



Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

Grateful for Blessings in 2011

¡Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo!! Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to you all! What a wonderful blessing 2011 was for WWH2H. I stand in amazement at all that the Lord has done and will continue to do. There is so much excitement in the air about all that lies ahead in Honduras. Let's look back at all that has happened: the teen girls moved to our home in Puerto Cortes; the WWH2H Clinic opened on the church property; the preschool, kindergarten, and 1st grade private school opened at the Village; and so many more wonderful things! Thank you, Jesus!

School Vacation Studies

In Honduras, the school year runs from February through November. The kids are enjoying their vacation,

however they are continuing to study. Our plan for this school year is to have the kids in tutoring until August when we hope to have all the pre-school through 6th grade kids in our own private school with bilingual education. Ashley Kwasney, the director of our school, has been providing our mommies with worksheets of math and writing to improve their skills. The kids are also in intensive English classes with Maria our English teacher.

College Plans for Recent Graduates

One of the greatest rewards in this ministry is to see the glimmers of success in the children and adults that we serve. There is a real sense of accomplishment in our hearts as we see each child pass mile markers in their lives. This is especially profound when you know that those markers would not

Village Report

by Amy Serrano
Honduras
National Director



be met if the Lord had not intervened in their lives when He did and brought them to the Village. One such way that we see progress is having the honor of celebrating their graduations with them.

This year we were twice blessed with two of our kids graduating high school. The first is Norman who graduated on the 9th of December. Norman turned 19 in November and actually has moved back home with

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Many girls in Honduras don't have goals beyond finding a boyfriend and having children. We encourage our girls to have goals for their future and pursue education and training that give them a living. Susana Ramos (at right) graduated from high school and plans to go on to medical school next year! We are so proud of her!



Village Update

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his mother after six years growing up at the Village. We have continued to help him with his education. Well, it paid off! We proudly marched him down the aisle. He hopes to continue studying in college.

Susana Ramos graduated on December 21st. Susana is the sister of Marvin, Wendy, and Amabilia our first family from Los Flores where many of the children at the Village come from. Susana wants to continue on to college and hopes to start medical school in January. We are so proud of Norman and Susana and are praying for them both as they move on to their college studies.

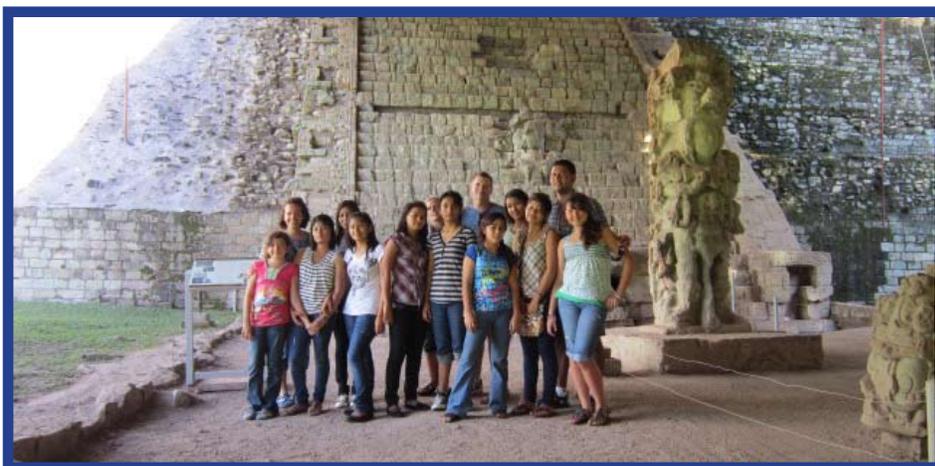
Grown Son and Daughter-in-Law Return for Visits

Any of you with grown children that have moved away can understand what it is like to have them come home for a visit. Marvin moved away last December to marry his wonderful wife Karen. He came to visit during the Thanksgiving holiday. He was only able to come for three days, but it was such a blessing to see him again.

Then we had the added blessing of seeing Marvin's wife Karen and her sister Leah a few weeks later. Karen and Leah spent a week at the Village helping with the kids and with arranging Christmas outfits for the



Eric and Laura Smith visited in December and took the teen girls on a trip to Copán. They ate at a real pizza parlor and visited local Mayan ruins.



kids. It was so wonderful to see them both again. Thank you both so much for all that you do for this ministry!

