



# Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2009

## A Fateful Day in Honduras

by Allison Mattila, Family Nurse Practitioner

The medical group serving in Honduras in late May 2009 had some amazing adventures. I am a Family Nurse Practitioner from a federally funded health center, and this was my third mission into the country. However, it was my first time traveling without a dental team, a medical doctor, or a large support group.

### Tiny Medical Team

Our team of five finally met in person during the trip. Joanie



Diane Jewell, Robyn Alexander, Joanie Swedberg, and Allison Mattila from Washington State wait at the airport in Houston for fifth team member, Amy Osborn, to arrive from Illinois.

Swedberg was the team mom, Diane Jewell was the emergency/surgical nurse, Robyn Alexander was the pharmacy technician, and Amy Osborn was a pharmacy representative from Illinois. Each of us knew maybe one or two other team members when we started the trip. Little did we know that we would be sharing an experience that would bind us together for a lifetime.

After spending the first day at the WWH2H Children's Village and meeting our fellow in-country team members, the group took the five-hour truck journey into Las Flores to serve the people living in the nearby villages.

### Temporary Clinic in Las Flores

None of us knew what to expect for sleeping, showering, or clinic set up. When we arrived at the school, we chose classrooms to use as bedrooms, storage, medical clinic,

craft distribution, and the kitchen. Our fellow team members, Oscar Serrano, Oscar Vasques, Christelia, Illini, Marcel, and Miguel set up their areas.



Med team slept on pads in a classroom.



The "Tennessee Girls" enjoy a "shower" in the river after clinic.

### Clinics See 900 in 3½ Days

Despite some hitches along the way, the clinics flowed well. We were able to see everyone who came to us for care and help. Some walked more than four hours in high temperatures and humidity to see us. Patients were seen for headaches, infections, body pains, fevers, allergies, rashes, and other ailments. Some of our patients had never seen a medical provider in their lifetime! Even a few of the team members had illnesses or ailments that everyone worked together to help with. We experienced the first earthquake Honduras had had in the last decade and had a ton of fun.

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A local girl bathes and washes the family clothes in the river.



## A Fateful Day

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### River, Dinner, and a Movie

After clinics ended for the day, we would go to the river to cool off and shower. I discovered the joy of bathing in a natural sulfur spring and exfoliating with river mud, and others enjoyed the massage of sitting in the rapids. We all teased and joked like the family we were rapidly becoming.

After the river, we would return to clinic for dinner and a movie. The “screen” was a white sheet tacked onto the wall of the school and Oscar Serrano set up his computer to play through a projector and a large speaker. It seemed as if the whole town came out to watch *Wall-E* and *Kung Fu Panda*! After the movie, there was downtime where we would watch the fire flies, listen to the Tennessee Girls sing amazingly well, and talk about the day. The last day of the medical clinic at Los Flores would change our lives forever and confirm our faith in God.

### Saving One of His Children

As with any major life event, everyone will remember it differently. Early in the day, Diane saw a baby for an infection and fever, brought to the clinic by his grandmother. She gave him antibiotics and instructions on fever control. Later that day, while we were all piling in the back of the truck for our nightly river bath, I looked out across the field and saw a group of people walking rapidly toward us. At the head of the group was the grandmother Diane had seen earlier, carrying a bundle. I glanced over and saw it was a baby.

One look at that child, and I vaulted out of the truck. The child was grey, his eyes were unblinking, his breathing labored, and he had no

tone to his muscles. This was a major crisis. I took the baby, yelled for acetaminophen and my stethoscope, and ran across the field to the clinic. This baby was fading fast, and there was little we could do with limited medical equipment in a rural Honduran village.

