



# Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

¡Saludos! Hello once again from Honduras. This month has been one of the busiest that I can remember in a long time. Most of that has been due to the tremendous blessing of all of the volunteers that we have had over the past six weeks.

## Many Blessings

So, I want to start with all of the acknowledgments and thanks. From all of us here, thanks go out to **Becki Ott** visiting us from Canada. It was a blessing to get to know you, and I hope our friendship continues for many years to come.

Thanks to **John Atherton, Tim Dixon**, and Tim's two wonderful daughters, **Katie and Kristy**, who joined us in early March for all of the selfless giving that you lavished on the kids.

Thank you to **Gary and Sylvia Thacker** and the **West Point Cadets** that visited us with their Mercy Ships team for getting the new medical clinic project finally off the ground! Also

## Village Report

by Amy Serrano

very special thanks to the **medical team!** Once again it was amazing! I'm tired, but can't wait for next year!

A huge thanks to **Kim Sharp**, first for your incredible work with the kids, as always, and also for your great job on the medical team, even through sickness.

And thank you to the team that came from **Estacada and Eastern Washington University**. I missed most of the team due to sickness, but Oscar said it was one of the best groups he has ever worked with, and he has worked with many groups.

Each and every one of you who have come down have no idea how much you have blessed our hearts. It gives me so much encouragement to see just how many people the Lord has brought alongside this ministry. I also see how many people love these children. God bless you all abundantly.

## Spring Break

The kids are now officially on spring break. We plan to take them to the river. The church will come to the Village on Good Friday as we do each year for a day of games with the kids.

## 7th Graders to Attend School

When classes started back in February, many 7th graders in the community (including ours at the Village) were told that there was no room for them this year and that they would have to wait for space to become available. Our housemothers faithfully continued home schooling so they would not be behind. We've learned that the school has space for our children. After being home schooled for the past few years, the kids are really excited about going to school!

## Happy Easter to all!

Thank you, once again for all the prayers and support you provide for His Kids in Honduras. —Amy



*Left:* Earthquake damage just inside the border of Haiti from the Dominican Republic. *Middle:* Oscar Serrano, Marvin Ramos, Josué Lopez, and Wil Meckle stand with members of a Canadian Army unit that built wooden storage units. *Right:* Sondi Ross stands near where children are currently staying in the orphanage in Jacmel, 30 miles south of Port au Prince, Haiti, a 5½-hour drive.



## Haiti Team

by Sondi Ross

I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to travel to Haiti with our team (Oscar Serrano, Wil Meckle, Marvin Ramos, and Josué Lopez).

### Haiti: Week 1

Our first night was spent in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The following morning we were off and running to Haiti. The ride to Port Au Prince was comfortable. Then we switched to a “cozier” form of transportation from Port Au Prince to Jacmel, fitting four to five people per row into a van with no AC! Thank goodness the windows worked!

As we drove to Jacmel, it was heartbreaking to see firsthand the terrible devastation and the ensuing sorrow among the people due to the earthquake. At the same time an encouraging sight was seeing the Haitian people cleaning up their country, trying to restore some

semblance of order.

We arrived at the orphanage in Jacmel around 9:30 p.m. All the kids were wide awake, excited because of the arrival of the group. The men of our group set up the tents, and Terry (a gal from another group) and I got dinner ready—peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

During our week at the orphanage, I concentrated my efforts on the children, helping out by serving food, and doing dishes. I had the opportunity to help in the kitchen with the strict Madame Pastor (this was her actual name!). Eventually, I earned her trust and thoroughly enjoyed our time together as she taught me how to prepare meals the Haitian way and to make creole sauce.

### Haiti: Week 2

The second week, our team left the orphanage and traveled throughout Haiti. The first stop was Port Au Prince, where we stayed for a few days. Saturday, we had an opportunity to meet with government officials and

visit a tent city. They informed us that they had not received any food since the earthquake. We prayed for the Lord to provide food, healing for their children, and employment for them.

The next day, on Sunday, we attended a local Baptist church. We told the church of our experience at the tent city, and they were able to help by providing food for them! Wow! Talk about a miracle! We also ran into Kathy Cadden, a friend of WWH2H from Mississippi, who has assisted with containers for our ministry in Honduras. Small world! She was there facilitating the dispersal of two containers of food and survival buckets.

