



Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009

Silvia—Not Rescued in Time

by Amy Serrano, Honduras National Co-Director

I usually write stories about children God has rescued from ugly situations and who are now safe with us. We do these stories for many reasons, but mainly so that you can pray for them as the Lord continues healing them. Occasionally, we have a story that does not have a happy ending. I want to tell you about a young girl that is now resting with the Lord after a life of hardship. This is not an easy story to write, but it is completely true.

Many of you know about our friend, Allison Alexander of the Eternal Family Project (a ministry under the legal covering of WWH2H in Honduras). We heard about an 11-year-old girl named Silvia who lived across the street from Allison with her mother and her mother's boyfriend. The mother often left for work leaving the girl with the boyfriend, who was

20 years younger than the mother.

There were rumors that the boyfriend was sexually abusing Silvia.

When I first met Silvia, she was a very cute young lady. I remember that day she had her hair in pigtails. She was very thin and had a beautiful face. She seemed very nice, and there was really nothing in her demeanor to show us she was troubled. Allison, however, was very disturbed by our meeting with her. She told me that the Holy Spirit would not leave her alone about it. She felt we needed to get the girl out ASAP.

As we investigated, we found it was even worse than we thought. We learned the following information from relatives and neighbors. The mother is a prostitute and sells black-market lottery and drugs. The boyfriend was extremely dangerous. He went to the U.S. illegally several

years ago and is wanted for rape and murder there. He is also wanted for murder in Honduras. Neighbors said that he boasted about his sexual relationship with Silvia. We don't know what was actual fact, but we did know that Silvia needed to get out.

We contacted the mother who told us she was glad that we wanted Silvia, because she and her boyfriend were on their way to the U.S. and could not bring her. We went to help Silvia pack her things. She was crying. I think she wanted her mother to cry for her—she wanted her mother to love and miss her. But her mother simply hugged her and told her she didn't know when she would see her again. On the way to the U.S., the boyfriend beat the mother and a friend nearly to death, stole all the money, and continued on without them.

Silvia went to live with Allison, and things seemed fine at first. Silvia started school and made friends easily.

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A youth volunteer work team from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Centralia, Washington, visited the Children's Village from between Christmas and New Year's. L-R: Nathan Blouin, Katie Pagel, Bradley Schultz, Emily Pfaff, John Schultz, Lacey Burchett, and Tammy Schultz. During their week-long mission, they sorted donated items and painted buildings.





Not Rescued in Time

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But Silvia was not all right. Because of the abuse by her mother's boyfriend, Silvia was already destroyed. Silvia's grades began to drop. Allison said she was extremely forgetful and would lose track of the conversation. What was most disturbing was her distorted view about sex. She told one of the other girls that she dreamed of molesting a small child or animal. At first she would just flirt with men, but then she became very aggressive, openly offering sex to any male that was around her. We were very concerned for the younger girl that Allison had in her care at the time.

After much prayer, we decided that Silvia could no longer stay. We could not send her to IHNFA as that would be a death sentence. We decided to look for her father. Her mother told us that Silvia's dad had run off many years before and wanted nothing to do with her. He had remarried and lived in Cuyamel, a small village not far from Tegucigalpa. We told him all that had happened with her mother and the boyfriend. He decided to take her back. We went to visit the family. They seemed nice. Her father's wife was very accepting of Silvia, and so

were her half brothers and sisters. We all thought perhaps she would do okay. But we were wrong. Not more than six months after she had gone to her father's house, we saw Sylvia working at a brothel in Tegucigalpa. We went to her father to find out what had happened. He told us he had to send her away, because she came to his bed on many occasions offering sex. His wife told him that she had to go.

By this time, Silvia had put on more than 100 pounds and was no longer the beautiful young girl that we met that first day. The young boys at the Village said that they were afraid to go to town because Silvia would always find them and bother them about going to the brothel with her. She came once to the Children's Village and asked for the boys. Our head housemother had to tell her to not come back.

Silvia was very lost. We were all praying for her, and did not know how things would end. We wanted to help her, but we couldn't take her because of the risk that she posed to the small children and the boys.

