



Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



Organization: P.O. Box 372, Carson, WA 98610, 509.427.8585
website: <http://wwh2h.org>; email: maryf@wwh2h.org

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

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2009

When They Come to Us

by Amy Serrano, Honduras National Co-Director

If you have never been to Honduras, I know it's hard to really comprehend how things are here. I want to take you through a recent experience I had to bring you up close and personal with the life and daily experiences of the children before they come to us.

Common Backgrounds

As many of you know, we welcomed 19 new children last December. They came from the public orphanage, Nueva Esperanza, in San Pedro Sula. Some of them had been in the orphanage for only a few weeks; some had been there most of their lives. Before coming to the orphanage,

they had a variety of backgrounds with some similarities: Single mothers prostituting themselves at night, leaving the kids home alone for days at a time; alcoholic fathers; sexual, physical, and emotional abuse; and malnourishment.

Many of the children had never been to school. Santos, for instance, who has just turned 13, will be starting first grade today and attending school for the first time in her life!

Desperate Family Situations

Birth control in this country is taboo and sometimes unobtainable. It's not unheard of for families to have 12-13 children. Many of these families,

though poor, function well. There is not a lot of money, but there is a lot of love, and the families all work very hard to make it through.

In some cases, however, children are born into homes that have no money and crippling social problems. IHNFA says that as many as 175,000 children are living in "at risk" conditions in their homes or on the streets. That's a lot of children for a poor country to care for. As a result, they end up in "hell holes" such as Nueva Esperanza.

Limited Government Resources

IHNFA is the government entity that protects children and operates many of the state-run children's homes in Honduras, such as Nueva

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Photos taken by Kim Sharp during her visit in February show happy faces. The children love the opportunity to meet the people who come to visit Children's Village in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Sometimes visitors are their sponsors or members of construction and medical/dental mission teams. They would love to see you!



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Esperanza. INHFA does all that it can to help the children.

I am in no way criticizing the administrators, workers, or the Honduran government. They have extremely limited resources and are doing the best that they can. In reality, I admire many of the brave people that work in IHNFA for the tremendous effort that they exert each day to care for these kids. But the truth is, it is a sub-standard life.

Public Orphanage Conditions

The building is decent. It was built and outfitted by UNICEF 10 years ago after Hurricane Mitch. That is where the niceness ends. All children wear torn and stained clothing that is two sizes too small. None of the children have shoes, and they have sores covering their little bodies. A trip to the kitchen reveals the daily bowl of “slop” that is called lunch. It is usually an appalling mixture of whatever was available in the kitchen. A handful of women take care of up to 130 children.

Bringing Home the Children

When we went to pick up this group of children at Nueva Esperanza

last December, we experienced an enormous range of emotions. When we arrived, every child in the orphanage asked if they could come, too. Of course, you want to take them all. Unfortunately, we had room for only so many children.

All of the children who were coming with us were lined up, and we introduced ourselves. Then we all loaded up in the van for the two-hour drive to our Children’s Village, with a stop at Pizza Hut for lunch. All of the kids were full of questions, wanting to know all about our place. I could tell in the short time when we were in Pizza Hut, however, that some of them were not going to make it.

Why Some Children Don’t Stay

There is an interesting but sad phenomenon that happens in these children. They sometimes prefer the horrors of the streets and abusive homes than a loving, safe, structured life. When we were in Pizza Hut, just talking to the children, I could hear in their voices an obsessive love for the streets.

A few years ago we had a young girl who, at 13 years old, was placed



with us because of her father’s sexual abuse. When she came to the Village, she began vomiting the horror stories of abuse by her father. Crying so hard she could barely speak, she told us of him coming into her room at night and the terror that followed.

This girl made it very clear she did not want to go to school. She wanted to work for us for wages for taking care of the younger children. We told her that this was not part of the deal—she had to go to school. She was never a behavior problem; she just didn’t want to be part of a “program,” even though it afforded her an opportunity to have an education and training for her life.

The young woman ended up running away. And where do you think

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she went? Right back to dad's house! Yes, there was abuse, but she could sleep until noon if she wanted to. Yes, she had to have sex with her father, but she could come and go as she pleased and do as she pleased. These children form a love/hate relationship with the streets. The streets mean hunger and abuse, but the streets also demand nothing of them.

