



Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2008

Love talked about is easily turned aside; love demonstrated is irresistible. —Stan Mooneyham

In This Newsletter

We received a lot of positive feedback from the article written by Lesley Geraci in the August newsletter. This month, we present two heart-warming articles written by members of the Medical Dental Team. We are also including more photos than usual, as potential volunteers have been asking what it's like to serve on a team. We hope you enjoy this issue!

WWH2H Medical Dental Team

Blessings to all of you!! And that demonstrated, irresistible love was surely evident in this past month with

From the President's Desk

by Mary Frenter

wonderful help from the 28 strong WWH2H Medical Dental Team who ministered to over 3000 people in several days of clinics in the outlying areas around Puerto Cortes. Thank you to all of you! And thank you, to everyone who kept them in prayer as they worked.

Mercy Ships, Int'l Mission

As soon as the medical dental team left, Gary and Sylvia Thacker, Mission Coordinators for Mercy Ships, International, showed up with two back-to-back teams to build the new purified water system hook-up at the Girls' House, in spite of torrential rains that hit the country and caused

much flooding and damage in several areas. Thank you, Mercy Ships and Thackers, for your faithful help each year with so many teams, prayers, and finances to help our kids!!

Prayer Warriors

Thank you, too, to our WWH2H Prayer Warriors, those unsung heroes who, at a moment's notice, can be counted on to assail heaven with prayers for the needs of our onsite warriors and children.

Project Give 360 and Viviana

Another blessing this month came in the form of a lovely 12-year-old,

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October 2008 WWH2H Medical Dental Mission Team

Back Row (L-R): Paul Gascoigne, Steve Kirkpatrick, Bill Kirkpatrick, Joanie Swedberg, Al Swedberg, Wil Meckle, Alex Onjorno, Foster Bucher, Tim Nelson, Cher Bucher, Mary Chmelik, Jim Beaston. Middle Row (L-R): Kim Sharp, Martha McMillan, Jim King, Kathy Anderson, Melissa O'Neil, Kathy Beebe, Jane Meckle. Front Row (L-R): Dave Coons, Mary Coons, Linda Nelson, Alli Matilla, Holly Liberatore, Jodi Oster, Dee Page, Dominic Liberatore, and Amy Serrano. Not pictured: Jane Beaston



From the President's Desk

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Viviana, a new daughter at our Village. She loves to sew and has been helping with the "Bag Project," spearheaded by Lesley Geraci and Leann Hait of Colorado. (Please see article on Project Give 360 on page 7.)

Samaritan's Purse

Last summer, in August, I gave a presentation at a church in Carson, WA. After the service, a man, his wife, and their teenaged grandson came up to me. The grandson had been in my first-grade class a few years before. They introduced themselves as Paul and Joyce Chiles. Paul asked if I believed in *divine appointments*. He said he believed this was one. He and Joyce work for Samaritan's Purse, a humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization, and had coordinated efforts in Honduras for a year after Hurricane Mitch.

Nursery House

Paul told me to write a proposal for something we needed at the Children's Village in the \$20-50,000 range. I was speechless!! He said he believed God wanted Samaritan's Purse to help us. We have 13 "littles" living in very cramped quarters in the Edgar Memorial Building right now. And there are many more babies waiting to come "home," when we have the room. So, I wrote the proposal for our much needed Nursery House.

When I was in Honduras in September, we "accidentally" ran into three of the Samaritan's Purse officials when we "just happened" to be having lunch on the same day, in the same

Pizza Hut, at adjoining tables. Another *divine appointment*!!

The proposal was accepted and \$25,000 has been donated to WWH2H this month to begin the construction of our new Nursery Building!! Amazing Grace!! A huge WWH2H thank you to everyone at Samaritan's Purse, especially Dr. Paul Chiles, Senior Project Advisor, John Freyler, Regional Director for Latin America, and Dr. Brad Phillips, Country Director.

Based on the \$60,000 cost of the Girls' House last year, we are projecting the cost for the Nursery House at between \$65-70,000. The \$25,000 from Samaritan's Purse will get us almost halfway there. Please



Members of the Look-and-See Team fill their arms with children during a visit to a government-run orphanage in September. Lack of enough staff means the children are frequently left alone in their cribs all day. A substantial donation from Samaritan's Purse will allow us to begin building the Nursery House.

pray with us for the remaining funds to finish this important home for the many babies who need our care. If you would like me to share this need with your friends or churches, who may be interested in helping, please contact me to set up a time and place.

