



Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



Organization: P.O. Box 372, Carson, WA 98610, 509.427.8585
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Children's Village, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Oscar & Amy Serrano, Honduras National Directors

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2011

Village Report

by Amy Serrano
National Co-Director

I pray that you all had a very Merry Christmas, and that 2011 has begun with the grace, hope, and goals that the Lord has put in your hearts with each New Year.

A Wedding in Tennessee

My family has just returned from a wonderful trip to the U.S.! First, it was a great honor and privilege to marry one of our sons. As many of you know by now, a wonderful young man that grew up at the Village, Marvin, is now a married man. We have the great



Older girls from the Village perform at the WWH2H Church's Christmas dinner.

privilege of saying that an amazing young woman is our new daughter, Karen. In all of my life I have not been to a more beautiful wedding! It was so filled with the presence of God.

Louisiana Visit

I was also blessed to be able to spend some time with my family in Louisiana after nearly three years. The entire trip was such a blessing to me and my whole family.

Children at the Village receive gifts sent by their sponsors and other WWH2H supporters.



Church Christmas Dinner

When we returned to Honduras on December 22nd, Christmas was in full swing! The church held Christmas dinner on the 23rd. It is an event we have each year where each church family invites another family to a dinner with music, dramas, dancing, and a wonderful Christmas meal.

Several of our girls had been preparing for this night with a song and a dance.

There was a performance by our first-ever bell choir that includes the church youth and our older boys that live in Puerto Cortes. In the main drama, three of our older boys had starring roles and did beautifully. We are so proud of all of our kids who worked hard to glorify God in this Christmas time.

Christmas Eve

The tradition in Honduras is to begin Christmas celebrations on Christmas Eve. The kids prepared for the grand Christmas celebration around 3:00 pm when they showered and put on brand new clothes purchased by many of you in the U.S. The girls all had their hair done like Barbie dolls, as well a touch of Christmas makeup. Our Children's Village traditions begin each year at 4:00 pm with the children receiving

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House mothers dish up a feast of tamales, baked pork, rice, potato salad, and bread.



Village Report

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a can of Coke, a chocolate candy bar, and an apple.

Christmas Story and Carols

We all sat in the dining hall listening to the Christmas story and singing Christmas Carols. I read the Bible scripture in Matthew 25:40 that says “whatsoever you did to the least of my people, you did unto me.” I explained that is why we give gifts on Christmas—that they are really birthday presents for Jesus!

Christmas Feast

Christmas dinner started at the Children’s Village around 6:00 pm. The house mothers started cooking for this event days before, preparing the tamales for Christmas morning. The traditional Honduran Christmas meal is baked pork, rice, potato salad, and bread. Several families from the church came. When the feast was ready, we served the children plates piled high with the scrumptious meal.



New daughter Alba had never received a gift before this Christmas.

Christmas Gifts

Next, it was the time all of the kids had been anxiously waiting for since October—the giving of the gifts! They came up one by one to receive the beautifully prepared presents sent by the sponsors. Many thanks to Lisa Closner and the mission team that came in November who helped wrap and arrange all of the presents. Within seconds, all that was left was wrapping paper and ribbons on the floor and gifts and expressions of joy and wonder on children’s faces.

Christmas Gratitude

As with all children, when a new gift is in their hand, all of time stands still for them. The kids truly have such a deep sense of gratitude for these presents. One of our new daughters, Alba, told us that this was the first time that she ever received a gift in her life—she told me to be sure to tell whoever sent it that she will be praying for him/her all of the time. This is the beauty of sharing love with these children. On Christmas Day, they all know that they are loved!

Wedding Pictures

After each child had opened their presents and had played with their own gifts for a while, they began the exchanges—kids enjoying each other’s gifts! We ended the night playing a Christmas “Tom and Jerry” movie and, last but not least, showing pictures of Marvin and Karen’s wedding. It was nearly 1:00 am by the time the last of us made it to bed.



College student Amanda Lucas of Kentucky spent Christmas helping at the Village.

Christmas Morning

On Christmas morning, before the sun was up, I heard laughter coming from outside. The kids had new gifts and there was no time to sleep! They all slept a bit and woke early to continue playing with their new toys. As it is also our custom, we had pork tamales for breakfast and played the rest of the day.

Christmas Magic

I want to thank all of the wonderful people that gave toward this magical Christmas. It has blessed the kids in ways that we can never comprehend.

I also want to give a special thanks to Amanda Lucas, an amazing young woman who came from Kentucky to spend her Christmas vacation with the kids. She is currently in college and plans to study medicine. We thank her for her time and generosity.

Prayers for New Year’s Blessings

I pray that each of you enter this New Year with the peace and blessings of God. The kids wish to extend their heartfelt thanks for all of the sacrifice that brought such blessing to each of them last night. May God bless you all richly!

—Amy

Sponsor by Lisa Closner
Correspondence and Gift Giving

Correspond with the child(ren) you sponsor and be part of the WWH2H family! Be sure to include a personal photo so the kids can get to know you!