When they come into a setting of structure, with a time to wake up and time to go to bed, going to school, having chores and rules, their first reaction is to run. Yes, the streets are hard, but at least they are familiar. Many children within the first few weeks overcome all this and adjust to this structured life. Some children, however, are so "in love" with the streets, they never come around. As I have said before, it is easy to take a child out of the streets. It is a completely different matter taking the streets out of a child.

Bringing Children Home

So, as we sat listening to the children talk in Pizza Hut that first day, I sensed this attachment to the

streets in some of these children. Unfortunately, I was right. Within three weeks, four of the young boys ran away. Two have since returned.

When we arrived that day at the Village, I brought the babies to the Baby House. The babies immediately found the "toy mountain." I took the boys to the Boys' House where they seemed comfortable in their setting.

When I drove around to the Girls' House, Daniela, one of our older girls, came out to open the gate. Suddenly, all of the new little girls, that were so excited to come to our Village, started crying and refused to get out of the car.

Later, they told me that at Nueva Esperanza the older kids beat up the younger kids. When they saw Daniela at the gate, they thought she would beat them up. They were literally petrified to get out of the car. This hit me hard to see the deep and constant fear that these children live with.

Little Orphan Annie

On a final note, just recently we were watching a movie "Annie" that someone brought for the girls. I have not seen the movie since I was 10 years old and didn't remember much

of it. It is quite ironic to be watching "Annie" with orphan girls. I made it through the first musical number, and then fell into tears. Whoever penned this song must have been an orphan and truly knows what these kids have known.

***Empty belly, life
Rotten smelly, life
Full of sorrow, life
No tomorrow, life***

A New Anthem for the Children

Just typing the words brings tears to my eyes, because this could so easily be the anthem of all of our kids before they came to the Village. And I guess the reason I am here, and the reason that I invite you all to join me, is to change their anthem to:

***I once was lost
but now I am found.
I once was hungry,
abused, and homeless,
but now I am home!
I once was dead,
but now I am alive!***

Praise God, our sons and daughters can say this now! —Amy



Village Update—February

by Amy Serrano, Honduras National Co-Director

Hello again, and greetings from beautiful Puerto Cortes, Honduras! We praise God for each day that He is moving and changing lives here. This month we have been so blessed, and as always, things are constantly changing!

School Starts February 11th

The children are going to their first day of school today. No tears today—each child is ready to go. Some of the new children will be going to school for their first time.

Idalmys, Darwin, Fredy, Cristian, Kevin and Carla will be starting kindergarten.

Jose Santos and Danilo will be staying with Douglass and Dilcia Urrutia, two of our Honduras board members and our legal advisor. They will attend The Nazarene Private School of Puerto Cortes and will be part of a youth soccer team that selects a choice few youngsters to train as future professional soccer players.

Daniela will be coming to live with Oscar and me. She will be attending Diynos Private School of Puerto Cortes and will be working

and training some afternoons and weekends with Cesia at the new beauty salon.

Coffee and Souvenirs

The Sacred Grounds Coffee and Souvenir Shop is now in service. The older boys will begin working here in the afternoons. We are also roasting our own coffees. The *Fleur de Lis* Beauty Salon is packed with customers!



Pray for Hip and Arm Healing

We are in prayer for Santos, the young girl that came to be part of our family back in December. She suffers

from a bone injury in her hips. We are considering several options and waiting to see which one the Lord brings to pass. She had a small surgery last week to fix her broken arm that was not healing correctly. We ask you to keep her in your prayers.

Construction Update

The Baby House is really on the move. This week, Oscar and the boys are working on the trusses for the roof. We are still trusting in God for the funds to finish the roof quickly as groups will be arriving soon to work on the electrical, flooring, and plastering. The babies are currently busting out of the temporary housing in the clinic building where they are now living. Please help us to seek the Lord for the completion of this project.

Prayer for a Grieving Family

On a sad note, we would like to ask for your prayers for Marvin, Wendy, and their family. Last night at 3:30 am, their younger sister died in the hospital from cancer. The entire family is grieving tremendously, and we ask you to pray for them.

