



Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2009

“The Things I Have Learned!”

by Sylvia Thacker, Director of Teams, Mercy Ships

Going to the hospital in Puerto Cortes, Honduras is not a pleasant experience. Having to stay for eight days with a patient is another story. You see, things are not the same as they are in the States. They do not have the nice rooms, all the medicine that you may need, bed linens, snacks, 24-hour air conditioning, fluffy pillows, and your own room. No, things are not the same, and the days can be long and hard if you are there with a sick child. And that is how our story begins.

You see, little eight-year-old Eduardo (name has been changed)

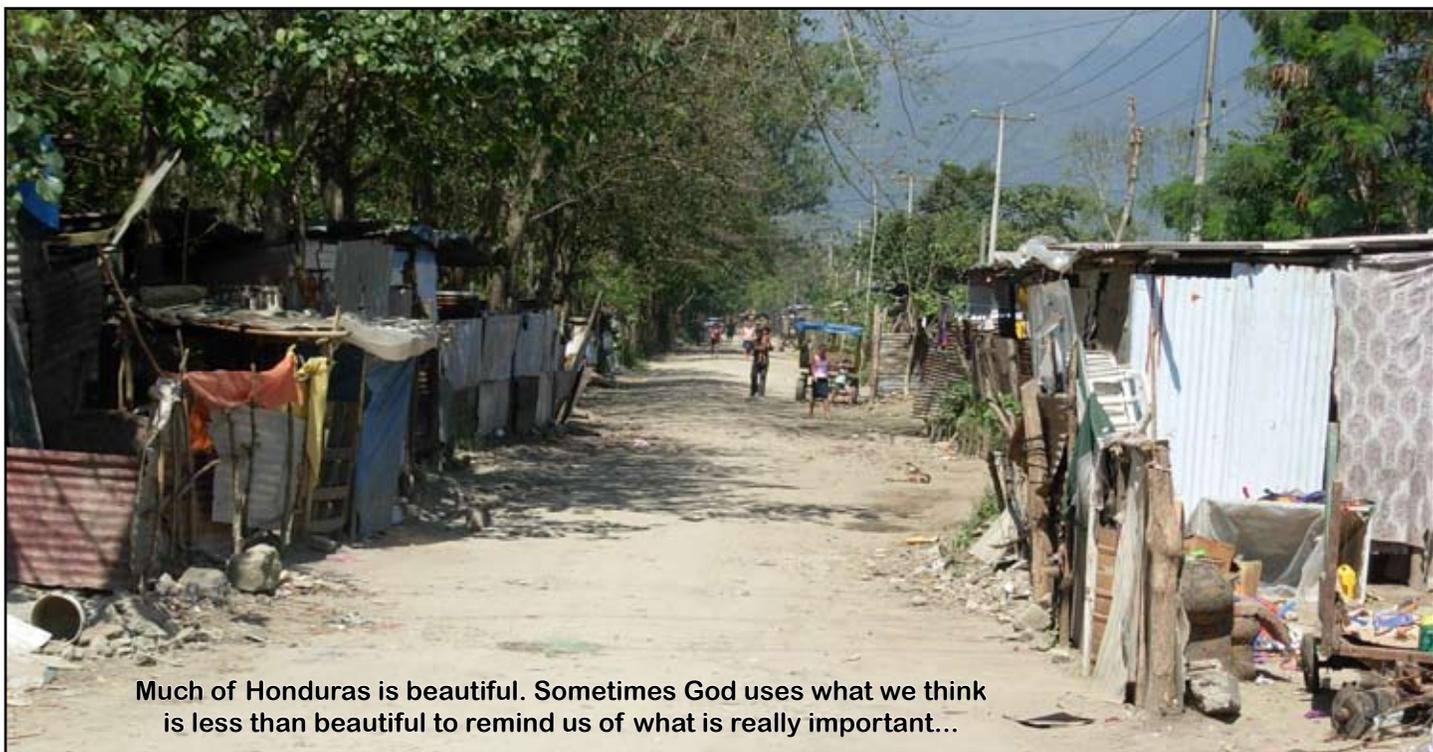
had a very bad eye infection and he needed to be in the hospital and one day turned into another and then another and before it was all over he had been there for eight days.

