



# Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

## WWH2H Goes to Haiti

by Mary Frenter, President, WWH2H

The WWH2H Vision Statement bears repeating in light of the recent tragedy in Haiti.

*"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."*  
II Corinthians 1:3-5

### Worldwide in More Than Name

When we first began this ministry, we applied for our name to be "Heart to Heart Ministries." But that name was taken. I think it was Oscar or Amy who suggested we tack "Worldwide" to the front of that. We did, and so we became Worldwide Heart to Heart, never intending to be working anywhere but in Honduras. However, God had other plans and of course, knew even then, that one day He would use this ministry to help His kids in places besides Honduras.

### Honduras to Haiti

You are all aware of the terrible devastation left by the earthquake in Haiti on January 12th. Our hearts were shaken by this tragedy, knowing first hand what those people were going through, and especially the suffering the children were enduring. WWH2H went to Honduras the first time under similar circumstances, due to Hurricane Mitch in November of 1998. The past 12 years, God has trained and prepared us to help rescue children who find themselves alone as a result of these events.

### Jesus Wants Us to Go

So, with that in mind, we have been praying to discern what God would have us do. It is not a question of "should" we go, but "when, where

and with whom." To those who would caution us not to go to Haiti because of the danger, our reply is, "But Jesus wants to come." And so we will go.

### WWH2H Haiti Team Forms

As God would have it, He began leading us to the organizations, the people, and has started bringing in the necessary funds, for a WWH2H Haiti Team to begin forming. Our WWH2H Honduras Church has been gathering each morning before work since the earthquake to pray for the people of Haiti. They well know the desperation these people find themselves in, because they lived it with Hurricane Mitch.

### Rebuild Jacmel Orphanage

As a result of their prayers and ours, we will be sending Pastor Oscar Serrano, our WWH2H Honduras National Director, and two of our "sons," Marvin Ramos and Josué Lopez, from Honduras to Haiti February 19 to March 4. They will join forces with *Beautiful Child Ministries* of Madison, WI. This ministry has an orphanage at Jacmel, Haiti that was destroyed by the earthquake. All 32 children escaped, but are now living without shelter.

### Dental/Medical/Counselor Team

The plan is to go there with funds to rebuild their home. Oscar will explore the



Left to right: Karen Rybolt, Marvin Ramos, Amy Serrano, and Oscar Serrano at a Christmas Party. Oscar, Marvin, and Josué Lopez (not pictured) will travel to Haiti February 19-March 4.



## WWH2H Goes to Haiti

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possibility of establishing a WWH2H base there. And even before I have published the need, funds have begun to come in by word of mouth for this effort. Dr. Bill Mays, Director of Medical Relief International, from the Antioch Bible Church in Redmond, WA, heard we were going and called to say he has a team of dentists, doctors, and grief counselors who would like to join this effort in Jacmel.

## Pray, Give, and/or Go

The harvest is ripe but the laborers are few, is the lament from our Savior in His Word. This is an amazing opportunity for The Church to reach out with His hands of love to this torn country of Haiti. Please join us as laborers in this harvest by praying, giving and/or going.

## Funding Needs

The present needs are for funds to send the team. We lack the \$1500 needed to cover the rest of the expenses for the Honduras participants. We lack the \$15,000 of the \$25,000 needed to help rebuild the Beautiful Child Ministries Faith Orphanage in Jacmel, Haiti. And we need to begin the account for the WWH2H Haiti Ministry. There is no way to estimate this cost yet, but we want to begin planning for it.

## More In-depth Planning to Come

When we went to Honduras, the first program we started was Meals from the Heart. We fed children living on the streets one huge meal (with a baggie for the leftovers) each day. That may be the first thing we do in Haiti. Then we built the Children's Village to provide a loving home for

these children. That may be the second thing we do. I am not sure, but will have more concrete plans after Oscar returns in early March. I will be in Honduras with our WWH2H Medical/Dental team March 10th. We will be able to do in depth planning then, to present to our board. Please keep all these things in prayer, that God would have His way in all of it.

God bless you all and thank you!