Christmas Visit by the Smiths

We have been so blessed this month as well by the visit of some very good friends Eric and Laura Smith. They were a tremendous blessing to our family as well as to the

teen girls that live at our house. First they took the girls on an overnight excursion to Copán. Copán is a beautiful old Spanish village set next to some very significant Mayan ruins.

The girls toured the ruins, ate at a real pizza parlor, and spent a night in a very nice hotel. It was such an amazing experience for these girls. Also the Smiths spent all Christmas Eve baking cookies and making fudge with the girls. These were then shared by all of the kids at our annual Christmas party celebrated at the Village. It was such a blessing to have Eric and Laura with us and we hope to have them return someday soon!

God bless you all! —Amy



The Smiths helped the teen girls bake cookies and make fudge on Christmas Eve to give to all the children at the Village. This is a monumental undertaking for 80 children!



Christmas Celebrations

No January newsletter would be complete without a full report on the joys of Christmas night. The tradition in Honduras is to celebrate all the festivities of Christmas on the night of the 24th, and the 25th is simply an extremely laid back time of relaxing with your family, playing with your new toys, and eating traditional Honduran tamales.

Christmas Preparations

We begin to prepare for Christmas in August. This includes bringing down gifts and outfits, and planning the Christmas banquets and fund raisers hosted by various different churches and individuals. It is always amazing for me to see the incredible amount of love, time, and effort by so many so that these kids can experience such a magical time.

Christmas Food

Christmas motion begins somewhere around the 23rd as the cornmeal for making the tamales is cooked down. Tamales are a community project as all of the children, housemothers, and volunteers join together to assemble the very labor intensive, but oh so good holiday favorites.

Christmas Clothing

In the afternoon of the 24th, the kids have showers and put on their new clothes. With girls' hair done in pony tails or braids and everybody's shoes shined and faces smiling, each child arrives at the Christmas party looking NOTHING like orphans. They resemble something more like children loved by God, loved by a large and wonderful family.

Christmas Bags

We begin the party by giving each child what has become a tradition here at the Village: a bag containing an apple, a can of soda, and a candy bar (this year it was M&Ms!). We put on the loudspeakers and cranked up the Christmas tunes.

Christmas by Candlelight

We were just starting to serve Christmas dinner when the lights went out! I was very disappointed, but we lit candles and continued to serve the dinner (pork leg, rice, and veggies, potato salad, rolls, soda, and fudge, cookies, and magic cookie bars for desert). Then I began to hear the sound of singing. The kids were not going to let the darkness get them down, so they turned it into a candlelight

by Amy Serrano
Honduras National Director

caroling event. We ate by candlelight and then the power came back on.

Christmas Presents

We hurried to get the presents downstairs so that we could give them out before the lights went out again. We bowed our heads and prayed for you and all of the wonderful people that sacrificed so much for this amazing night. We prayed that you were having just as much fun!

Each child was called forward to receive his/her gift. Halfway through the gift giving, the lights went out again! We continued in the dark until all the children and staff members had their gifts. The kids were a little sad that they couldn't see to play with their new toys and that we weren't going to be able to watch what has become the traditional Christmas night movie. The kids were preparing for bed when the lights came back on, and we watched our movie anyway!

What really touches me about this event is the way that these kids are loved by so many! All I can say so humbly is thank you so much for loving them as though they are your very own children. It is making such a difference in their lives. Happy New Year from the Village! —Amy

Preschool Profile

Written by Pastor Ashley Kwasney, Director of the English Immersion School at Children's Village



Blanca is the sweetest, cutest little 4-year-old I know. I would take her home with me but Gary says, "no." She is always smiling and tries hard to please. Blanca loves learning and just absorbs everything that is happening in the room. She knows all her colors in English and Spanish and can count to ten in both languages also. Her favorite thing to play with in preschool is the kitchen but she also loves the Legos when I am sitting there playing with her. Blanca's eyes are always glued on me, to see what I am doing or saying. She repeats everything. She is not afraid to try new words or new games. Blanca is quick to answer questions during story time and is helpful to the other kids around her. She will definitely be ready for kindergarten in the fall. I don't know what God has planned for Blanca, but I am glad I get to be a part of "training her up in the way she should go." I am praying that God will reveal Himself to Blanca as she continually learns more about Him in preschool.