One of the house mothers would stay with him, or I would spend time with him and every so many hours we would change shifts in order to keep someone there with him at all times. We had to provide our own toilet paper, meals, and drinking water and several times we had to go and buy the necessary antibiotics as the hospital had none.

Eduardo was sick, feverish, headache, hurting and pretty much not aware of a lot that was going on around him. His little world consisted of sleeping, resting, and not much else. Day by day, he grew stronger and stronger, and the medicine was working. What a nice little boy he is. He has a smile that lights up the room, and he just loves to jabber away about this and that.

In the meantime, I was having a hard time just watching what was going on around me. The floors needed to be mopped, the beds wiped, the trash emptied, and the needs were just overwhelming. We have so much to be thankful for, and I could not get my

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Much of Honduras is beautiful. Sometimes God uses what we think is less than beautiful to remind us of what is really important...



The Things I Have Learned

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mind off of how different things are. Even though I have been here many times before, it still breaks my heart to see the lack of supplies, and medical equipment that we take for granted in the states.

Towards the end of Eduardo's hospital stay, as he was getting stronger and stronger, I suggested that we go outside and take a walk. He was so excited as we put on his little shoes. Holding each other's hand, we started down the hall and got to the landing. Before I knew what was happening he let go of my hand, laid down on the floor, with his hands behind his head and closed his little eyes. I will never ever forget what happened next.

I was just about to say "get up from there," when he said the following words—"Do you know, Sylvia, one day when we are sleeping, the Lord is going to come and take us to heaven, and we are going to be there with Him forever and ever? Do you know that?"

He then jumped back up, grabbed my hand and, with my heart in my throat, tears in my eyes, we continued on with our walk.

You see, I had been focused on the physical; the lack of this and the need for that. I had been seeing the dirty floors, the stained walls, and beds with no sheets. I had been thinking of

the temporal and little Eduardo was thinking of the eternal. I was seeing all the need, and he was seeing all that is yet to be. He was not concerned about what he did not have, he was

"One day when we are sleeping, the Lord is going to come and take us to heaven, and we are going to be there with Him forever and ever!"

thinking about all that is to come and all that he did have.. But even more important he had his heart on WHO is to come.

I was given a very special gift that day by a precious little boy, who reminded me greatly "not to fix my eyes on what is seen, but on what is unseen." Thank you Eduardo, you so blessed me.

Oh, the things I have learned...

—Sylvia



by Lisa Closner

Sponsor Letters



Lisa Closner
WWH2H
P.O. Box 2113
Estacada, OR 97023

Would you like to correspond with one or more children at the Village? If so, please send all correspondence to the address below. It will be hand delivered by the next team visiting the Children's Village. You are welcome to send any small item that fits into a business-size envelope, such as small candies, gum, bookmarks, stickers, or stationery. Don't forget to include a picture of you and your family. If you choose to send a larger gift, the children will receive it for his/her birthdays or for Christmas. Please send all correspondence and packages in care of Lisa Closner (address at left).

Note: Letters/gifts received by September 18th will go with the next team.





Village Report

by Amy Serrano, Honduras National Co-Director

Back Home in Honduras

It is so good to be back home again! That's not to say that our time in the U.S. visiting with friends and fellow workers in this ministry was any less than amazing. We were so incredibly blessed by all of the wonderful people that we had the opportunity to meet this past summer who support and pray for this ministry. It is a blessing and an honor to know that so many out there love these children and love us personally. From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank each person that blessed us through lodging; meals; dental, optical, and medical services; gifts; groceries; vehicles; prayers; words of encouragement; and also allowing us to share with you and your churches all that the Lord is doing here in Honduras.