Website Updates

Paula Barr, our newsletter editor and web master, has updated the children's photos and information on the KIDS page of the website. Paula is continuing to update the website, so check back frequently for even more new photos, news, history, and information.

Prayer Request

Please continue to keep our kids in your prayers, as well as the VBS team that will be traveling to Honduras over Thanksgiving to minister to many children. God be with all of you.

Mary >>>



Kids from the Village enjoy playing at a local water park. Visiting teams sometimes sponsor this "little bit of normal" for the children.



There are many jobs for clinic volunteers: L-R: Foster (dentist) and Cher Bucher (assistant), Amy and Oscar Serrano (assistants and translators), and Alex Ojorno (a visiting pastor from Kenya who handed out toys to children). The week's medical / dental clinics served almost 3000 people.

A Great Need...

by Foster Bucher,
D.D.S., M.S.

The following article was excerpted from emails sent to family and friends of Foster and Cher Bucher.

Hello Everyone! Our team on the medical/dental mission was completely amazing! There were 28 of us together for 12 days, and everyone got along so well that we could hardly believe it! To say that this has been a life-changing experience is probably an understatement.

The days were long—up at 6:00 a.m. and the final team meeting at 7:30 p.m. The villages we served were so poverty stricken that it is impossible to describe. From the dental standpoint, we would go into a classroom, dirty and cluttered, sweep the floor as best we could, and set up five tables which served as our “dental chairs.”



L-R: Jane Beaston assists dentist Jim King with an exam.

Patients would already be lined up outside when we arrived. We saw mostly young children with decay and “bombed out” teeth (most were already decayed below the gum line and many had abscesses and puss coming directly out of the teeth or a fistula in the gums). We brought all our own sterile needles, anesthetic, gauze, pain medication, and antibiotics for any post operative problems. We also gave each patient a dental bag with brushes, toothpaste, floss, and toys for all the children.

Our mission was to help as many people as we could with the primary goal of getting them out of pain. It was a very emotional experience seeing beautiful young children in such great pain and suffering. It

was difficult to look into the eyes of these children and without imagining that they were *our own* children! There were many children just 7, 8, 9 years old that had to have up to 9 teeth removed. Very seldom was it a one-tooth extraction! As an orthodontist, I have not given a shot or taken out a tooth for almost 30 years, but found that I hadn't lost all my “dental skills.”

It was difficult at times because sometimes there would be a screamer—just terrified. With five dentists in the same room, it would be heartbreaking to hear the screams, but we would keep going, realizing that we were helping stop their pain.

It was amazing to see how these children responded to the little stuffed animals and toys we gave them—we knew it was probably the only one they had in the world. The smiles, the hugs and thank yous when we were done were more than payment—and we know we had helped relieve their pain. Many memories of the faces and



Many Hondurans have never been to a dentist and walk for hours to get to clinics.

moments we experienced are etched in our minds forever!

Cher was a great help and support during the clinic days. She was my assistant for every clinic day and I can promise you that it was much more difficult for her than me—lots of tears! After we finished the first clinic day, she said, “I don't think I can do this, it's just too emotional for me,” but she kept coming every day. By the last day, it was, “We need to do more of this!” And we will. —Foster



So Many Smiles...

by Jane Meckle

The following article was excerpted from emails sent to family and friends of Wil and Jane Meckle.

Going to Honduras was not new to us, but being part of a medical / dental team certainly was. It gave us a wonderful opportunity to be part of a mission trip that helped in small ways to ease the hurt and suffering of these wonderful people who are, as we all are, blessed children of God.



This boy was riding his bike when he was hit by a bus and dragged for 100 feet. Unable to pay for a doctor, he waited two months for treatment.

We joined the group one day late, arriving at about 11:00 a.m. No one was there to pick us up, but we knew we were in Honduras and on Honduran time. After about an hour or so, the small van arrived and Angel, the associate pastor from the Church, and his son arrived to pick us up.

We eagerly joined the group for a second day of clinics. Local people helped as tickets were handed out to those getting in line to be served, different for the medical and dental sides.

I ended up working pretty much in the dental room. At the direction of the dentists, I dispensed pain meds and antibiotics to those who had teeth extracted. We also had toothbrushes,

toothpaste, floss and small gifts for folks. Anyone who has ever had a toothache knows the horrible pain it can cause. Imagine having no money for a dentist, or transportation to get there, or even over-the-counter pain medication. And then consider that you may have a whole mouth full of bad teeth from a poor diet and poor dental care. It is little wonder that folks went away, mouth numb and gauze coming out from both sides of their mouth with smiles and hugs for the dental staff and for me as well.