Some time later, we heard that Silvia was in the hospital. A woman from Tegucigalpa, who had no other children of her own, was moved by the Lord to take Sylvia in and care for her. Silvia started going to church. The woman said that Silvia was

greatly changed, that the Lord had done an enormous work in Silvia's life.

Unfortunately, Silvia did not have much life left as she was dying from AIDS complications. We went to visit her in the hospital. She was very ill, but at peace. We told her that we would continue praying for her and that she was very loved. We learned in July that Silvia had gone home to be with Jesus.

What do we learn from Silvia's story? We are reminded yet again that there is much evil out there. But we also see that God is in control. God sent a wonderful Christian woman into Silvia's life when we could no longer have Silvia with us. We prayed for Silvia, and He took her home. She is not hurting any more.

I often think of the many "Silvias" out there, and how terrible their lives are! But God is good. He brings some victims to us for rescue, and He takes others Home with Him. It is heartbreaking because we know we will lose some. However, we keep trying to get to the "Silvias" before they are so badly damaged.

We need your help to save these children. Silvia and Edgar (who died while waiting for the Children's Village to be built) inspire and remind us that lives are hanging in the balance *every day*. We will not be able to save them all. That is God's job. But, together, God can use us to touch so many lives. —Amy

Volunteer Judy Wiebe holds Jairo Daniel during a visit to the government-run Nuevo Esperanza orphanage in November. With your help and continued prayer, Jairo Daniel has come to live at the Boys' Home at Children's Village.

Now Jairo Daniel has enough food to eat, a safe place to live, clean clothes to wear, and a chance to go to school when he's old enough. This is all thanks to people like you showing God's love in the world.





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We have a new fund raising avenue! For all you Amazon.com shoppers, please enter through the link in red below.

Everything you love about Amazon will be the same

(including the prices!) but WWH2H will get a 4% cut of the sale! That percentage will increase over time, depending on the sales volume! I will also be creating a new web page:

<http://amazon.wwh2h.org>. It will contain all the information, status and links for this fund raiser. Thank you!

by **Brian Ross**
WWH2H Board Treasurer

<http://www.amazon.com/?tag=worlheartohea-20>

Meet **19** New Kids!



Antonio, 10



Blanca, 2



Elvis, 9



Fernando, 8



Gladys, 12



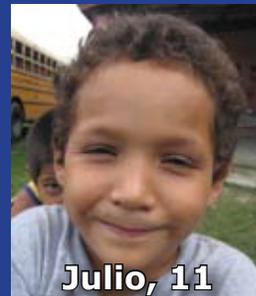
Heidi, 10



Jairo, 6 mos



Jimmy, 8



Julio, 11



Karla, 5



Kevin, 6



Lesley, 11



Luis, 9



Marco, 7



Maribel, 11



Nicole, 2



Noe, 8



Olvin, 4



Santos, 11



Village Update

by Amy Serrano, Honduras National Co-Director

Season's greetings to all of you from all of us here in Honduras. I hope that you survived the holidays without putting on too many pounds. We will give a full holiday report in the February newsletter.

Shopping for New Clothes

Christmas traditions for the Village are in full swing. We took the

children to San Pedro Sula to shop for their new clothes. They each got to pick their own outfits and shoes. Yesterday was the boys' turn. It was interesting going shopping with 37 little boys! They had a blast, however. Each one got to pick out and try on his new pants, shoes, and shirts. After shopping, we took them to Pizza Hut for lunch. They ate to their hearts' content and truly had a wonderful day. They are all going to be "guano" for Christmas. We are going out today with 43 of the girls, I will tell you in next month's article how that went.



Boys pick out clothes and shoes for their Christmas presents. For many, this was the first time they ever had new clothes or been able to choose them.

Children's Village is Now Full

The big news is that our family has grown by 19 children. That's right, we just received 19 new children from the San Pedro Sula public orphanage. They range in age from six months to 12 years. Four of them went to the toddlers' house, five to the girls'

house, and 10 to the boys' house. The Village is now officially full, until we finish the new Baby House which is now under construction.