Special Thanks to Special People

We want to say a special thanks to our wonderful Honduras board and church members the Lord has put around us, who were here keeping the ministry going in our absence. We also want to say a very special thanks to Gary and Sylvia Thacker of Mercy Ships who helped care for the work here in our absence, handling the many summer volunteer teams and helping with the management of the Children's Village. We know the sacrifice you make for this ministry, and we can't say thank you enough!

When the Bottom Falls Out...

During the time that we were out of the country, there was a chicken pox outbreak, some runaways, severe illnesses due to a water contamination problem caused by the earthquake back in May, personal conflicts between church members and workers, oh, and a political revolt. Seems as

though they wait until we leave to unleash maximum chaos. Equally as interesting, we were sure that we would return to some level of disorder.

To our surprise, we returned to a very clean Children's Village, very healthy and happy children, and a much calmer political atmosphere. Everyone here swears that as soon as we left the bottom fell out. So, in the end, Praise the Lord, we know that we



Oscar Serrano gave a presentation at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Centralia, WA in August.

returned to peace because those that were here held fast and prayed through the dark time. May the Lord bless you all abundantly!

Volunteer Missions Update

At this time, we have the great blessing of the MRI group of Antioch Bible church of Redmond, WA. This is a wonderful dental group that is visiting Honduras for the third time. They have made it their personal mission to make sure that our kids grow up with healthy teeth. They spent a week here cleaning and doing fillings on all of our kids, as well as many in the church that cannot afford dental care. We cannot tell you what a

wonderful service this group provides for us. If we had to pay for the dental care for all of these children, we would not be able to feed them! This group is such a blessing from God, we can't thank you enough.

We are also blessed by the presence of a short-time volunteer, Nicole Rutledge, visiting us from Castle Rock, Washington. Nicole has been to Honduras many times over the past years working with the Castle Rock Christian Church VBS to Honduras. Nicole will be working with the girls and the babies, primarily teaching English. Thank you so much, Nicole, for your time and sacrifice for these children!

Beauty Salon

The beauty salon is on the move and doing so well. I am just in awe at how much the girls have grown and advanced in their studies! I had a "spa" treatment the day before we left two months ago. They colored and highlighted my hair, gave me a facial, a manicure and a pedicure. Cesia, our "daughter-in-law" and the teacher of the beauty school, did most of the work and the girls were observers. Next time, however, the girls will do the jobs. I can't wait!

A Few Final Words...

The kids are doing very well and God is blessing this ministry so much. One thing that I forgot to mention was the building of our own home. It is almost at the stage of putting on the roof. We also want to thank each person that has given toward the building. We hope to be in our new home by Christmas of this year.

Praise the Lord Almighty for all of His wonders! He still makes miracles and they are happening each day down here. We ask you once again, to keep the prayers coming. They are what keep all of us here alive and well!!

—Amy



“Will I Get to Go This Year??”

by Monika Joyce,
Mercy Ships
Volunteer



I was signed up to go with Mercy Ships to serve at Children’s Village July 4-14th. On July 1, I received notice that our team had been cancelled due to political unrest in Honduras. I COMPLETELY understood the decision; those who were connected with Mercy Ships were extremely concerned about our safety. After all, the U.S. Embassy was sending out emails recommending that Americans not travel to Honduras. I understood the decision, but that did not keep me from feeling very disappointed. How could I NOT go to Honduras this summer? This just couldn’t be!

I am a very prayerful and persistent person. The cancellation notice indicated that another possible time would be from August 1-10th. I am a special education teacher, and the only time I can do a mission trip to Honduras is in the summer. I had been to Honduras the past three summers for short-term mission trips with Sylvia and Gary Thacker, Mercy Ships team leaders. I emailed Sylvia and Gary indicating I was EXTREMELY happy and very grateful to be allowed to come, as I was the only one on our small but mighty “team.”