We placed the baby on a table. Diane checked his temperature and cut away the boy’s clothing. The thermometer read 107°F, and it may



**Steph is overjoyed to hold a much recovered Baby Juan.**

have still been climbing. Listening to the child’s heart was difficult, as it was beating so fast. It felt like a hummingbird in his chest. Liquid acetaminophen and fluids were given. We covered the baby in wet cold towels, which we changed every few seconds. This child was uncomfortably hot to the touch in his core, with icy cold arms and legs. He was breathing like a runner after a marathon, and his eyes remained unblinking on his colorless face.

Oscar Serrano and I submerged the baby in buckets of water, while

Diane and others scooped cool water over his head. The child had a swallow response, so I slowly gave him water with an infant dropper. Every few minutes, we removed the baby from the water and percussed his back to help clear the secretions which were further impairing his already decreased breathing effort. After 20 minutes, his temperature was 106°F. There was still no response from the baby to noise or pain.

It was nothing short of divine intervention when someone found infant ibuprofen, another medication used to break a fever. We had been in Las Flores for three days and not one of us had seen the bottle. The baby was given a large dose orally since he could swallow. We continued to submerge him in water, changing buckets every few minutes. Marcel and Miguel always had a fresh bucket to change out, and Diane was ready to continue pouring cool water over the child’s head.

The baby began grunting slightly with percussion and fighting with his legs when we placed him in the cool water buckets. Diane remembered that she had brought an inhaler we could use to open his lungs with (she had not used an inhaler in fifteen years). We fashioned a seal with a Styrofoam cup to give the medication to the baby. After a few puffs, the baby’s lungs dramatically improved. His temperature dropped to 104 degrees.

When the acetaminophen and ibuprofen began to take effect, we all knew. The baby began turning his head, showing discomfort, and blinking. He was still taking small amounts of oral water. His heart rate slowed and breathing became less shallow and more regular. I remember him turning his face toward his

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## A Fateful Day

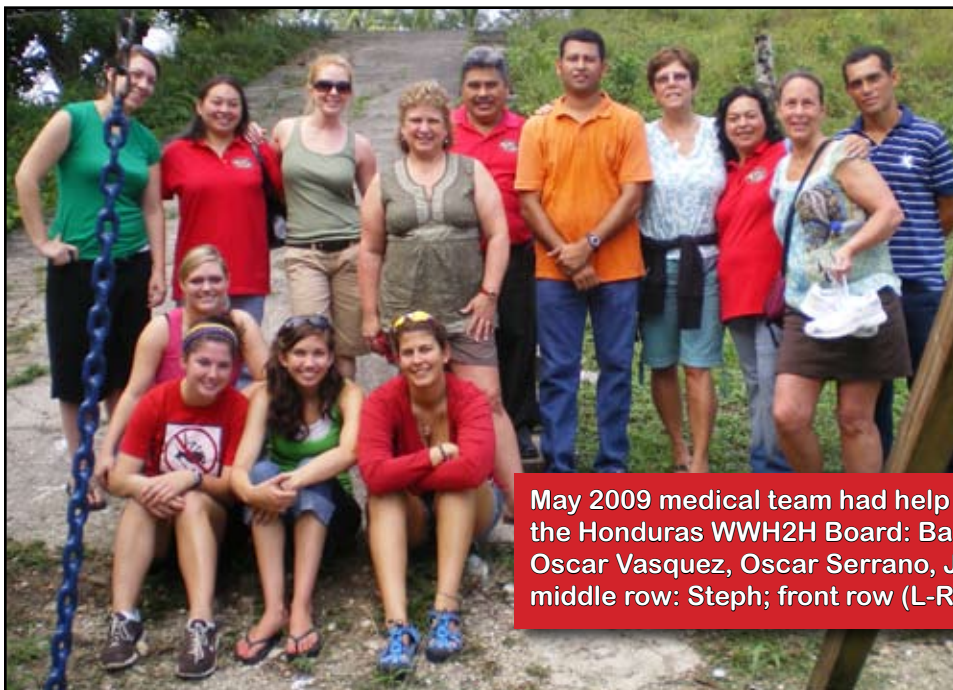
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mother, who was a short distance away steadily chanting to God to save her baby. Another few minutes and the baby began to chill. His temperature was 100.6 and the fever had broken. We took him out of the water and called his mother over to see him.