The village was especially poor, even the dogs running loose were very skinny and in poor health. Oscar had arranged for the police to be at the clinic to help with crowd control and to keep us safe. They arrested a young man the first day who had been stealing from locals in the area. The clinic was set up in school buildings, in classrooms, or other enclosures.

The dental side had five dentists who worked off plastic folding banquet tables made higher by cement blocks or bags of dry cement. A couple of folding chaise lounge chairs were used until more tables were located. The tables were covered by plastic tablecloths and inflatable headrests like we used on the airplane trip. No complaints and folks gladly jumped up to take their place for their care.

The medical side had five or six stations with a doctor (or nurse practitioner or RN or such). They were able to see many more folks per day, often upwards of 500. The dental side averaged about 60. The pharmacy on the medical

side dispensed pain relievers, rash ointment, antibiotic, vitamins, and a myriad of other meds. Families come as a group to be seen often four or more at a time.

The ladies from the WWH2H Church provided lunch when we did clinics. This worked great as, not only are they very good cooks, we were able to eat quickly as the crowds never seemed to get smaller.

We tried to close at about 3:30 or so. Generally, the med side closed first as they worked through the lines. The dental procedures took longer and we were always the last to close. Then it was back to the Flamingo Hotel for dinner and a shower, if you were lucky enough to get some water. Lucky ones even got hot water. I was among many who were in the middle of a shower with shampoo in my hair when the water went off. Luckily, I was able to get a bottle of drinking water from in the room to rinse out my hair. We have to put up with these inconveniences for a short time, while many live with this all the time. We are so blessed!

Every evening, we sorted the meds into small baggies for the next day's clinic. We bought in bulk and then portioned out as needed. Ten days of

vitamins didn't seem like much but were eagerly welcomed by the recipients. We also had team meetings. Dr. Steve often brought out his guitar for some songs of praise before we headed to our rooms for sleep.

Saturday evening, we went to church. Alex, a member of the team and a missionary from Kenya, was the guest pastor. Oscar and his music team led us in songs of praise. What a



Jim Beaston and Carolina sterilize instruments. Many of the translators come from the bilingual school where Sarah and Rachel Serrano go to school.

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Whole families are seen at one time in the medical side.

Smiles

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great opportunity to worship with our brothers and sisters in Honduras.

Sunday, the bus picked us up for Sunday School at church. It was great to have a bus at our disposal instead of having to rely on rented tour buses. One of the church members, another Oscar, was our driver the entire time. He is a very capable and skilled driver and was a master at maneuvering the bus through very narrow streets. Even without air conditioning, we were comfortable as long as we kept moving. Their roads and street could be a challenge, but we did very well.

It was wonderful to get to church and be greeted by the children from

the Village! Dennis and Nora and Olvin and many, many others ran up to us for hugs and kisses. We met many of the new kids, also, and greeted staff and other church members. When invited, the children hurried up front to sing songs for us. A message was given and songs were sung. Another great experience.

We headed back to the Village for the day. The mission team and the children really packed the bus on the way back. Some of the older kids rode in other vehicles. We had a great lunch of a rice/veggies/chicken dish, salad and rolls. We spent time with the kids, visited the new Girl's House, and played with the kids some more. Then back to the hotel for our evening meal and to get ready for the next day.

The next two days' clinics were in Tegucigalpa, the small village near the Children's Village. Life is just a bit better in this village. They were a little better dressed and a little better fed, yet over 800 were seen in medical and about 200 in dental.

One older man came back the second day with a bag of oranges for the dentist that had pulled his

to share with us! How great is that!! Wednesday after clinic we went by the Village to say goodbye. Short but sweet time there.

Wednesday, we left Omoa and the Flamingo Hotel for Copán. We had planned to do a half-day clinic on the way. Rain from a tropical storm cause the rivers to rise and we had to cancel. We were disappointed but we know it was best. It would also have been hard for the people to be waiting for service in the pouring rain. Rainy weather is especially hard for poor people with



An 8-year-old boy was brought in with the end of his thumb just barely hanging on. He had cut it opening a coconut with a machete. A med team was able to numb it up and sew it back on. He left smiling with pain killers and antibiotics.