—Mary

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*"Beautiful light is born of darkness, so the faith that springs from conflict is often the strongest and best."*

R. Turnbull

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*"And the LORD shall guide thee continually." Isaiah 58:11*

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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.**

by Lisa Closner

## Sponsor Correspondence

Correspondence between sponsors and their children has become an important event. Last year, many sponsors, most of whom have never been to the Children's Village, began developing personal relationships with their children through letters. The children know that when I arrive, I am usually carrying letters from sponsors. Immediately after "holas" and hugs,

the names of sponsors start ringing in my ears. Tengo una carta de Gloria y Carlos?", "Lisa! Tengo una carta de John y Lorna?" "Tengo una carta de Julia...de Carrie...de Jessie...de Michelle?" Through letters and photos these precious bonds are developing.

When writing letters to the children, tell them about your daily life, such as your family, friends, faith,

activities, pets, etc. Please do not include your address or phone number. Our children have very little in the way of material wealth, so please do not focus on "things."

If you would like to know the date of your child's birthday or have any other questions, please email me at [lclosner@hotmail.com](mailto:lclosner@hotmail.com). May God bless you abundantly for the care you give His children. —Lisa



## *Because of Her Love for Them...*

by Lisa Closner

Recently I received an email from the sponsor of two of our newest little girls. She was there on a medical team when they were received into our WWH2H family. What a story of God's grace.

*I was on the medical team last March 2009 to the village of Concepción del Sur in the Honduras Santa Barbara Mountains. Gary and Sylvia (of Mercy Ships Teams) were my team leaders. I have no idea how you can love people so much after just one week, but I do. God made Himself known to us all on that trip, and there was a great spiritual warfare.*

*So much happened that it was hard to take it all in. This family was just one of the ways we clearly saw God's hand working to HIS glory and it was very obvious that GOD had the plans before we ever got there.*

*I was doing vitals when the family came through. Norma and Rosiebel's mom asked Oscar to take the girls with him to the WWH2H Children's Village in Tegucigalpa. We were incredulous and had a very hard*

*time understanding. But GOD is faithful, and we did ultimately understand why: because of her great love for them.*

*This is not a decision that we have to make in our world. How she loved them so, to want them to be safe and cared for, was the greatest love of all—sacrificial.*

*While all the "legal" stuff was happening, some sweet ladies*

*brought food and water to the mom and children, and then the mom had a terrible seizure right beside me! She was so ill. Apparently her husband was also quite ill and in the hospital.*

*We went to our suitcases and rummaged through to see what we had that the girls could wear. I had flip flops, pink hairbrushes,*

*and headbands one of my friends sent with me. I had no idea at the time WHY, because I thought only of meds and such. Miraculously, one of the other ladies had only two dresses that "just happened" to be their sizes. So you can see it was all part of His plan. Someone even had underpants their size. Amazing! There were some wonderful*

*ladies with us from the WWH2H Church in Puerto Cortes, who tended to Norma and Rosiebel. The girls slept in the same room with me overnight with Ruthie (who lives with Allison), so that Amy could pick them up the next day. Their grandfather came down from the mountain, too. He*

*wanted to be sure they were going to good people, and so they did.*

*—Submitted by the girls' sponsor*



Rosie



Norma

These two girls are nearing their one-year anniversary of being part of our family. Initially, it was very traumatic for them to be taken away from their family. Now, they have adjusted to their new life, and I see their little personalities growing and becoming very vibrant. Norma and Rosie are nearly always side by side. They laugh, play and giggle like the other little girls. They are social and quick to climb up into laps for a hug and snuggle. —Lisa

### WWH2H Recommended Organizations to Support for Haiti Giving:

- Samaritan's Purse
- Mercy Ships, International
- Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries

### WWH2H Immediate Needs:

- \$6400 to cover school costs for 64 children in Honduras
- Sponsors for new children: Ilda (age 12), Cristian (age 7), and Exequiel (age 6)
- Funds for first WWH2H Haiti Team to Haiti, February 19-March 4 (see page 1 article)