Deadlines in 2011 for mail and small gifts are February 1, May 1, July 1, and October 1. Please contact LisaC@wwh2h.org or 503.753.2993 for more information. —Lisa

Please send correspondence and/or gifts (note new address!):
WWH2H
Attn: Lisa Closner
51 Old Smith-Beckon Road
P.O. Box 372
Carson, WA 98610



The Wedding

Happy New Year!! We came home from the December 11th wedding in Tennessee of our eldest Village son, Marvin and his bride, Karen, praising God for all that was done there. It was a grand time of family with Karen, Marvin, Karen's family and many of our WWH2H family. Marvin's dad, Orlando, and his uncle, Miguel (who has been our construction superintendent on all our WWH2H building projects in Honduras since 2001) were there from Honduras. The new Mr. and Mrs. Ramos left the church in a cloud of bubbles.

2011 English Immersion School

While in Tennessee, we had a meeting with the Serranos about our 2011 plans. We have all prayed extensively and are thinking an English Immersion Elementary School is the next part of God's plan for His Kids. To that end, I am alerting all you prayer warriors to please be on your spiritual knees about this. To be licensed as a private school in Honduras, we have to have a structure that is for that purpose only.

We estimate it will cost \$200,000 to do the construction and outfitting. We are aiming for a September 2011 opening. I cannot humanly fathom that happening, but then 10 years ago, I could not imagine any of this miracle called WWH2H. We will see what God has in mind.

The plan is to retrofit the current boys' complex of five buildings to be the school, and build a new Boys' House with the same efficiency of the newer Girls' and Babies' Houses. The estimated cost will be \$200,000: \$90,000 for a new Boys' House, \$10,000 to retrofit the current building and dining hall complex as a school, and \$100,000 for material, equipment, programs, and furnishings for the school.

We will be looking for "volunteers" to teach for a year.

From the President's Desk

by Mary Frenter



A small monthly stipend will be covered by the tuition fees of half the students who will attend from the surrounding towns. The Guest House, as well as the rooms above the kitchen, will be teaching staff living quarters.

The school will hold preschool through 5th grade the first year, adding another grade each year after that. Since last August, we have had a full-time ESL teacher, Maria Elena, at the Village. She is funded with a private donation to teach ESL to our kids, but we will need six more teachers for the new school. If you know anyone who may be interested in donating a year to teach in Honduras, please let me know.

New Web Site!

Check out the newly revised web site at wwh2h.org. Thank you to our WWH2H Tech Supervisor, Brian Ross!

2nd Annual Summer English Immersion Program

Children coming from our Village to the U.S. as part of the 2nd Annual WWH2H Summer English Immersion Program will travel with the Serranos when they come for their furlough June 15th through August 15th. So far, three children are already sponsored.

Haiti

Please pray with us about what God would have us develop in Haiti. He has provided many new Haiti contacts since our February 2010 team and seems to be setting the stage for WWH2H to begin a work there. Please contact me if you are being led to help

us with wise counsel, funds, or to volunteer for a mission team to Haiti.

Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep

Our children were blessed with brand new high-quality mattresses in early December, thanks to a private donation to cover their cost. The children cried when they saw them and told Amy this gift of comfort was all they needed for Christmas.

Funding Needs for 2011

- \$1200 to replace 12 fans in bedrooms, otherwise the heat is unbearable for the kids to sleep.
- \$3000 to complete an unfinished building on the church property to reopen the Beauty School. We have seven girls who are only four months away from graduation of their two-year Beauty School program.
- \$3500 to fix ongoing water issues since last year's earthquake: a pressure tank, some new pipes, a settling tank, and a back flush system.
- Clinic needs two compressors for the dental suites, an ambulance, generator, more supplies and medicines.
- We are hoping to send a container in 2011 with donated items for the Village, new school, and clinic.

Blessings in 2011

May our God and Savior Jesus Christ continue to bless each of you as you seek His Face each day for your marching orders. I pray they include marching to Honduras to help Him with one of His many projects for His kids. If so, let me know. We already have 16 teams scheduled to serve in 2011! You are welcome to join one of them, or see me about organizing one of your own. Thank you for your continuing prayers and support for this amazing work of God in Honduras called WWH2H.

—Mary



2011 Missions Calendar

- January 7-11: **WWH2H 10-Year Anniversary Book Project.** Paula Dana & Carrie Aadland. Closed.
- January 26-February 2: **Bruce Van Natta Crusade Team.** Contact Pastor Tom Graves at 715.423.5990.
- February 1-12: **Medical/Dental Team.** Contact Kim Sharp at 360.431.5530.
- February 19-March 1: **Construction Team.** Contact John Atherton at 503.913.1472.
- February 25-March 4: ***Mercy Ships.**
- February 25-March 5: **Fellowship Sustainability Team.** Closed.
- March 12-19: ***Mercy Ships.**
- March 15-26: **Women's Ministry Retreat Team.** Contact Linda Eby at 503.622.3561.
- June 1-11: **High School Team.** Contact Rick Stephens at 503.789.5327.
- June 15-August 15: **Serranos Furlough and Summer English Immersion Program in U.S.**
- July 16-26: ***Mercy Ships.**
- Summer 2011: **Youth Mission Team.** Contact Pastor Alex at 208.457.2463.
- August 12-20: **Maintenance/Letter Writing Team.** Contact Rick Stephens at 503.789.5327.
- August 19-28: **MRI Dental Team.** Contact Claudia Blazer at 425.284.2603.
- September 17-27: ***Mercy Ships.**
- November 12-20: **Maintenance/Letter Writing/Christmas Prep Team.** Contact Lisa Closner at 503.753.2993.

** Mercy Ships Teams are coordinated by Gary & Sylvia Thacker at 903.939.7103.*

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@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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