### A Spirit-Filled Journey

There are so many other things to share, but most important, this was a Spirit-filled journey. God was in it all, and no harm came to any of us. I am very thankful that I got to be a part of such a wonderful experience, and I believe the Lord has plans for me to return to Haiti soon. —Sondi



*Bottom left: Josué Ramos and local workers (unemployment is 88% in Haiti) lay concrete bricks around a fire pit for burning garbage. Top left: Local workers dig a 20' deep latrine on the property. Top center: A few local women cooked all the rice and beans for the local neighborhood of about 2000 people. Top right: The home where the WWH2H team stayed was undamaged, although everything around their home was destroyed. Bottom right: Kids having a bath.*





*“Whoever is kind to the needy honors God.” Proverbs 14:31b*

## March Teams

March has been a wild ride for WWH2H! It began with our team of five from Honduras and Washington that went to Haiti to help at a collapsed orphanage in Jacmel, as well as investigate how WWH2H might begin a work in Haiti.

Then we had a volunteer from Canada, **Becki Ott**, who spent a week at our Children’s Village, followed by a four-person **construction/maintenance team from Oregon** led by **John Atherton**.

While they were still there, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner **Kim Sharp**, our Pediatric Healthcare Consultant from Cathlamet, WA arrived. She follows the health and development of our resident children who now total 78. She stayed on to lead our 26-person **medical/dental team from Washington, Montana, California, Tennessee, and Illinois**. We saw almost 2000 patients in six days of clinics in different locations! At one clinic, we ministered to the inmates at the Puerto Cortes Prison.

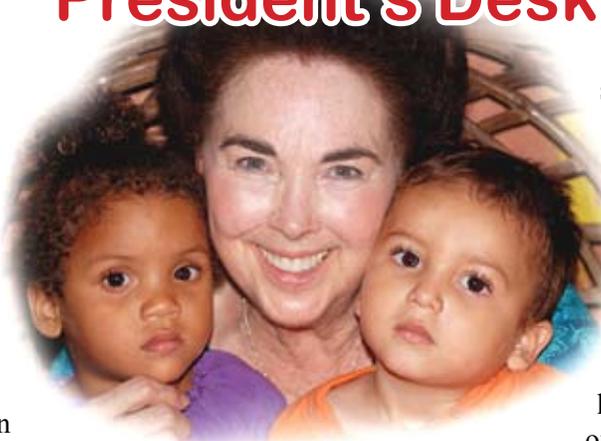
We also took a two-day trip at the end for some R&R in Copán where the team enjoyed the Mayan ruins, zip-lining through the jungle, and a sunset hike on horseback.

**Gary and Sylvia Thacker** hosted a **Mercy Ships construction team of West Point Cadets** who gave up their Spring Break to help us! They began work on the WWH2H Medical/Dental Clinic.

As the medical/dental team was leaving, Lisa Closner arrived with an **18-member maintenance/letter writing team from Eastern Washington University and Oregon**. Whew! And all the logistics, in-country travel and many of the meals for these teams were managed by our

## From the President’s Desk

by Mary Frenter



amazing Directors, Oscar and Amy Serrano, and our wonderful volunteers from our WWH2H Church in Puerto Cortes. Thanks to all of you, visitors and natives alike!!



### Marvin & Karen

Congratulations! Marvin and Karen! Our WWH2H “son,” Marvin Ramos and his Tennessee sweetheart, Karen Rybolt, became engaged recently. Please mark your calendar and join us in celebrating their coming marriage at a wedding shower for them on Saturday, May 22nd at 2:00 p.m. in Centralia, WA. More information to follow in the May newsletter. They are registered at Target and Sears under “Ramos Wedding” and “Karen Rybolt.”

Marvin was one of the original six boys in our Children’s Village. He and

Karen met almost two years ago when she came to Honduras on a mission team.

Marvin has come to Washington for a visit and is staying with WWH2H Board Members, Jane and Wil Meckle. Marvin and Karen will celebrate their marriage in December at Karen’s home church in Hixson, TN. Pastor Oscar Serrano will officiate at the ceremony. We are so happy for them! They plan to be missionaries when she completes her degree. Karen is the daughter of Tom and Ann Rybolt of Hixson, TN. Marvin is the son of Orlando and Maria Ramos of Los Flores, Honduras.

