



# Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

## Village News

by Amy Serrano, Honduras National Co-Director

Happy New Year!! What a joy it is to write to you again and share all that the Lord is doing in Honduras. This month has been a great month of many miracles. Those miracles were the outcome of the prayers lifted up from all over the world for this ministry.

### Economy and Faith

The economy has been a struggle for everyone. This ministry is going through a period of time when things are tight. However, it is in the hardest times that the Lord proves Himself strong, and these hard times were no exception. For the past several months, it has really been a faith walk to pay the bills. There were even a few times that we didn't know if we were going to eat, and then out of nowhere some organization that we didn't even know would come by with a large donation of food! It was not a time of abundance, and many times it was just enough, but it was always enough!

### Christmas Blessings

One of my concerns throughout this time was, "What are we going to do for Christmas?" I thought I might have to tell the kids there wouldn't be any presents this year. I couldn't bear the thought of that. But then again, sometimes I forget that these are God's kids, and He does not need a robust economy to feed, clothe, or give them a Christmas blessing.

Many volunteers in the U.S. participated in the "Christmas in July"

project that bought new clothes for each child. Then slowly, with the past several groups, Christmas presents started rolling in. It is God's delight to bless these children. I really believe that God must be sooooo excited on Christmas Eve at the Children's Village when it is time to give out presents. I know what joy it is in my heart to hand out the presents and see the look on their faces, some of them receiving a gift for the first time. I don't think anything that can quite compare! And I know Jesus loves it.

### Beauty School Opportunities

Nine girls in the Beauty Salon program are now finishing their first year of beauty school, and they are amazing! Many of the girls dream of finishing high school and studying business administration. Two or three of the girls are talking about starting their own salon. They have already become businesswomen in their own right. It has actually become a real working salon, serving people of the community. The girls take half of the profit, and the other half goes to purchase the chemicals and other products they need. Another lesson they are learning

is how to manage money. We have helped each girl write out a budget, so that they can learn to save and spend wisely.

### Technical School Opportunities

I also want to mention our older boys who have also worked very hard. Our four older boys will be starting technical school in San Pedro Sula in February. Marlon will continue his long-time dream of being an electrician, while the other boys want to study welding and mechanics. Just three or four years ago, many of these young men and woman had never even been to school. They've worked so hard to get where they are, finishing two grades each year. We ask you to pray for them as they are giving their all to take advantage of what the Lord has given them.

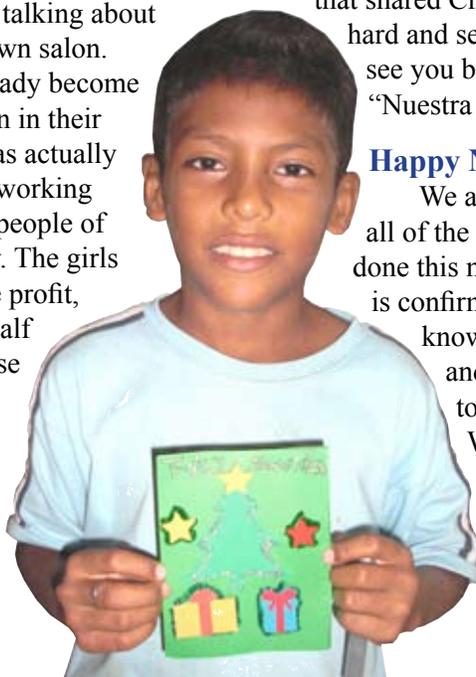
### Oregon Mission Team Thanks

I want to thank the Oregon group that shared Christmas with us for your hard and selfless work. We hope to see you back in Honduras soon, "Nuestra casa es su casa."

### Happy New Year!

We are just so overjoyed with all of the things that the Lord has done this month. Each day our faith is confirmed more and more. We know that God is in all of this and that He will continue to bless His children. We pray that the Lords blessing fill each of your homes in this New Year.

—Amy





## Christmas in Honduras

Are you wondering how we celebrate Christmas in Honduras? Having Christmas at 85° is a little strange at first. But then, you really can get into decorating palm trees. Most Americans consider Christmas a time to stay at home with family. In Honduras it is a time of going visiting from house to house. In Honduras, the party starts on December 24th.

### Christmas Preparations

Preparations for Christmas began months ago. One amazing tradition that we have begun at the WWH2H Church is our annual Christmas dinner, held this year a few days before Christmas. We always have a Christmas play, special music, and tons of food.

### Christmas Dinner for the Poor

The Christmas dinner has a deeper purpose. Each family in the church invites an extremely poor family to share dinner with us. Many of our church members live in homes without indoor plumbing, and make less than \$200 per month. But for them, it is a time to remember that there are many worse off than they are.

### Fundraising & Decorating

Starting in August, church members began to have food sales and

other fund raising events. They went to each business in town, to the port, and to city hall to raise the funds and resources to put this dinner together. The ladies of the church have spent the last month making decorations to make the church beautiful!