## David Update

by Denise Bardal, foster mother

*David at 10, continues to be very healthy in the 3½ years he has been with our family. This year, David is progressing well in the 3rd grade, currently reading and passing tests on 4th and 5th-grade books. Math is starting to make more sense to him. Socially, he has so many friends that he doesn't have time to play with them all! January and February, David plays basketball and wrestles. His small build is to his advantage in wrestling because opponents underestimate his strength. In basketball, his height puts him smallest on all teams, but his quickness makes up for it. He's very good at getting the rebounds and stealing the ball while the other team is dribbling down the court. Spring soccer season will begin soon.*

—Denise

Note: For those of you new to WWH2H, David came to the Children's Village in Honduras in 2004 with his two older brothers. David had a club foot. Through the generosity of Dr. David Sussman of the Portland Shriners' Hospital and the Bardal family, David has a straight foot and has wiggled his way into all our hearts as this wonderful miracle from God.

—Amy



## 2009 in Review

by Amy Serrano, Honduras National Co-Director

It is a blessing and a joy to write to you again from Honduras, as always God has been so good to us. With the holidays behind us, we are looking forward to a wonderful 2010! We can't wait to see what God has in mind for the coming year. So, in looking forward, let's take a quick look back at what God did in 2009.

### The Year in Review

- 78 children now live at our Children's Village
- The Teen/Young Adult Men's House was completed in Puerto Cortes and now is home to 6 teens and young men.
- The Baby House was completed and is now home to 14 beautiful babies and toddlers.
- Serranos' home/WWH2H Headquarters was started.
- The Beauty Salon School program began, led by Cesia Lopez, wife of one of our "sons", Josué Lopez. Their daughter, Cescita, (our first "granddaughter" ☺) turned one in November.
- Serranos came to the U.S. to fundraise and have some R&R.
- Twelve WWH2H presentations were made to churches and organizations.
- Two containers arrived in Honduras for our Children's Village, one from Kathy Cadden in Mississippi and one from friends in Washington and Oregon.
- Over 200 WWH2H Volunteers came on Mission teams to Honduras on Medical, Dental, Construction, Maintenance, and VBS teams.
- Our children received over 700 letters, 53 Christmas gifts and 39 birthday gifts directly from their sponsors..
- Baby Juan Martinez was saved by the efforts of the May WWH2H Medical Team in Los Flores.
- Honduras endured several earthquakes and survived!
- Honduras endured a political/military upset and survived!
- WWH2H newsletter circulation almost reached the 1000 mark with distribution to 33 states and 3 other countries.
- All our buildings at the Village and Church campuses were repaired and painted.
- Our WWH2H Church Youth Group Service on Friday nights has grown.
- The WWH2H Church Adult Service moved to Saturday night and is full.
- The WWH2H Church Sunday School is growing and full.
- Over 400 children attended our November VBS program.
  - Our WWH2H Church continues to minister to the poor and needy families of Puerto Cortes with weekly food baskets and a Christmas Dinner, worship service, and presents.
  - Weekly WWH2H Church Bible study cell groups were begun.

*God bless you all for your prayers and support this past year!*



## Village Report

by Amy Serrano, Honduras National Co-Director

### New School Year Starts

By the time you are reading this article, the children will be in school again. Classes begin the first week of February. Most of the kids are excited about going back, and some are a little anxious. But it is always “cool” for the ones that are going for the first time. The cost for our 64 school age children is \$100 per child. This covers their uniforms, books, and school fees. We do not have the funds to cover this yet, so please pray with us that this \$6,400 comes in soon.

### Baby House Graduates

We have three that will start kindergarten this year. It is our custom here to move the children from the baby’s house to the “big kid” house the year that they start kindergarten. For them, this is like graduating from college! Jonathan and Olvin, (two of our “former” babies) have now officially moved to the “big boys” house and they feel like the kings of the Village. It’s actually really good for them to have this little change; they are really enjoying their new pad.