We thank you all so much for all of your prayers, support and love. We ask you that you keep the prayers coming! —Amy



+ **amazon.com** =



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=wwh2h-20>



Christmas...in July?

by Mary Frenter, President

It's Spring and time to begin planning for Christmas at the Village! Amy has a wonderful idea! Last year, "Adopt-a-Kid for Christmas" sponsors sent the funds to WWH2H. We wired them to Honduras and Amy took the kids shopping for their own things. While this was fun, the clothing, toys, and shoes available in Honduras are so poorly made that most of their things have already fallen apart.

So, for Christmas 2009, Amy has asked us to gather the "Adopt-a-Kid for Christmas" funds by July. She will be in Washington State this summer and will be able to purchase the gifts for the kids here. We can send the gifts down with the several teams going between August and December in time for Christmas.

As before, we will need about \$100 per child to buy two outfits, a

pair of shoes, a pair of sandals and two small gifts. We have 90 children now and the houses are full. However, when the Baby House is done, we will have room for 18 more girls and 17 more toddlers/babies. So, we will see what God has in mind. I am guesstimating we will need to raise about \$10,000+ for Christmas to happen.

If you are able to help us with any part of this before July, thank you!! Please note on your donation that it is for the "Christmas in July" fund.

—Mary

Sacred Grounds

by Mary Frenter, President

You know the much loved song that goes, "We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around...", well, in Honduras there is now a place we can say we are standing IN Sacred Grounds!

Cafe/Gift Shop/Beauty Salon

Oscar and Amy have opened their new coffee/gift/salon shop in downtown Puerto Cortes. They have named it Sacred Grounds. The combined aroma of fresh roasted coffee beans and fresh, hot-from-the-oven cinnamon rolls, flows out the first floor door.

Vendor for Local Arts and Crafts

Upstairs is a gift shop. Wonderful art and wood carvings (for which Honduras craftsmen are famous), are available for sale. In addition, they have products handmade by our children at the Village.

More Than Just Hair Care

Also upstairs is a beauty salon run by Josué's wife, Cesia. She welcomes clients for salon treatments, hairstyling, manicures, and pedicures.

Employment and Training Opportunity

Older teens from the Village have part-time jobs in all three areas to earn money for their bank accounts. Our WWH2H Children's Village gets a share of the profits, as well. It is a win-win situation for everybody.

Honduran Coffee

The big news, however, is the coffee!! Oscar invented a coffee roasting machine. He and Amy experimented with different beans that are grown high in the mountains of Honduras. They have developed light, medium, dark, and combination roasts that are delicious.

When Kim Sharp returned from her medical mission to the Village in February, she brought back samples of the coffee. At the February board meeting, we sampled all of them. DELICIOUS!

—Mary





From the President's Desk

by Mary Frenter, President

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (2nd Corinthians 1:2) ...is how Paul greeted the church at Corinth so long ago. He wrote to folks to encourage them, teach them, and report to them what God was doing elsewhere. So, in the vein of sharing what God is doing elsewhere, namely Honduras, “Grace and peace to you!”

Sometimes the Answer is...

President Jimmy Carter wrote: “God answers all our prayers. Sometimes the answer is yes. Sometimes the answer is no.”

Sometimes the answer is, “You’ve got to be kidding!” But when you are doing what the Bible specifically states to do, God will always answer “Yes”

or “Wait a bit” because He cannot deny His own orders.

*“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”
(James 1:27)*

Sometimes Eight Years Later...

Below is a letter that exemplifies how God answered my prayers, albeit eight years later, and how He is using participation in this ministry to bless the participants. Grant Kolb, a geologist, who lives in New Mexico, and whom I have never met, called me a year ago. He told me he had been reading our website and wanted to help. He asked if we needed books for our children. This was a direct answer to a prayer

I had been praying since I first saw our undeveloped Children’s Village property in 2000. That day, I asked Jesus to someday provide a library for the children that would live there.

Many Good Books

For the last year, Grant has purchased and sent all the books that now make up the libraries at the Boys’ House and the Girls’ House. They are quality literature for children from birth to adult. And here is the kicker...

THEY ARE ALL IN SPANISH!!

The first shipments arrived last February and March in time for the Easter team to take them to Honduras. I was wondering how we would be able to get all these books there, because they weighed a ton and would not be able to go in our already heavy luggage.

