



Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

A Trip to Honduras

by Lisa Closner

Some of you have had the wonderful experience of going to Honduras, visiting the Children's Village and meeting our amazing kids. On the other hand, many of you haven't. For those of you who have not, I would like to share with you what a trip to Honduras with WWH2H is like.

We'll start at the airport in Portland, Oregon where the majority of our teams depart. We gather at 9:30 PM wearing our WWH2H t-shirts and pulling behind us a carry-on suitcase, a purse/bag, and one or two checked bags all filled to capacity and beyond! This is all precious baggage as most of it will be filled with clothing, toys and supplies for Children's Village.

After everyone is checked in, we gather for prayer, we then hug, kiss and say goodbye to our loved ones. Off we go through security and to our gate. The anticipation is great and everyone is tired but full of life as we await boarding. Once on the plane, we settle into our seats and get a "quick" night's sleep. Before long, the pilot is waking us to let us know we are about to land in Houston. We grab breakfast and coffee and board our final flight to San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

The first thing you will notice once you get off the flight is the difference in attire. Everyone is in shorts! You can be guaranteed warm weather in Honduras!

A short walk to Customs gets you

officially into the country. You grab your bags, go through security, and step out into the waiting area. Oscar, Marvin and other friends will warmly welcome you and make sure your bags get on the bus. On the bus, you will receive lunch or they may take you to Pizza Hut.

First stop is Omoa and the Flamingo Hotel. For many of us, this is home away from home. Owners Juan and Diomar will make your stay comfortable and enjoyable. You settle into your room, put on your swimsuit and plunge into the wonderfully warm waters of the Caribbean. This and the delicious dinners served each night make the overnight trek there worth it!

With the morning comes the excitement of finally meeting the kids. The half-hour bus ride allows you to see the beauty and the culture of Honduras. It's not long before you are pulling down a dirt road into a little village called Tegucigalpa. This one-lane road takes you through one of the local neighborhoods and out into the farmlands where 8 acres and 78 children wait in anticipation of your arrival. It's not long before you see the pinkish colored buildings of the Children's Village.

As the bus pulls in, the kids pour out! It doesn't matter if you are a regular or visiting for the first time. You are family here and they make sure you know it! Hugs, kisses, and "Holas!" abound. First, you will meet



Lisa and friends

the boys. They are full of energy and life. They love to play marbles, soccer, ride bikes and do anything active.

After spending a while with the boys, you may want to wander over to the girls and toddler house. A quick trek over the soccer field takes you to the back door of the toddler's playroom. Look carefully and you will see 12 little heads gazing out the window usually shouting "Gringos! Gringos!" The girls will be watching for you also and once you are spotted there will be another pouring out of hugs and kisses. Here you will jump rope, read, color and cuddle. Likely you will have 2-3 girls holding your hands at all times.

Each day you will be helping with some work that needs to be accomplished at the Children's Village. When the kids are not in school, they will work alongside you.



A Trip to Honduras

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View of the beach from The Flamingo Hotel where mission teams stay

You may be helping the children write letters to their sponsors, construct a building, sort through a container, maintain the campus, sew curtains, help with the toddlers, or many other tasks. It is always a blessing to head back to The Flamingo each evening, knowing that you made life a little easier for the precious children and



Playing with marbles is a favorite activity at Children's Village.

house mothers of this community.

You will get a day for shopping and visiting the government-run orphanage, La Nueva Esperanza. You may even get to visit a historical fort in Omoa. You will also have the wonderful opportunity to go to church at the WWH2H Church in Puerto Cortes. This is an experience in itself. If you haven't already, you will meet the young men who have grown up at the Children's Village and now live in a small house on the church property. The church family is very warm and it is such a great experience to worship with these believers in another language.

Before long, it is time to return home. Though the parting is difficult, the richness of the time with the children will change your life and stay with you forever. They have impacted you and you have impacted them. The kids do not forget you. When you are gone, they will ask about you, and they



Marvin, Marlon, and Josue smooth boards to build shelves for clothing.

will pray for you by name.

We would love to have you come along and experience this life changing adventure. Anyone can! We have had 8 to 80-year-olds join us, and there are ways to overcome the expense of the trip. So, please join us. The kids are waiting! —Lisa



The children wave goodbye. They will remember you by name in their prayers long after you've gone.

Children's Village Report

by Amy Serrano, Honduras National Co-Director

Greetings WWH2H family in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that the Lord is blessing each and every one of you. We always know that we are abundantly blessed by the Lord here in Honduras.