We had a truly amazing and wonderful nine days. We stayed at the Flamingo Hotel in Omoa,

very comfortable accommodations on the ocean. There was nothing like spending several days playing with the kids (mostly the girls) in the Children’s Village to rejuvenate me, energize me, and make me feel young again. What a true honor and privilege!

The girls and I just played, prayed, danced, and even sang, together. They actually knew a few praise and worship songs in English! The girls read to me and I read to them. They taught me some Spanish, and I taught them some English. The many hugs, smiles, and the laughter were all such a beautiful part of God’s mercy and grace while I was down there!

Before I went to Honduras, I collected some monetary donations to buy materials for an outdoor tortilla kitchen; pot and pans; materials for a clothesline; two blenders; an electric drill; a washing machine; heavy-duty plastic plates, cups, and flatware; and 10 lbs. of chorizo sausage. The staff and kids really enjoyed the chorizo. It was important to buy items to enhance the lives of the staff, as well as the kids, at the Children’s Village. This staff works extremely hard to care for and share God’s love with these

wonderful kids.

I experienced a profound moment while praying for two of the girls. Even though I was praying in English, you could tell that by divine intervention, the Holy Spirit was working through me, and the girls had a good understanding of what I was praying for. Another was experiencing communion for the first time in Honduras. I also had a good 10-minute conversation with the mother of two of the girls at the Children’s Village our last full day there at church. The mom did most of the talking, and it was all in Spanish. Though my Spanish is very limited, again through the Lord’s intercession, we were definitely communicating and sharing, and feeling a real sense of intimacy with one another, even if it was just for a moment in time.

Sylvia and Gary, and all the people in the Children’s Village, thank you for giving me one of the greatest gifts/experiences I have ever received!! This mission trip was just the epitome of the verse, “To give is to receive.” Praise God!

—Monika



Prayer Bracelets

by Lisa Closner

While I was in Honduras last summer, I found a bracelet with my sponsored child’s name on it. I wear it often and it reminds me to pray for her throughout the day. On my last trip I ordered bracelets with the names of each of the children on them. They are available for a minimum **donation of \$5 per bracelet**. Of course you can always donate whatever you like. All proceeds will go directly to the children’s care. If you would like a Prayer Bracelet, send your request and check made out to WWH2H to the address below.

Many blessings to you and your family!

**Lisa Closner
WWH2H
P.O. Box 2113
Estacada, OR 97023**



From the President's Desk

by Mary Frenter, President

Serranos Return to Honduras

Serranos left near midnight August 10th, sent off at PDX by 25 of us who prayed them back to Honduras. They arrived safely. We miss them, but are happy to hear things were peaceful and happy there when they arrived, thanks to the wonderful management of Gary and Sylvia Thacker and our Honduras workers who handled all the challenges so well while they were gone.

Frontier Miracle

I want to share one of God's miracles with you. Frontier Missions, a ministry to Native Americans, has been letting us use their warehouse in Troutdale, Oregon, to store our Honduras container donations until we were ready to order the container to load. Three weeks ago they told us they would be taking a 48-foot trailer truck to Montana the following week. They needed 44 pallets of food and supplies to take to this reservation. They had three. We joined them in prayer.

During the week, they went ahead and made all the plans to leave, in faith believing that God had a plan. They were just finishing loading their truck for Montana with a donation of

38 pallets of food and supplies!! When we got there to drop off some items for the Honduras container, the Montana truck was loaded and we prayed them out the door!! Amazing Grace!!!

Thanks to All Who Helped with the Container!!