Young boys from the Boys' House say "thank you" in Spanish to all the volunteer construction and medical/dental teams that visited this summer and fall.

teeth the day before. Another man brought a bunch of plantains for the medical folks. Poor, but wanting

inadequate housing and things to cope with the weather.

We all have special memories. Wil talks about the lady that they worked on for about 90 minutes to clear wax and buildup from her ears. When they finally succeeded, she was so excited to hear again she pointed upwards to give thanks to God while hugging and thanking everyone around her. We think nothing of reaching for a Q-tip.

God bless each of you. Brush your teeth, eat a healthy diet! Stay healthy!

—Wil and Jane



Notes from a Volunteer Team Coordinator...

by Lisa Closner

Children's Sponsors

As the year comes to a close, we want to thank each of you sponsors for the care and support of your children. Over the past year, I have been blessed to visit the Village three times, and I am truly amazed at the physical, emotional, and spiritual transformation I see in the lives of the children. I am fully convinced that this is a direct result of your prayers, letters and financial support. I cannot thank you enough for your involvement.

Letters for Children at the Village

We would like to let you know of the final opportunities for this year to communicate and support your children. First, there are two teams that will be traveling to the Village in November and December and are able to carry letters. Below you will find

the dates by which we will need to receive your correspondence, in order to send them with the teams. The final dates that we can receive letters to be taken to the children are:

- November 14th
- December 19th

Christmas Gifts for Children at the Village

Second, you can be a part of bringing Christmas to your children. We would love to see each child receive a Christmas card from their sponsors. In addition, we will purchase two new outfits, a pair of shoes, a pair of sandals and one or two small gifts for each child. We've determined the cost to cover all of these expenses will amount to \$100 per child to provide them a special Christmas. You can provide all or a part of that.

Last year, we were able to ship many amazing provisions from God to the orphanage in Honduras: Two washers and dryers, clothing, shoes, gifts, toys and to our amazement all of these supplies were being shipped inside of a 72-passenger school bus which was donated by the Centralia, WA, Immanuel Lutheran Church. The bus and contents were shipped to the orphanage. All the items are

being used today by children and housemothers, as well as a nearly continuous stream of visitors that have been working together with us to provide the love and friendship that these children need.

Once again this year, we look to you, our friends to be used by God to provide for their necessities. This holiday season volunteers will bring the message of Jesus and his birth to the children and will also host a celebration at the orphanage. With your help, the children will experience:

- A delicious Christmas Dinner
- Two new outfits
- Two new pairs of shoes (athletic shoes and sandals)
- Two new toys

The shoes and clothing may be the only new apparel that the children will receive all year, and they desperately need the clothing for school. The toys may be the only things that many will receive for the holiday and perhaps for quite some time. Your generous gift will make it possible for each child to receive these humble blessings.

Thank you for partnering with us in this, such a worthy and much needed blessing. God bless you and your families. —Lisa

After prayer and reflection, please consider sponsoring a child's Christmas at WWH2H Children's Village. Please complete and return the following form as soon as possible to:

Lisa Closner, WWH2H Volunteer Team Coordinator, P.O. Box 372, Carson, WA 98610

Christmas Sponsorship Opportunity:

Yes, I would like to partner with you to provide Christmas for children at the orphanage. Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other \$ _____

Additional Opportunities:

- I would like to provide a cash gift on a monthly basis in the amount of \$ _____
- Yes, I would like to pray for a child I would like to sponsor a child I would like to write to a child
- I would like to discuss additional giving opportunities with someone—please contact me.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Credit Card Type: _____ Credit Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____



Project Give 360

by Mary Frenter

Our girls are making shoulder bags from recycled flower and rice sacks. Lesley Geraci and Leann Hait will sell them, with proceeds going to WWH2H and their new



ministry, *Project Give 360*. We are teaching the kids the value of caring for our environment, as well as teaching them a valuable trade. *Project Give 360* was born out of that experience.

Project Give 360 is a non-profit organization that empowers women, children and families in emerging communities

to lead self-sufficient, enriched lives through educational and vocational programs. Domestic and international volunteer opportunities supporting these communities are offered to families and individuals wanting to make a difference. *Project Give 360* enhances the well-being and sustainability of communities served while fostering awareness, compassion, and inspiration in those who serve.