When the baby, Juan, whimpered and cried minutes later, there was not a dry eye in the room. It was the sweetest sound I had ever heard. I had had little hope for this child returning to us—the sheer will, faith, and determination of this group completely changed the outcome of this little fighter’s life.

We gave the mother several medications and strict instructions for controlling the fever. The local nurse was with the mother during the teaching, as well. I am sure we will have little chance to know how Juan Martinez recovered, but I know that he will remain in the hearts of every person in that room on the fateful Wednesday afternoon. —AM

*Note from Joanie Swedberg, Team Mom: “Now I know. When this team started to come together, I worried about whether we had enough people to do justice to a medical mission. With just five people, it was a tiny team. We didn’t have a doctor—only a nurse and nurse practitioner. Baby Juan would have died if we hadn’t been there right at that moment. God put us right where He needed us to take care of His child. Now I know... the mission was always in His hands.”*



May 2009 medical team had help from volunteers from Tennessee and the Honduras WWH2H Board: Back row (L-R): Abby, Illina, Amy, Diane, Oscar Vasquez, Oscar Serrano, Joanie, Christelia, Robyn, Miguel; middle row: Steph; front row (L-R): Cynthia, Kara, and Allison.

## Village Report

by Amy Serrano, Honduras National Co-Director

Hello, and greetings, this time not from Honduras, but from Carson, Washington! Our family is here on furlough, getting some R&R, doing some presentations, and catching up with some of our old and new friends. We will be in “town” until mid August.

### Babies’ House

The babies moved into their new home in May! It has been wonderful and a blessing in so many ways to have their new home close to the Girls’ Home. Having the babies close

by has helped many of the girls feel more at home. And the babies have begun to look up to the older girls as big sisters, creating a real atmosphere of family.

I don’t think that the babies know exactly what to do with all the space! At this time, they have not completed the playroom, but it’s just a matter of getting the air conditioning units running. Until then, they are using their bedrooms as their playrooms, which seem to suit them just fine. We want to say a huge thank you to everyone that made this possible. Their home is so amazing!

### Beauty Vocation

The girls are now officially in full swing at their new beauty salon classes. They started at the beginning of May. I trusted the Lord that it was His will, but wondered about certain things, like the interesting attitudes that our teenage girls have sometimes! I did not know if Cesia would be able to keep the situation in order, but she

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**Babies’ House building is now complete.**



## Village Report

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has really impressed me. She seems to blend just the right combination of love and discipline to keep things moving forward. As a result, the girls love the classes!

I became one of their first “victims” the day before I left to come to the states. They gave me a manicure, pedicure, hair color (with highlights) and a facial! I speak of this light heartedly, but this is very serious. We are trying to save these young women from a hopeless destiny. We hope that many will go on to the university, but some will not. We will teach them this trade, so they will be able to someday make a living for themselves. They will be able to break the pattern of many young Honduran women: marrying young and becoming dependent on a man, which often leads to abuse for them and their children.

### Outbreak of “Fun”

Communal living has many benefits: shared clothes and toys, always someone to play with, and... chicken pox! You can imagine what a chicken pox outbreak looks like in a home with 90 kids! About three weeks ago, an outbreak hit about 20 of our children. The two-year-olds now have two new words in their small vocabulary: “Calamine lotion!” (No, just kidding). They are already healing over and everyone has returned to school. We usually get an outbreak once every two years or so. The new kids and the ones that missed out on the time before will eventually join in the “fun.”

### Medical Team

At the end of May, WWH2H hosted a small med team that went up into the mountains of Santa Barbara,



**The May medical team saw about 900 people over 3½ days in Las Flores in the mountains.**

Honduras. The head nurse practitioner wrote an article featured in this newsletter that will leave you sobbing. I just want to say thank you to each team member from Washington, Oregon, Illinois, and Tennessee. The Lord has done amazing things by your obedience. Please always keep us in your hearts.