### Toys for Needy Children

This is the third year that we have had this event and each year the Lord has provided gifts for all the young guests. There were action figures for the boys, jewelry sets for the girls, and stuffed animals for the little guys. Our youth group worked for over a week wrapping over 100 gifts that were presented to the kids on this very special night. For most of these children, it was the only gift they will be getting.

### Christmas Dinner

Of course, we cannot forget the grand feast! The traditional food for Christmas in Honduras is pork. The dinner was pork, chicken, rice, salad and bread. Each family was served and ate to their hearts' content. Many starving little mouths enjoyed all they could eat, with cake at the end! Much of the food was donated by local grocery stores who have become aware of our tradition and are more than happy to participate.

by Amy Serrano,  
Honduras National Co-Director

### Provisions, Play, and Preaching

Then came the grand finale. Each family received a large plastic tub of provisions: rice, beans, flour, milk, soap, and much, much more! I was amazed at how much was donated this year! It was such a beautiful night. Older children from the Village were there to share it with us and participated in the play and singing. Oscar preached about the meaning of Christmas and how Jesus was born very poor in a stable. In the end, two families came forward for prayer and salvation!! Praise the Lord!

### Village Celebrations

On the 24th came the celebration at the Village with the kids. We gave the workers a few days off so they could spend Christmas with their families. A few families from the church and the wonderful group of volunteers from Oregon took over.

We spent all day on the 23rd cooking over 500 tamales and 10 pork legs. We ate our fabulous feast that evening and then had present giving in the dining hall. I have not seen such happy contented children, nor have I seen such love and generosity.

### Custom Quilts

Each gift included a quilt, hand made and customized for each child

by Lisa  
Closner

## Sponsor Letters



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. Please send all correspondence and packages in care of Lisa Closner (address at left).

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

**Note: Letters/gifts received by February 28th will go with the next team.**





## Christmas in Honduras (continued from page 2)

by a quilting group that are friends of Loree Bolin, of Edmonds, WA. Loree was a volunteer dentist with Medical Relief International, a ministry of Antioch Bible Church in Redmond, that provides wonderful dental care for our children each year.

### Bibles and Gifts

Karen Rybolt, a dear friend of WWH2H from Tennessee, sent out

requests to many of her friends and family members for Bibles for all of the kids. Each child received a Bible signed by the families who sent them. Each gift bag also included new clothing and a gift from their sponsors. The children were speechless and so were we. We can't begin to express how grateful we are for the Christmas that you all provided for your kids. God bless each one of you that blessed them. After the kids got their gifts, they spent the next several hours

playing with them, and then it was time for the movie, and finally, off to bed.

### Christmas Day Sports

Christmas Day was spent relaxing around the village playing soccer, basketball, and volleyball. The weather, praise the Lord, could not have been more perfect, 85 degrees and sunny. In the end, it was more than we could ask for, but then again, our God is an awesome God! —Amy





## Karen Rybolt

Oregon Christmas team member

*Honduras is cooling, and the rain is coming down nonstop. I have spent the weekdays at WWH2H's Children's Village and have really enjoyed my time there. Amy Serrano, one of the directors of WWH2H, and I went through donations and lots of clothes to organize them and also to decide what can be given away. It is great to see a ministry that when they have extra, they give to others in their community.*

*WWH2H has a medical team coming in March and also has hopes of opening a clinic (Lord willing) in the future. Some more of my time was spent cleaning out, organizing, and inventorying the medical donations with some of the other volunteers. They are all such hard workers and are really dedicated to serving the Lord.*

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."*

*One of my favorite tasks was talking with each of the kids to find out some of their "favorites:" what makes them happy, sad, favorite color, song, what they want to be when they grow up, etc. Although these days were very long, they were so rewarding because I had individual time with each child, and they could be reminded how much they are loved.*

*One of my favorite things about being in Honduras around Christmas time is the dinner put on by the WWH2H Church. Families in the church invited a poor family to dinner, worship, food, dramas, and fellowship. Each of the poor families was given a basket with essential things that they normally must struggle to obtain: flour, eggs, beans, soap, etc. Each of the children received a Christmas present. This is such an incredible outreach during the Christmas season that often becomes focused more on ourselves than on what we can do for others.*

## BILINGUAL TEACHER WANTED

WWH2H Honduras is looking for a Christian certified teacher who is bilingual (Spanish/English) to teach full time at our Children's Village in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. You would be responsible to teach English and some other subjects to children ages 5-15. Room and board will be provided at the Village. Please call Mary Frenter at 509-427-8585 if interested, to discuss wages and benefits that may apply to this position.

## Jessie Elliot

Oregon Christmas team member

*Christmas is a time of family and friends, and to us the kids in the children's village at Tegucigalpa are both. So, this Christmas we decided to spend it in Honduras. Preparing presents for over 70 kids is a big job, but it was all worth it on Christmas Eve, as we got to watch each child open their own special gifts. The reactions were priceless. One boy looked up with tears in his eyes after opening his present and said "I knew that God was going to give me an MP3 player!" The next few days were filled with the joyful noise of all the kids. With the house mommies taking their much needed days off, we also had the opportunity to help care for the kids, especially the babies, who presented a new challenge each day.*

*Although our main objective was to prepare for Christmas and upcoming birthdays, there was always time to play with the kids who reminded us time and time again to find joy in the big and little things, whether it's an apple or an iPod. These kids' smiles are always full of joy and thankfulness. Thank you to everyone who prays for, supports, and loves these kids. Without you, a great Christmas like this would not have been possible. For us, it was certainly a joy to be a part of one that we will all treasure for the rest of our lives.*





## Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! We have so many wonderful blessings and adventures known and unknown waiting for us in 2010. Let the games begin!!!