As always, when we take children in, there is an evaluation process. We try to make sure they have been correctly placed with us, as sometimes the children have complex emotional

issues that are better treated in a different kind of facility. The government does not help us with this information ahead of time. But so far, all of the children are doing well and adjusting to their new environment. We ask you to pray for these them, that God would help in this new phase of their lives.

Tennessee Volunteers

This month we were blessed by two volunteers from the U.S., Karen Rybolt and Jeanette Hopkins. Both are from Tennessee, volunteering with Eternal Family Project. They spent a few days helping at the Village, painting nails, and doing arts and crafts with the children. Thanks so much to both of them for their love and service.

Nursery/Baby House

The nursery construction is moving forward. The foundation, which is always the most difficult, is slowly getting done between



It's the end of December and the foundation is almost done for the Baby House. We need construction teams in 2009!

rainstorms. Thank you to Samaritan's Purse for their contribution toward this project. When God provides the rest of the funds, we hope to have the nursery building completed by June 2009. Please keep this in your prayers.

Teen Boys' House

Our three teen "sons" are working on their new home, located on the church property in Puerto Cortes. They will live there and attend college and high school in San Pedro Sula and Puerto Cortes.

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Marvin learns valuable trade skills, as well as earns money helping build the Teen Boys' House.



From the President's Desk **by Mary Frenter President**

Happy New Year! Here in the Columbia River Gorge, it is a few days before Christmas. Three feet of "the white stuff" blankets our house and yard, and three more feet is promised tonight. How beautiful!! As I think about our 19 new children, and the ones who have been home with us for a long time, I am reminded of how the behaviors of the adults in their lives influences them forever. Please let me share this poignant poem with you.

God's Gifts

Each of you who prays for our children, each of you who supports our children, each of you who volunteers to go help us with the children in Honduras, YOU are God's Gift to them. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for listening to the Holy Spirit's nudges in regard to WWH2H and our precious children, God's Gifts to us.

Christmas Surprises

Can you believe it - 19 new Children just before Christmas!! I just love it when God pops a surprise on us like that, and then begins to bless as we obey Him. Support for these children began coming in EVEN BEFORE we had picked them up!! Amazing Grace!! Gotta love that Hotline from Heaven many of you have going!!

Mission Teams Needed

We are in need of CCC Teams (Construction, Cook, and Cuddle) for 2009, so if the Holy Spirit boops you concerning this, please let me know. He has a wonderful blessing in store for you!!!

Mission Teams Update

We begin this New Year with hope and excitement to see what God has in mind. The Baby House is underway. We have 23 teams lined up to "hit the

beaches" as God's Warrior Volunteers to Honduras over the next 12 months. Just this month, the Immanuel Lutheran Church team from Centralia, Washington, was there over Christmas vacation. January 22-27, our faithful translator, Carrie Aadland, and our faithful webmaster and newsletter

publisher, Paula Barr, will visit the Village. January 31st, our faithful pediatric nurse practitioner, Kim Sharp, will head out to spend two weeks with the children. God is good!! Thank you, ladies!!!

May God bless all of you and those you love! —Mary ><

WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING

by Mary Rita Schilke Korzan

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cake for me, and I learned that the little things could be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a prayer, and I knew that there is a God I could always talk to, and I learned to trust in Him.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing, and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it, and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good, and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's alright to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked at you and wanted to say, "Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking."



Village Report

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Gift of Prayers

By the time you get this letter, many of you may be busy returning those gifts that don't fit or can't be used. We encourage you to remember



Early in December, Oscar shared stories during VBS about the miracles God performs in the lives of the children at Children's Village. Many people accepted Christ into their hearts during this ministry.

WWH2H and each ministry out there fighting for the kingdom of God. Please give the gift to these children that always fits, and can always be used—your prayers. We thank you so much for them. From all us, we wish you a very Happy New Year. —Amy



Later in December, youth volunteers from Centralia, Washington, spent part of their Christmas vacation painting the Baby House, the Teen Boys' House, and the WWH2H Church.

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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