Back to School

The kids are all doing great! Happy to be back in school. The first day of school was such a blessing for me. As we took the kids in, all of the teachers were so excited to see

them. Many of the kids will have the same teachers this year as they did last year. I was amazed to see how caring the teachers were toward our kids particularly. I spoke with one of the teachers and she told me that she respected our work so much, because our kids always come showered, clean and well groomed with all of their materials. It made me really happy to hear that. It shows that your prayers and donations you send our way really make a difference!

Lisa Closner & Jessie Eliot Visit

We were just blessed by the presence of two wonderful friends of the ministry, Lisa Closner and Jessie Eliot. They came for nearly a week to help with many projects. First they cleaned out a lot of the volunteer house and prepared it for the big March team. They also celebrated Valentine's Day with the kids which was really nice. Thank you ladies for your love and support. The kids love you and miss you both already!

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Village Report

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WWH2H in Haiti

As some of you may already know WWH2H is on its first mission trip to Haiti as I write this. This country was devastated in January by a massive 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck just below the nation's capital.

Representatives from WWH2H US and WWH2H Honduras are working with Beautiful Child Ministries to help rebuild their destroyed Faith Orphanage. The team will also be traveling to Port au Prince to "see what the Lord might have in mind" for WWH2H's future work in that country.

Marvin and Josué Choose Mission Work

I am sure that you will hear a lot more about Haiti projects in the months to come, but the beautiful thing that I would like to tell you is

this. Two young men that you who have supported this ministry have helped us raise, Marvin and Josué, are on that trip! They turned out to be all right kids! And now have decided to



Honduras is gorgeous. This is the view from the top of the Boys' House at Children's Village.

spend their lives doing mission work, rescuing kids from the same awful conditions they were rescued from a few years back. Thank you so much for helping us with them! They really are two wonderful sons.

March Teams

The Medical team will arrive on the 10th of March and stay through the 20th. Please pray that all will go well with this team and that the Lord will move in a mighty way to touch lives! Also, Mercy Ships will be sending another team our way to help with construction in March. Lisa Closner is bringing a group from Portland with some students from Eastern Washington University. Please pray for all of these groups that God would use their time and skills for His glory and to advance His kingdom.

Thanks and Praise

We want to thank you all once again for your selfless devotion to this ministry. You are giving hope and a future to those that God has brought to us to help. Please always remember this ministry, and most particularly the children, in your prayers.

—Amy

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

Note: Letters/gifts received by March 5th will go with the next team.





A look back... Since this is our 10-year anniversary as a ministry, we thought it might be fun to have a look back at some of the highlights of this past decade.

Then:

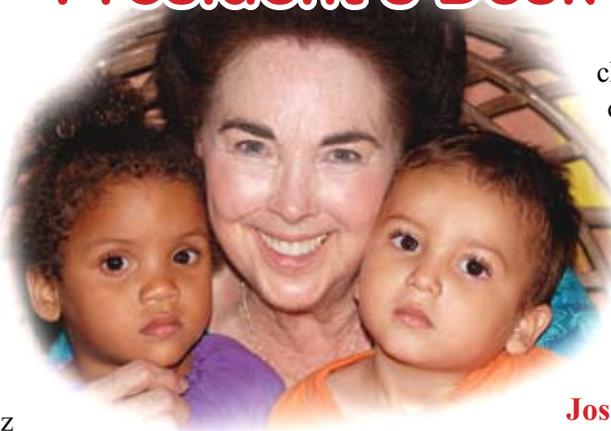
- January to March 2000—We sent teams of 51 folks over a three-month period on construction, medical, and crusade teams to help after Hurricane Mitch.
- September 2000—We received the gift of eight acres of land from Salomon and Elvia Lopez in Honduras.
- January 2001—We began construction of the Children's Village with occasional construction teams as we had the funds.
- July 2003—Serranos moved to Honduras to be our full-time directors.
- September 2003—Started the *Meals from the Heart Program* where we met our first sons, Josué, Marlon, Norman, Manuel, and Eduardo who were coming to eat.
- September 21, 2003—The boys moved to the Children's Village. Marvin, Mauricio, Cesar, David, and Roberto were soon added to our family, with Fredy Castro as their "Daddy." And so our journey with WWH2H Children's Village began.