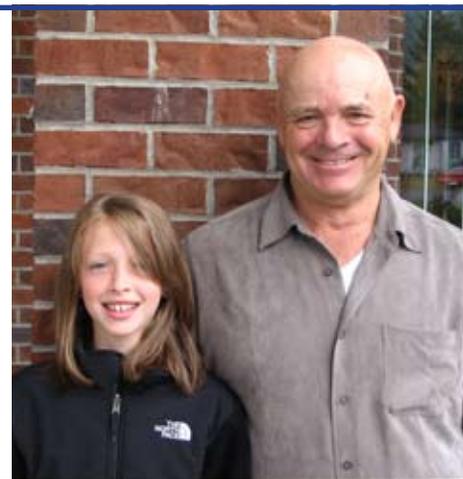
Lemonade is Sweet!

by Mary Frenter

Jesse Scherer is the daughter of Dave and Patricia Scherer of Centralia, WA. She did something really special this past summer. She made lemonade and sold it from a stand in front of her house. She made \$100 and donated it to Children's Village. Thanks, Jesse!

I think Jesse learned by example. Jesse's father, Dave Scherer, has volunteered on four construction teams to Honduras since 2001. A general contractor, Dave coordinated volunteer teams that cut, welded, and installed iron roof trusses for several of the buildings, including the new Girls' House and bus shelter.

We're very grateful for Dave's and Jesse's efforts. WWH2H continues to need gifts, both large and small. We need you all!



A Sweet and Gentle Child

by Amy Serrano

Every month that goes by I want to bring something to you that can make you feel as though you know these children in some way. They all have their specialness, and each one was hand picked by God himself to be here in our family. The child that I want to introduce to you this month is a special hero to me.

We will call him Chris. He is 12 years old and has been part of our family for about two years now. Chris has to be the sweetest, mild mannered and gentle child I know. It is amazing that in all that he has been through Chris has remained innocent. But the truth is that Chris has been challenged as much as any human being could have been. This is his story.

Where Chris grew up is considered one of the poorest areas of San Pedro Sula. Prostitution, crime and gangs are rampant in this area. Sanitation is extremely low as this community is built sandwiched in between a river, which is highly contaminated, and the local garbage dump. Those living in this area are usually squatters on the land and most homes are only pieces of garbage found at the dump.

Chris's father was never a part of his life. He was raised by his mother and stepfather. Chris's mother became ill and died when he was very young. Chris was then raised by his stepfather and his girlfriend. As they had children of their own, Chris was usually the one to get fed last.

Chris's older brother, then only 17 and living outside of the home, noticed Chris's poor health, apparent malnourishment, and other signs of abuse. One day, the brother asked

Chris's stepparents if he could take Chris for a day out. Chris took him to IHNFA, the child welfare agency in Honduras.

Chris spent a few months in Nueva Esperanza, a state-run orphanage in San Pedro Sula and was then brought to live with us in Tegucigalpa. He had never been to school and was still in very poor health.

Chris is now living a new life. All of the ugliness of his past is behind him. Chris still has some extreme health issues, but he is a survivor and one of my personal little heroes.

With each child that is brought to us, I see scars that will heal with God's love. Chris has been scarred with a wound that medical science can't heal. Whether he is healed or not, God is showing himself great in this little life. Please keep this very special young man and his fragile health in your prayers. We know that God will use him in a mighty way. —Amy



Village Report for October

by Amy Serrano
Honduras National Co-Director

Volunteer Teams

Mary Frenter wrote about the Medical/Dental team and the volunteers from Mercy Ships in the "From the President" section. The stories by Foster Bucher and Wil Meckle provided more detail about what it's like to serve. We are very grateful to all who have come.

Terrible Rains

Honduras has been battered by extreme weather in September and October. Honduras's biggest enemy is large amounts of rain. Many parts of the country have had more significant flood damage than Hurricane Mitch that devastated the country in 1998.

Two tropical lows that almost reached hurricane status came one after the other. The mountainous topography of the land can only take so much rain before rivers begin to overflow and whole communities begin to slide down mountainsides.

It is early November, and the weather has improved significantly. Flooding in this area has subsided. However, many other areas are still in great danger. Though there had been some major flooding in Tegucigalpa, the area near the Village is fine and all of the kids are doing well.

Prayer Request

We ask you to pray for all of those who are suffering at this time due to flooding in Honduras. Please continue to pray for this ministry and all of the kids. We know that we can not do this without you. God bless you all!

—Amy

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 through Christ our comfort overflows.

wwhzh.org
Heart to Heart
WORLDWIDE
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