### Maintenance Teams

We have over 40 volunteers working at the Village in two maintenance teams. Lisa Closner, Worldwide Heart to Heart board member, led the Oregon team. The team from Tennessee was led by Alisa Lemons. The teams had many youth and young at heart. Some have been to Honduras on previous teams, and others are getting their first taste. They have about 20 projects planned for this trip, including putting security lighting around the Babies’ and Girls’ Houses; repairing bunks and buying new mattresses; sorting and organizing toys, clothes and other items; painting; fixing broken doors and other incidentals;

making curtains; performing lice treatments; and more! They will really be busy! We want to thank each team member for sacrificing this part of your summer. I pray that you are blessed beyond belief as a result of this trip. Sorry, I didn’t get to share your mission with you, but I’ll see you next time you come back.

### New Baby Boy

We want to announce a great blessing from our church family. Congratulations to WWH2H Honduras Board Secretary, Rafael Valle the III and his wife, Wendy, on the birth of their baby boy, Rafael Valle IV. He was born on June 12th, the day before we came to the U.S. Grandpa and Great Grandpa Rafael Valles I and II could not be prouder!

### Village Caretakers

A deep heartfelt thank you to Gary and Sylvia Thacker. The Thackers are missionaries with Mercy Ships International and close personal friends of WWH2H. They are in Honduras while we are absent, to help manage the visiting teams that are coming during the summer. Forty volunteers is a challenging number of volunteers all at once, but if anyone can do it, it’s Gary and Sylvia.

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**To save floor space, double decker cribs have been made for the babies and toddlers.**





Rachel and Sarah Serrano pose for a photo.

## Village Report

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### Furlough

We also thank all our Honduran board and staff for allowing us this time to come to the States, by taking the reigns to manage all the other aspects of our ministry there. We

know that it is in good hands, since each staff member, board member and volunteer was hand picked by God.

God bless you all and please keep us in your prayers as we share with our U.S. friends this summer what God is doing for His Kids through WWH2H in Honduras.  
—Amy

# SHIPPING CONTAINER

## Container Drop-Off Schedule:

- WHEN:** July 1, 15, and 22 from 9 am to 4 pm
- WHERE:** Frontier Missions, 3302 NW Marine Dr., Troutdale, Oregon, 97060
- WHO:** Please call John Atherton 503-913-1472 or Mary Frenter 360-600-0956 if you have any questions.
- HOW:** Plan to bring folks to help unload your donations onto pallets. If you need us to pick something up, please let us know right away.



## General Needs:

- Air conditioners – large AND window units
- Preschool and Kindergarten ESL school programs
- Furniture and toys for baby house
- Shower curtains
- Window curtains
- Large lockers
- Clear heavy duty plastic containers of all sizes for food and clothing storage
- New mattresses for bunks
- Barbecue
- Kid movies in Spanish
- Pillows
- Tables (lightweight, heavy duty fold-up)
- Sturdy folding chairs
- 12-15 passenger van
- Good heavy duty sandals in all sizes for our children
- New and gently used clothing for boys and girls, ages birth to 20, suitable for our hot climate
- Drinking fountains.

- Gently used furniture: desks, couches, chairs, tables, lamps
- Wheelchairs, canes, walkers, crutches
- New or gently used computers (no more than 2 years old)

## Kitchen Needs:

- 3-60 cup rice cookers
- Commercial tortilla maker
- Extractor fan
- Commercial mixer
- Hobart bread maker
- Industrial pots and pans
- Cookie trays
- Potato peelers
- Knives
- Commercial blender
- 30 cup coffee pot
- Freezer
- Microwave
- Roaster oven
- Stainless steel bowls
- Trays
- 3 Commercial dish washers