### The Original Six—

#### Our Babes are Growing Up

*“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6*

That makes three of our original six boys to be married. We ran into Manuel, now 21, Norman’s brother, in November when I was in Puerto Cortes. He is married and has one child. He looks so good. He was working for the city. Josué, now 21, is married to Cesia, our beautician instructor at the Village, and they have one little girl. Josué is head of maintenance at the Village.

And now, Marvin! I got to give Eduardo, now 20, another of our original boys, a big hug last week at one of the mental/dental clinics in Puerto Cortes. I have NEVER seen him look so good! The last two of the original boys, Marlon and Norman, both 16, still live with us. Marlon is studying to be an electrician. He has helped wire many of the new buildings at the Village and is wiring the Serranos’ new home as well!! He and Norman go to high school in Puerto Cortes. Our babes are growing up!!

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## President's Desk

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### Crocs Donation

I love how God connects His Kids all over the world to accomplish His work and to think this all began in Scotland! Last August, April Sutherland from Scotland contacted Vicki Niebel from Mercy Ships in Texas, to ask if she knew of a place she could ship 1000 pairs of crocs where they would be needed. They arrived in Honduras last week!! Thanks to all of you, April, Vicki, Robin, Siobhan, and the rest of the troops for your part in this wonderful blessing of crocs to the children in Honduras. We will use some for our 78 children living at our Children's Village, and will give some to those in need in the surrounding villages. God bless all of you for your persistence to see this get done!!

### WWH2H Free Medical/Dental Clinic

**"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3**

We spent time with Mercy Ships team directors, Gary and Sylvia Thacker and their team of West Point Cadets, who were there to help us begin the construction of our WWH2H free medical/dental clinic. They are amazing!!! What a blessing this will be to so many. We are far short of the funding to complete this important work. If any of you know of folks who

might be willing to help with prayer, construction teams, and/or funds, please let me know.

### WWH2H Meals from the Heart

WWH2H Honduras has received a blessing from the Mayor of Puerto Cortes. He provided picnic tables and two full kitchens worth of equipment to resume our *Meals from the Heart* feeding program for those in need in Puerto Cortes. Pepsi will build us a kitchen on our WWH2H Church/Clinic property to house this program! Please pray for the funding for WWH2H to buy the food for this profound work.

### WWH2H Haiti

While in Haiti, our WWH2H Haiti team (Oscar Serrano, Wil Meckle, Sondi Ross, Josué Lopez, Marvin Ramos) visited a tent city in Port au Prince, where 800 families were barely existing. They had no food. Giving no promises, our team prayed with them and promised to try to help.

We connected with a lawyer recommended by a friend of Scott Closner. We learned it is easier for a church, rather than a ministry like ours, to get non-profit status in Haiti. Oscar told him he was a pastor, and the lawyer suggested this would be the best way to go. He gave us all the papers and info we need to fill out IF we decide to do this. Oscar also has some leads on property and prices.

The team went to one of the many churches in Port Au Prince. During the service when Wil mentioned our team was from Honduras and Washington State, a voice was heard from within the congregation saying, "Well, then, Oscar must be with you!" Up popped Kathy Cadden, our friend from Mississippi, who has sent two containers to Honduras for us, and has another one ready to go. Kathy was in Haiti to receive and distribute the container she sent, and "Just Happened" to end up at the same church, at the same time, as our team!! AND...as God would have it...her container was full of food and family survival buckets! She hopes to deliver these supplies to the 800 family tent city our team visited and prayed with on Saturday!! Talk about *Divine Appointments!!!*

### So What's Next?

**"Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed."**

**Proverbs 16:3.**

Based on the findings of our team, at our next board meeting we will discuss a plan to help in Haiti. The team suggested that the first line of support needs to be medical. To that end, we hope to form medical/dental teams to go there in the next couple of months. When our team was in Haiti, they established contacts to help set things up on that end. If you know

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Left to right: Kathy Cadden of Mississippi; Marvin's tent is very different from makeshift shelters in a tent city of 800 families; WWH2H team with local host family in Port au Prince; Wil holds a sleepy girl who was diagnosed with malaria by a medical team from Turkey the next day.



## President's Desk

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of any medical/dental personnel who would be interested in going, please have them contact me.

## Haiti Meals from the Heart

The second line of support the team suggested is setting up a WWH2H *Meals from the Heart* food/water distribution center. We have a Haiti contact who will facilitate this for WWH2H. If any of you have contacts with organizations that could be a reliable source of food for WWH2H *Meals from the Heart*, please let me know.