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Hi Mary,

Tomorrow (February 3rd) I celebrate a year of pure joy helping the children at the WWH2H Children’s Village long distance, the best way I’m able, sitting at my computer in Bernalillo, New Mexico.

Yesterday afternoon, I treated myself to an anniversary gift by sponsoring four more kids at the Children’s Village. I had only intended to sponsor three more at \$25 a month. After I added the first three kids to the monthly PayPal donation yesterday afternoon, I discovered that a Down Syndrome child named Isaac was the brother of two children (Carlos and Rosa) that I

picked to sponsor and I just couldn’t turn off the computer and leave out little Isaac. So, the Lord had me sponsor four more yesterday.

I had my performance review at work about two weeks ago for the 2008 work year, and lo and behold if I didn’t get the nicest raise ever in all my years in the workplace! Just goes to show that the more you give to the Lord (which is already His in the first place—we’re simply the earthly stewards of His monetary blessings!!), the more you’ll get back.

God Bless and thanks to WWH2H for all God is doing through this ministry for those kids.
—Grant



From the President's Desk

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Cloth Bags Carry Books

The night before we left, Pastor Ashley Kwasney and her team from Montana arrived at our home in Carson to fly to Honduras with us. She brought in a suitcase, opened it up, and revealed almost 100 cloth grocery bags someone had given her. She told me she had no idea if we could use them, but there they were. I looked at the pile of books on the floor and then back at the bags. SHAZAM! There were 22 of us going to Honduras that night. Cloth grocery bags filled to the hilt with the books Grant had sent were carried on the plane by those 22 volunteers, and thus was born the Children's Village Library.

Our children are blessed so much by Grant's obedience to the nudging of the Holy Spirit. Please read on to see how God has also blessed Grant (see his letter in the sidebar).

Footnote: Grant continues to be our Children's Village Librarian, sending new books almost daily to our WWH2H Carson, Washington headquarters to be "Grocery Bagged" to Honduras. When I go to the post office to get our mail, our Postmaster will greet me with, "Mary, it's another 'Grant Kolb Day' and I will know another shipment has arrived. As I write this, the cloth grocery sacks are filling up to be carried by the next WWH2H team heading south on March 13th.

If you would like to join Grant in his efforts to give our children the gift of good literature in Spanish, please send the books to WWH2H, P.O. Box 372, Carson, WA 98610. Grant will be joining the Children's Ministry team to Honduras in November to meet his children for the first time and to see the fruits of his labor. —Mary

**Lord, I will follow thee
whithersoever thou goest**
(Luke 9:57)

**When once the
Call of God comes,
Begin to go and
Never stop going.**
(Oswald Chambers)

Meet the NEW KIDS at the Village...



Antonio
10 years old



Blanca
2½ years old



Fernando
8 years old



Gladiz
12 years old



Heydi
10 years old



Jairo
8 months old



Julio
7 years old



Karla
5 years old



Kevin
6 years old



Lesly
10 years old



Luis
9 years old



Marco
7 years old



Maribel
12 years old



Nicole
2 years old



Noe
6 years old



Olvin
4 years old



Santos
13 years old

**These children need sponsors.
They are YOUR kids now.
Please PRAY for all
the children!**



Letter from WWH2H Volunteer

Dear Mary, God has given me a passion for His children in Honduras and has placed a burden on my heart for His people. WWH2H is a reminder of God's true love for us.

The biggest difference that I have observed between WWH2H and the public orphanage has nothing to do with the food, clothing, facilities, or even the amazing kids. The biggest difference is the LOVE visible in the food, clothing, facilities, and it shines through the eyes of the children every time one of them looks at you. I am so thankful and overwhelmed with

joy when I think back to all the love shown to me by my WWH2H family. I know that God is going to be able to work wonders through WWH2H, and we will be witnessing some of the wonders He has already done. It is no coincidence how I got involved with mission work in Honduras, and I am so thankful that, instead of giving out of my scarcity, I am able to give out of God's abundance.

No matter where God leads me in the future, I will always be praying for the Children's Village and the incredible things that are being done there through WWH2H.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans for a hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

—Karen Rybolt

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.

Privacy Policy: Any information you provide WWH2H is held in strictest confidence. At no time will we share your personal information with any person or organization outside of WWH2H. 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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Carson, WA 98610
USA 509.427.8585
Mary Fenter
President

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