- Commercial washing machines and dryers
- Stove, sinks, refrigerators, ceiling fans, dishes, pots/pans, towels, cooking utensils

## Babies' House Needs:

- Bedding
- Changing tables
- Playpens
- Dressers
- Diapers and wipes
- Diaper ointment and cornstarch-based powder
- Baby clothing
- Bibs, sip cups, baby spoons
- Baby gyms or play arches
- Strollers, buggies, high chairs, and yard toys
- Toys and creative play things
- Rocking chairs with ottomans
- Baby bottles, formula, baby dishes, baby food, baby lotions, baby tubs
- Diaper bags
- Baby gates

# Volunteers Needed:

If you live in the Longview or Castle Rock area, help fold the WWH2H newsletter once a month at the Christian Church in CastleRock. Please contact Phyllis Haas 503-728-3507 or email [phyl@clatskanie.com](mailto:phyl@clatskanie.com) for dates and times.



## From the President's Desk

by Mary Frenter, President

In Judges 7, the Bible tells the story of how God selected Gideon's army to conquer the Midianites and Amalekites who were "like grasshoppers for multitude and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seaside for multitude." Gideon began with 32,000 troops. God told him that was too many for what He had in mind and whittled the army down to 300! And with that number, and Gideon's obedience, the enemy was conquered with some torches and trumpets!

### May Medical Team

In a similar way, the May med team began at full size. As the day of departure drew closer, Joanie Swedberg, the team leader, would call every few weeks to tell me their numbers were slowly declining, until they were down to only five. She thought perhaps they should cancel the team. But, praise God, she didn't, because, as you will read in Allison Mattila's report, God had a very special job for this team.

The area they went to serve, Las Flores, is so remote that a larger team could not have been accommodated there. If there had been more than the five, Oscar would have set up clinics in more populated areas. It reminds me once again that God cares for each one of his children so much He created the circumstance for this team to be whittled down, just as he did with

Gideon's army, to accomplish His purposes!

### Adventures in Honduras

In addition to serving all who came for help, this team experienced the 7.1 earthquake that hit Honduras, just hours after saving the life of a seven-month-old baby. And, when they returned to Puerto Cortes, in spite of everyone being hit with flu-like symptoms, they held two more clinics for those in need.

When they came home, I met them at the airport expecting to find



**Situated near Roatán off the coast of Honduras, a 7.1 earthquake on May 28th caused minor cracks in buildings in Puerto Cortes and at the Children's Village.**

a bedraggled bunch of folks dragging themselves off the plane. Instead, they came walking down the aisle with huge smiles, tears, and stories of their adventures, and making plans to return to Honduras on another mission trip. Amazing Grace!!

### Earthquake

Early in the morning on May 28th, I began receiving emails and phone calls from our WWH2H friends all over the world, asking if Serranos and our children were safe. Amy called about 5:30 am to tell me they were. None of our children were injured, and none of our structures sustained

serious damage, thank God. They continued to experience after shocks of 5.7, 5.1, and more over the next two weeks.

### Directors' Home

The construction of our WWH2H Director's Home and Headquarters is underway. We are hoping to raise the necessary funds over the next few months to complete it before Christmas. If you would like to help with this financially or by joining one of the fall construction teams to, please contact me.

### Serranos' Furlough

If you live in the northwest, we hope you will be able to attend one of the many presentations the Serranos will be doing while they are here for the summer.

### Shipping Container

We are preparing a container to send to Honduras with building materials and furniture for the new home and headquarters project, Babies' House furniture, and all the Christmas Gifts for the children that will be purchased here

this summer. If you would like to contribute items and/or funds to help with the purchase of these needed items, please contact me.

Frontier Missions, headquartered in Oregon, has graciously agreed to help us pack, shrink-wrap and load pallets with our things and store them until the container arrives for loading. We thank them so much.