## Haiti Children's Home?

If God provides the prayer, people, and funds, the team suggests that our third line of support could be a WWH2H Children's Home. Our February assessment team found a piece of property for \$20,000 that is large enough to build a home for about 30 children with space for a playground. It is located in Port au Prince. We are estimating the cost of construction will be \$80,000. Additionally, we will need regular monthly funds of \$15,000, a bus and a truck, and a director who will oversee the whole process.

## Prayers for Guidance

With our experience of the last 10 years helping children in Honduras left destitute after Hurricane Mitch, I know we have the ability to do this. God has taught us well. However, we are in prayer to see if He wants WWH2H to establish a Children's Home in Haiti. He has always provided the PPF (Prayer, People, and Funding) to WWH2H for what He wants us to do in Honduras. So, we will see what He has in mind for WWH2H in Haiti.

## Project Linus

Californian, Diana Couch, the Coordinator for Project Linus, a national 501(c)3 organization, [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org), contacted WWH2H about how she could send blankets to Haiti. Their members make hand-made blankets by crochet, knit, quilting, or fleece for children who are ill or traumatized. These are "comfort" blankets for children to carry with them and wrap themselves up in the love that was behind the making of each blanket.

In early February, her local community had a "Make-a-Blanket Day," completing over 1000 blankets to send to Haiti. I contacted our friend, Kathy Cadden of Project Ukraine, a ministry in Mississippi that facilitates

shipping containers to Third World Countries, and she was able to help Diana with her shipment of blankets to Haiti. Praise God!!

## Thank you, Helen Frenter

Our daughter-in-law, Helen Frenter, is originally from Beijing, China. A consummate artist, Helen volunteered to be our photographer and videographer on the November VBS team. She has some amazing pictures of that trip and has framed many of them, so we can have an actual "gallery" to display. She took video of the trip, took individual pictures of each child, and took the group photo that graces our 2010 calendar!

Helen has begun a series of paintings based on her time in Honduras. She is interested in marketing her art as a way to promote WWH2H and help raise some funds for our Kids. If any of you have contacts that would lead to a possible way to show her work, please contact me. Helen has been selling original artworks and has also done commissioned paintings. For more information or to schedule a viewing, please contact her at: [HelenFrenter@yahoo.com](mailto:HelenFrenter@yahoo.com), [Kurt.Frenter@gmail.com](mailto:Kurt.Frenter@gmail.com), or [www.Artful-Touch.com](http://www.Artful-Touch.com). —Mary

## Prayer Requests for God's Wisdom in:

- Continued development of our Children's Village in Tegucigalpa
- Continued development of our WWH2H Church/Clinic/*Meals from the Heart* Campus in Puerto Cortes
- Development of our land in Concepción del Sur in Santa Barbara
- Possible development of a children's ministry in Haiti
- And of course, all the "3PR (Prayer, People, Plans, and Resources) needed to make it all happen

## WWH2H Recommended Organizations for Haiti Giving

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

## WWH2H Immediate Needs:

- Sponsors for new children: Hilda age 12, Cristian age 7, and Exequiel age 6.
- Funds to complete the Medical/Dental Free Clinic building in Puerto Cortes.
- Funding for the WWH2H *Meals from the Heart* Program in Puerto Cortes
- Medical/Dental teams for Haiti
- Increased donations to cover all the work God has put before us

*"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." Matthew 25:35-37*



## Upcoming Teams in 2010:

- April 24-May 4: *Mercy Ships work team to Honduras.\**
- June 7-17: *Mercy Ships construction and witness team to Honduras.\**
- June 13-20: *Medical Clinic Construction/Letter Writing Team to Honduras.* Contact Lisa Closner at 503.753.2993.
- June 21-28: *Mercy Ships construction and witness team to Honduras.\**
- July 6-15: *Immanuel Lutheran Construction Team to Honduras.* Contact Joanie Swedberg at 360.388.1063 or ajswedberg@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.
- September 4-14: *Mercy Ships work team to Honduras.\**
- October 30-November 9: *Mercy Ships Work Team to Honduras.\**
- November 12-20: *Estacada Community Fellowship Children's Camp and Children's Village Maintenance/Project Team to Honduras.* Contact Lisa Closner at 503.753.2993.
- November TBD: *CRCC VBS Team to Honduras.* Contact Carol Rutledge at 360.751.9497.

\*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 PHLIIS 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 through Christ our comfort overflows.

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