Now:

- 78 children ages 10 months to 22 years call it home.
- Houses have been built for our boys, girls, young adult men, and toddlers/babies.
- A huge playground, tech school, church, and several storage buildings have been built.
- We will have teams in 2010 who will build the medical/dental building and a classroom for the boys.

From the President's Desk

by Mary Frenter



Future Visions

As we look forward to the next 10 years, "... we see through a glass, darkly", as 1 Corinthians 13:12 suggests. But we also already see God putting plans in place to bless His Kids that we have now, and to bless more children that He will bring to us.

- I see possibilities of micro loans to help our young adults start their own businesses.
- I see education opportunities for our children with volunteer teachers coming to help with an onsite school at the village.
- I see a Medical/Dental Free Clinic outreach in the near future.
- I see *Meals from the Heart* starting up again to minister to hungry children.
- I see possibilities of more Children's Villages in Honduras, and possibly some other countries.

Each of these visions involves many people with particular skill sets that we need, many new supporters in prayer and finances, and many more volunteers who pray, support, and go. Can there be anything more exciting than knowing you are obeying God through His Holy Spirit in service to His children who need to know about Him? The ineffable joy and peace of that are almost beyond containment!!

February Update

Thank you so much for responding to the needs listed in the February newsletter. Many sent financial help to send our children to school and to support our WWH2H Mission Team to Haiti. Oscar Serrano, Josué Lopez, and Marvin Ramos from Honduras, and WWH2H Board Members, Sondi Ross and Wil Meckle, are there now. We will have a full report and pictures for the April newsletter.

Josué and Marvin Become Missionaries

Please pray with us about how God would have WWH2H proceed in Haiti in the coming months. We are blessed beyond measure that Josué and Marvin, who grew up at our Children's Village, are now devoted to helping children in similar circumstances that they were in when we found them.

Volunteer Love

The measure of our love is the measure of our sacrifice. That said, there have been hundreds of volunteers over the last 10 years who fit that description, who have prayed for, supported and have served on teams to Honduras with WWH2H to help His Kids. What an amazing ride!!

Upcoming Teams to Honduras

We are blessed to have volunteers from Canada, Oregon, Washington, California, Illinois, Tennessee, and Montana going on five different teams (medical/dental, construction, and maintenance) to Honduras in March. Amazing Grace!!! Please keep these teams in your prayers. Thank you!!

Pericles says it well, "What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." Happy weaving!!
—Mary ><



Upcoming Teams:

—2010—

- March 4-18: **Construction team to Honduras.** Contact John Atherton at 503.666.6928.
- 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: **Project Maintenance/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 6-15: **Immanuel Lutheran Construction Team to Honduras.** Contact Joanie Swedberg at 360.388.1063 or swedberg@wwestsky.net.
- 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.

- October 30-November 9: **Mercy Ships Work Team to Honduras.***
- November 8-16: **Christmas Prep/Maintenance/Letter Writing Team to Honduras.** Contact Lisa Closner at 503.753.2993.
- November TBD: **CRCC VBS Team to Honduras.** Contact Carol Rutledge at 360.751.9497.

—2011—

- February (TBD): **A Touch of Hope.** Contact Tracy Beard at 360.414.5934.
- March 15-26: **Women's Ministry Retreat Team.** Contact Lisa Page, Church on the Mountain, Brightwood, Oregon, at 503.622.6406.
- March 25-April 2: Possible **Faith Tabernacle VBS Team.**

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

Gift Ideas for Sponsors:

- Older children: watch, MP3, sports equipment, Christian CD, clothing, journal, purse, Spanish books or devotionals, art supplies, posters, photo albums, frames
- Younger children: toys, clothing, sports equipment, art supplies, photo albums
- If you are unable to send a gift, you are always welcome to send a birthday or Christmas card!
- Remember to include photos of you and your family!



Honduras National Co-Directors, Amy (left) and Pastor Oscar Serrano (right), shown with kids from Children's Village in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, offer their prayers and wishes to everyone involved with WWH2H/ASOCORA!

WWH2H Recommended Organizations to Support for Haiti Giving:

- Samaritan's Purse
- Mercy Ships, International
- WWH2H

WWH2H Immediate Needs:

- Funds to cover the rest of the children's school costs in Honduras
- Sponsors for new children in Honduras: Hilda (age 12), Cristian (age 7), and Exequiel (age 6)
- Funds to complete Medical/Dental Free Clinic building in Honduras

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 PHLAYS HAAS AT PHL@OPUSNET.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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