## Vacation Bible School Team

The last week in November, I was with the Vacation Bible School team from Washington and Oregon that ministered in Honduras to more than 400 children, decorated our Children's Village for Christmas and put on a Thanksgiving dinner for about 100 folks! It was a hoot!! We also received two new children to our Village family, Walter, age 9, and Felipe, age 18. So, now our little family numbers 74 children, a few cows, four dogs, and a cat!!

## Flamingo Endowment

The couple that owns the Flamingo Hotel where our teams stay, Juan and Diomar Cardoza, told us as we were checking out, that they are having a lawyer draw up papers for us to sign next time we are in Honduras. If anything happens to the two of them, all their property (which is considerable) in Honduras will go to WWH2H to help us help children there. Amazing!!

## Mennonite Central Committee

We also visited with friends, Sean and Stephanie Stephens and family, who are Mennonite missionaries in the Lake Yojoa region and came to spend Thanksgiving with us. Sean and our son, Guy, were roommates at Eugene Bible College. They told us MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) is looking for a worthwhile group to possibly bless with 80 to 100 acres of pine forest in the mountains of Honduras. Sean is going to suggest WWH2H to them.

## From the President's Desk

by Mary Frenter



About two years ago I was at our son's church in Bellevue. They did a play about a church camp. It had a ropes-type agenda with a parachute jump place, and a zip line that ran over our heads in their auditorium. It came to me that this would be a wonderful program for our kids, street kids, and for U.S. kids to all come together at a camp in Honduras! This acreage would give us a place to do it!! Pray with us about this to see if God wants this to come our way!!

## Amazing and Wonderful News!

"Hey! Unto you a child is born!"  
...is a line from *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* that I have always loved. It is full of the wonder and excitement of this amazing miracle from God. It is with this same enthusiasm, I have some WONDERFUL news to share! It is not of the caliber of the birth of our Savior Redeemer, but it still has the wonder and excitement of His surprise blessings to us.

## Dental Equipment Donation

Rick Stephens, who works for ADEC, a supplier of dental equipment in the Northwest, was one of our volunteers, who went with Lisa

Closner's Maintenance team last June, (under duress, I might add. He told me when I met him in July, as he helped us pack the container, "My wife made me go with her.") Rick loves what God is doing in Honduras soooo much that he has been back twice already, once in October and again with me in November, AND he will be with a team in March. That will be four times in less than a year!! Last July, he told me to write a proposal for a grant to ADEC for some equipment for a dental clinic. We have since received a letter informing us they are donating a whole suite of dental equipment. AND they will pay to ship it for us in January!

## Clinic Building Funding

So now, we have a medical clinic of equipment, a doctor, and a dental suite. I asked God once again if He noticed that we still don't have a building yet. So we are praying about it. Please join us. Oscar says it will cost about \$55-60,000 to completely finish the building next to the church in Puerto Cortes to use for our Medical/Dental Clinic. We will see what He has in mind!! It will be a place medical/dental folks can come and work independently, if they want to come other times than with a team.

## Full-Time Teacher Funded

We have also been blessed with a pledge of funds to support a full time teacher to work at our Village. If you know of a good candidate, please have them contact me.

## Blessings to All

Thank you to everyone who prays, gives and goes to Honduras for this amazing thing called WWH2H that He is doing there. May He bless you beyond your imagination in this New Year!

—Mary



## Upcoming Team List:

- February 5-13: **Music/Maintenance/Letter Writing team.** Contact Lisa Closner at 503.753.2993.
- March 10-20: **March Medical/Dental/Optical team.** Contact Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585.
- March 13-21: **Mercy Ships / Military Cadets work team.\***
- March 19-27: **Maintenance/Letter Writing team.** Contact Lisa Closner at 503.753.2993.
- April 24-May 4: **Mercy Ships work team.\***
- June 13-22: **Project Maintenance / Letter Writing or Camp team.** Contact Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585.
- June 21-28: **Mercy Ships work / Witness team.\***
- July 23-31: **VBS Team from Stevenson.** Contact Karen Douglass at 509.427.5697.
- July (TBD): **Immanuel construction team.** Contact Alyn and Joanie Swedberg at 360.736.6548.
- August 20-29: **Antioch Bible Church MRI Dental team.** Contact Claudia Blazer at 425.284.2630.
- October 30-November 9: **Mercy Ships work team.\***
- November 8-16: **Christmas Preparation / Maintenance / Letter Writing team.** Contact Lisa Closner at 503.753.2993.

\*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!

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL PHYLIS HAAS AT PHYL@CLATSKANIE.COM OR CALL HER AT 503.728.3507 TO LET US KNOW.

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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President

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