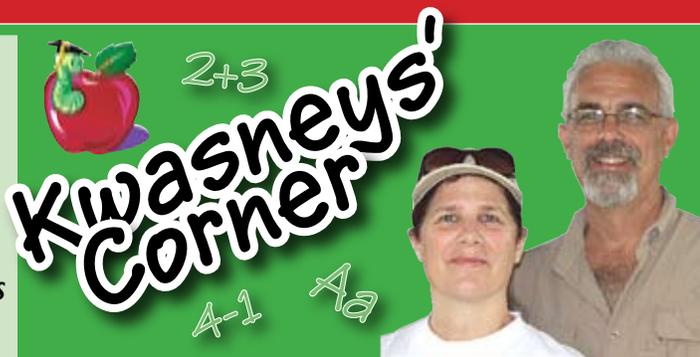
Buenas tardes, amigos!
Gary and I celebrated our 34th wedding anniversary on December 3rd in the mountains of Honduras. What an adventure! Gary planned it all out and made reservations at the D&D Brewery in the little town of Los Naranjos on Lake Yojoa. I don't have enough space to tell the whole story, but just the drive was full of traffic, rain, potholes, and missed turns while lacking street lights and signs.

D&D Brewery is owned by an American, and we fell in love with this little place. It is about an acre and you would think you were in the middle of the rain forest. Every building is surrounded by foliage. There are hummingbirds flitting around everywhere, as well as other exotic birds. They have several dormitories and three cabins. There are three dining areas—all outside under pavilions surrounded by more jungle. There are paths wandering around the property. Everyone gets to know everyone else in the evening, sitting around the fire pit or playing board games. We met a couple from Germany and five Army guys from the U.S. stopped in for lunch. We had a wonderful, quiet time.

Back at school, I'm so proud to announce that the 1st graders are **READING IN ENGLISH!** I am just so excited! They are, too. They are sounding out words and, even though they don't know what all the words mean, they are reading them.

We have learned a little about how Hondurans celebrate Christmas. From what we have observed, Christmas traditions begin with a team coming in November to help set up a Christmas tree in each house and make cookies with the kids. The team also wraps presents and fills the kids' gift bags. These are kept in the apartment above the boys' kitchen until Christmas Eve. Then on Christmas Eve, we learned that their tradition is to celebrate all night long. Well, let me tell you what happened this year. . .

The Serranos, their guests, and all the older Village kids who live in town descended on the Village that afternoon to spend the night and celebrate Christmas with us. The mommies have a tradition of cooking tamales (Honduran style) for Christmas. The mommies cooked all day Friday to prepare tamales. Then on Saturday they cooked all day to prepare for the wonderful Christmas Eve dinner they served.



Pastor Ashley and Gary Kwasney have moved lock, stock, and barrel to volunteer for WWH2H at the new school. Here is an update on progress at the school.

All the kids showered and dressed in nice new clothes (from donors) on Saturday for the festivities. Gary and I did not really know what to expect. The girls and the babies joined us from their houses. Let the fun begin!

Oscar handed out bags with a

soda, an apple, and some candy to each of the kids. They all commenced their sugar high with gusto. Some kids not eating all the junk, saying they were saving it for later. I am always fascinated to observe different personalities react differently in a given situation.

As dark descended on the Village, it began to rain. Seems to be the norm for this time of year. All the kids were hanging out in the patio area and Oscar brought out his laptop to put on some Christmas music. We were not far into this when what should happen? Yes, some of you know . . . the lights went out. Unlike our American children, these kids did not panic, not even the babies. All the adults scrambled to find candles and flashlights. Thank goodness for cell phones lights.

Dinner was served with the kids lining up into two lines—girls and boys. The babies were served first. I held a flashlight pointed down the passageway to the dining room so that everyone could go in and sit without tripping over the little steps. With little lanterns and flashlights here and there, everyone enjoyed an awesome meal of meat (several meats cooked together), rice with gravy, potato salad, and bread. And the lights came back on to everyone's delight.