### New Students

Three other children will be starting school for the first time this February. They have just recently joined our family: Exequiel 6, Cristian 7, and Ilda who is 12. Exequiel and Cristian are the two younger brothers of Mayra and Olvin, two children who have been part of our WWH2H family for a few years. The two brothers were in a feeding center for malnourished children, but are now coming home to us to be with their brother and sister. The two have never been to school.

Ilda was brought to us by a neighbor, because of situations in her home that put her at risk. Ilda had been

to the second grade, but that was six years ago. She cannot read or write. All three of the kids are doing very well.

### 2nd Year Beauty Salon School

The girls of the beauty salon have completed their first year of class! They have one more year left, and we could not be more proud of them. So with the first class now in their second year of school, we have begun the next class of girls in their first year. They are really enjoying it. The older girls in their second year are helping to teach them, which is also really neat. The Beauty Salon School is open to the public this year and the girls are beginning to save money with their developing skills!



### Teen/Boys House

Just as we move the children from the Baby/Toddler House to the Big Boy and Girl houses, we also move the older boys to the home in Puerto Cortes when they reach the teen years. This is a major step in their lives. The home in Cortes offers them more freedom, but comes with more responsibilities. Juan Carlos and Enrique are now living in Puerto Cortes under the supervision of Marvin, who grew up with us and is their “House Dad.” This is a huge change as there is no “mommy” washing their clothes or their dishes.

At the same time, they feel they are becoming men with this move. Both of the boys are doing well and will start school in Puerto Cortes in the seventh grade.

### Baptisms

We had a great honor last week of baptizing four of our children. Julio, Cristofer, Gustavo, and Oscar all confirmed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. For any of you that have been to one of our baptisms, you know we do it at a river in a nearby village. Following the baptisms, we spent the day swimming and playing at the river. All of the kids had a blast.

### Heart to Heart—Honduras to Haiti

God is still on the move in Honduras, and this coming year is already exploding with excitement.

In the next few weeks, Oscar will be traveling with Marvin and Josué, two young men that grew up in the Village in Tegucigalpa, to the devastated nation of Haiti.

Just days after the quake, WWH2H felt the call to go to Haiti, where hundreds of thousands of children have been left orphaned due to this horrible tragedy. They will be exploring the ways WWH2H can do a similar ministry in Haiti, as we have done here. These two young men’s hearts are bleeding for the things that they are seeing on the news about young Haitian children. They told me, “We just want to give back a little of what was given to us.” God bless them both!

### Thanks and Praise

As always, I want to thank all of you that are praying for us and supporting all of these amazing things that God is doing. We pray that God would bless you abundantly for all that you do for His kids. Please continue to lift us up in prayer each day. —Amy



## Upcoming Team List:

- February 5-13: **Children's Birthday Organization / Spring Break Prep / Library Setup Team to Honduras.** Contact Lisa Closner at 503.753.2993.
- February 19-March 4: **NOW FORMING! WWH2H Construction and Evaluation Team to Haiti.** Contact Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585.
- February 27-March 3: **Becki Ott to Village in Honduras from Canada.**
- March 10-20: **March Medical/Dental/Optical team to Honduras.** Contact Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585.
- March 13-21: **Mercy Ships / West Point Cadets work team to Honduras.\***
- March 19-27: **Maintenance/Letter Writing team to Honduras.** Contact Lisa Closner at 503.753.2993.
- March 16-April 1: **Medical Research International Team to Haiti.** Contact Claudia Blazer at 425.284.2630 or cblazer@abchurch.org.
- April 24-May 4: **Mercy Ships work team to Honduras.\***
- June 13-22: **Outdoor Camp/Letter Writing Team to Honduras.** Contact Lisa Closner at 503.753.2993.
- June 21-28: **Mercy Ships work / Witness team to Honduras.\***
- July 23-31: **VBS Team from Stevenson to Honduras.** Contact Karen Douglass at 509.427.5697.
- August 20-29: **Antioch Bible Church MRI Dental team to Honduras.** Contact Claudia Blazer at 425.284.2630 or cblazer@abchurch.org.

\*Contact Gary and Sylvia Thacker at 903.939.7682 for 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 through Christ our comfort overflows.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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President

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