puts it on your heart to contribute to this project, please contact the ministry at 509.427.8585. Thanks, and God bless you!!"

Prayers for Children, Teams, and Workers

We continue to covet your prayers for our kids and for all our wonderful, dedicated workers in Honduras and here at home, who work tirelessly to further the work of Jesus Christ in tangible ways. Please consider sharing God's work through WWH2H with your family and friends who may be interested in helping with their prayers, finances, and by volunteering to go. God be with you!! - Mary

Newsletter Corrections

June Issue – "Celebrating 5th Anniversary with the Serrano's"
– The Friendship Vessel they met on is not part of the Mercy Ships, Inc. organization.

July Issue – "Village Report for June 2008" – Kathy Cadden is not part of the Kendall Bible Baptist

Church in Miami. Pastor Jeff Sullivan is the leader of that church and the person who organized the container for WWH2H that arrived in June. He also brought a team from his church to help us there in June. Kathy Cadden is the director of Operation Ukraine Ministry. She sent WWH2H a container in February from Mississippi.



Just Another Day in Honduras!

From Centralia, Washington, Chelsea Swedberg has been volunteer teaching at the Girls' House. She will be returning to the U.S. in mid August.

Everything is going well here. Soon, I'm going to be switching with Bernadette Campbell, the other American girl volunteering here. I'll be teaching the boys, and she'll take over the girls. So many stories to tell.

Oscar Serrano, the WWH2H Honduras National Director, took six other gringos and me to a government-run orphanage in San Pedro Sula, a much bigger city. It was pretty sad. We saw many kids with severe mental and/or physical handicaps due to their parents doing drugs and/or neglecting them. WWH2H is constructing a home for these disabled kids near the new

church in Puerto Cortes. They are hoping to take some of the kids from the government-run orphanage so they can give them better care.

When we were driving home from our day at the orphanage, a tire went flat. The men had that tire changed in less than 15 minutes! We were all laughing, saying how they could be on a pit crew, and how it had been a while since there had been any car problems. So we were due.

Wouldn't you know it? As we were all getting back into vehicles, I was closing the door to the van, and the door fell off. We were all laughing so hard, but that problem got fixed quickly, too. The ordeal only set us back about twenty minutes. Just another day in Honduras!

- Chelsea

Our Financial Promise

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 our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

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P.O. Box 372
Carson, WA 98610
USA 509.427.8585
Mary Fenter
President

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US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #99
LONGVIEW
WA
98632