WWH2H thanks Frontier Missions for letting us use their warehouse; to all of you who donated to our container; to John Atherton, who coordinates the container; to Tim Dixon, who gave tons of hours helping us at the warehouse; to Allison and Meegan Closner, who came every pack-and-sort day and prepared the manifest for us; to Rick Stephens who translated it into Spanish; to Guy Bumstead, who served as load master with helpers Caleb Moore and Andrew Hamm; to Lorna Atherton; Lisa Closner; Denise, David, Leah, and Randy Bardal; Kim Stephens; Amy, Oscar, Sarah, and Rachel Serrano; Sondi and Brooklyn Ross; Kim Thomas; Jill Sharpe; and everyone else who came on the various collection days to help sort and pack the donations. Thank you to the crew who made triple bunks for us to take, and to Tim and Norm Shepersky, who worked hours repairing the stainless

fridge so we could take it. I am sure I have left many of you out who helped, but please know we are so blessed and thankful to you for your sacrifice. The container is jam-packed full with the addition of food from Frontier Missions. Thank you, so much! It will arrive in Honduras the end of September. Lisa Closner and a team will help unload and put away all the contents! Please pray it all the way to the Children's Village with us!

Volunteers and Prayers Needed

We are looking for volunteers for the Construction Team Joel Olsen is planning for October 2-10th and for the Container Unloading team Lisa Closner is planning for October 7-17th. Please contact them (see back page) if you are able to help us.

Please continue to pray with us for peace in Honduras. We are also praying for funds to complete our WWH2H Director's House and Headquarters. Pray for more qualified mommies for our Children's Village. Pray for more monthly supporters for our children so that we can fill our Village. We have partial or full support for the 76 we now care for. We have room right now for 62 more children. There are 176,000 homeless and abandoned children in Honduras. Please help us continue...

—Mary

Foster Parents Needed

for the Refugee and Immigrant Children's Program, Lutheran Community Services Northwest

As a Foster Home Recruiter for the *Refugee and Immigrant Children's Program*, I'm hoping that you, or someone you know, may be interested in becoming a foster parent to a refugee youth who has fled civil unrest or persecution or been a victim of human trafficking. Recently, youth referred to our program have been teenagers or part of sibling groups from Burma, Bhutan, Congo, Somalia, Sudan, and **Honduras**. Can you think of someone who may be interested in providing long-term or respite care to a refugee youth without family? If so, please forward our website: www.refugeechildren.net.

Our next Information Night will take place on Monday, September 14, 6-8 pm, at our office (433 Minor Ave N, Seattle). To sign up, please visit www.refugeechildren.net. Click on "Become a Foster Parent" and then "Information Night" or contact Erika directly. Thank you for helping rekindle a refugee child's hope.

—Erika Berg, 206.694.5780, eberg@lcsnw.org



Upcoming Team List:

- October 2-10: **Construction team** to work on the Serranos' residence and our headquarters will be led by Joel Olsen. Contact Mary Frenter for more details, 509.427.8585.
- October 17-17: **Estacada container unpacking and maintenance team.** Contact Lisa Closner, team leader, 503.753.2993.
- October 17-27: **Mercy Ships construction team*** to Puerto Cortes.
- November 1-8: **Mercy Ships medical team*** to Baracoa.
- November 21-28: **Vacation Bible School team** led by Karen Douglass and Carol Rutledge. Contact Mary Frenter for more details. 509.427.8585.
- December 13-January 2: **Christmas team.** Contact Mary Frenter for more details. 509.427.8585.
- December 26-January 2: **Immanuel construction team.** Contact Alyn and Joanie Swedberg at 360.736.6548.
- December 30-January 9: **Mercy Ships work team.***
- March 10-20, 2010: **March medical/dental/optical team.** Orientation meeting October 20 at 6:30 in Longview. Contact Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585.
- April 24-May 4, 2010: **Mercy Ships work team.***
- October 30-November 9, 2010: **Mercy Ships work team.***
- February 2011: **Touch of Hope team.** Contact Tracy Beard at 360.414.5934.

*Contact Gary and Sylvia Thacker at 903.939.7682 for more information on Mercy Ships mission teams.

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
through Christ our
comfort overflows.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Mary Frenter
President

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