### Blessings

And always, please keep this ministry and all our children in your prayers. For this is what keeps us going. God bless! —Mary





## **BREAKING NEWS: Honduras President Arrested**

by Mary Frenter, President

*Carson, WA (June 28, 2009): All our Honduran family are okay following the coup that took place today in Honduras.*

### **Marshall Law Declared**

*The current president has been sent into exile and it is my understanding that the President of the Congress is acting president right now. There was some trouble in the capital of Tegucigalpa and in San Pedro Sula, but marshall law has been declared with a 9:00 PM curfew so they are hoping to stop any more violence. We have been in touch with our WWH2H*

*leaders in Puerto Cortes and at our Children's Village where all is peaceful and okay.*

### **Pray for Peaceful Transition**

*Please pray for Honduras that this transition from the Socialist President's government to the Democratic Congress is peaceful. About 30% of the population supports the ousted president, and 70% supports the Democratic Congress.*

### **Serranos in Washington**

*Our Honduras National Directors, Pastor Oscar and Amy*

*Serrano, and their daughters are here in Washington State on furlough until early August.*

### **Pray for Mission Teams**

*Our mission team just returned Friday night before the major coup took place. We have 6 others still there, as are Gary and Sylvia Thacker from Mercy Ships who are managing the ministry while the Serranos are here.*

*Please keep all of them in your prayers for safe travel home to Tennessee and Oregon in the next two days. The Thackers will be staying until mid August. —Mary*



**WWH2H Honduras National Co-Directors, Oscar and Amy Serrano, and their daughters, Sarah and Rachel, enjoy the view in Carson, Washington, following the WWH2H Board Meeting on June 28.**

## **Websites Updated**

by Paula Barr, Web and Newsletter Editor

The [wwh2h.org](http://wwh2h.org) and [amazon.wwh2h.org](http://amazon.wwh2h.org) fundraising websites have been updated.

### **[wwh2h.org](http://wwh2h.org)**

The KIDS page has been revised with new photos and whatever profile information we have to date. Each child's information also shows whether he or she needs sponsors.

The CHURCH page now has a photo of the new building. The ABOUT US, PARTNERS, and HISTORY pages have been revised with new information, and the MISSIONS page has been updated with new teams. We are also in the process of adding Spanish translations of the monthly newsletters to the NEWS page. The PHOTOS page is next to be updated.

Ryan Closner volunteered at the Children's Village February to April and has offered to help out with the WWH2H website. Our thanks to Ryan for stepping up!

### **[amazon.wwh2h.org](http://amazon.wwh2h.org)**

Amazon.com shoppers can raise funds for WWH2H! Just buy your Amazon.com merchandise through the website link for WWH2H ([amazon.wwh2h.org](http://amazon.wwh2h.org)) and 6% of the sales go to WWH2H. Please contact WWH2H Board Treasurer, Brian Ross at [brianr@wwh2h.org](mailto:brianr@wwh2h.org) if you have any questions.

Keep visiting these websites!!



## Serranos' Summer Furlough is...

...mid June to mid August. Below is their presentation schedule. We hope those of you who live locally will be able to attend one of them. They would love to visit your church or organization to share WWH2H while they are here.

- July 12 10:30am at Jennings Church, Milwaukie, OR
- July 16 7:00pm at Zion Lutheran and First Presbyterian Churches VBS, Fairfield, WA
- July 17 6:30pm at Summit Valley Community Church in Addy, WA
- July 19 9:30am at Estacada Community Fellowship, Estacada, OR
- July 22 Presentation at home of Pastor Ed Miller, Modesto, CA
- Aug 2 9:00 and 11:00am at Immanuel Lutheran, Centralia, WA
- Aug 2 1:00pm at Iglesia Christiana Resurrección, Centralia, WA
- Aug 9 8:30 and 11:00am at Damascus Community Church, Damascus, OR

**Would your church or organization be interested in a WWH2H presentation?**

**Please call Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585 to arrange a date.**

### 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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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