After dinner and a little clean-up, everyone gathered in the boys' dining room for the giving of the gifts. The kids could hardly contain themselves. Each child was called up and given a gift bag stuffed with gifts and candy from their sponsors and other donors. Halfway through this annual tradition, the lights went out again. Gift giving continued in the dark until each person had received a gift bag. All the kids were happy and tried to show us their gifts.

We planned to let the kids watch a Christmas movie but that wasn't happening without lights. We couldn't let the kids out of the dining room because there is no way to watch 80 kids and keep them safe. They had to stay cooped up in the warm dining room.

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Kwasney's Corner

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Oscar escorted the babies and mommies back to the Babies' House. Halfway through taking the girls back to the Girls' House, the lights came back on. So Oscar turned around and brought the girls back to the Boys' House. The movie was back on!!

Oscar set up the movie in the dining room, and the kids gathered around to watch "Elf" in Spanish. The adults went out onto the patio area to enjoy the cool evening and relax. Kids wandered back and forth from movie to hang out with us. It was a fun evening. I learned that the plan was to stay up all night, but all the kids were in bed by midnight.

Traditionally, Christmas day is a very lazy day in Honduras. Here at the Village, I slept in late and so did all the kids. I did manage to wash a couple

of loads of laundry but that is about all. Gary and I read books. Gary spent a couple of hours in his shop. The kids just played with their toys.

We walked around the Boys' House and found a boy putting a puzzle together on the patio. Around the classroom, we found several boys following the picture directions to put together Lego Transformers. There were boys playing with various sizes of balls and little Zacarias was coloring his gigantic coloring book. Amy and Laura did a little craft with the kids that Denise sent. Everyone enjoyed a little down time. Zulema and the mommies served tamales for breakfast.

We enjoyed sharing in the Christmas traditions at the Village. We want to share a little of our traditions with them next year.

—Ashley and Gary

Reflecting on 2011

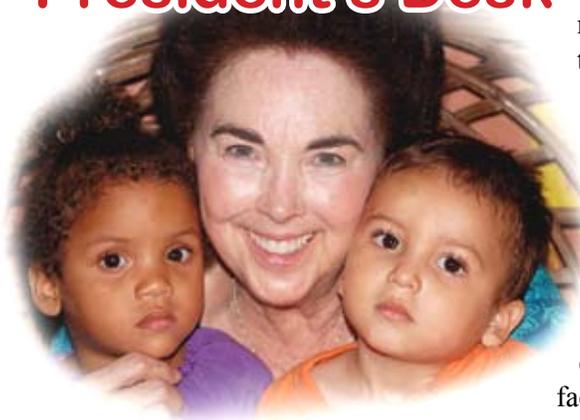
Happy New Year!! This is a time to pause and look back at what God has done in the life of WWH2H in the past year, and to look forward in anticipation of what He has in mind for the coming year. At our Christmas Eve service, pastor asked these questions, "Are you closer to the Lord today than you were a year ago," and "Is God more of a priority to you now than a year ago?" As we submit to Him and seek always a closer walk with Him, I have faith that He will direct our paths. It is the only way our lives, and indeed, this ministry, will be pleasing to Him.

Blessings and Healings

This past year we have seen many give their lives to Jesus. We have seen the miracle of God's love touch broken lives and begin the process of restoration. God blessed us with the beginnings of our new school. He blessed us with several of our children coming to the U.S. for the summer. He blessed us with multitudes of supporters in prayer and finances to keep His work going. He blessed us with a new International Headquarters Office. But most of all, He blessed us with His presence in all things, His

From the President's Desk

by Mary Frenter



wisdom, His guidance, and His love. He uses this ministry to draw all those who come to help, or be helped, closer to Himself. In the end, that is what it is all about. But all this does not come without trials.

Staying the Course

As a direct result of God winning more souls for His Kingdom by His Holy Spirit through this ministry, the heat of the battle is coming closer. We have not escaped the battles but, covered with His Armor, have withstood them all. Many of you are aware of the challenges we have faced in 2011. We have had to make adjustments in keeping with our

commitment to care for, not only the children God has entrusted to us, but the many wonderful teams of His missionaries that travel to Honduras to help.

Youth Teams Cancelled

In light of the increased safety issues in Honduras, we have cancelled the youth teams that were scheduled for 2012. All our adult teams have been notified of the situation, and most have committed to staying the course. In fact, two more teams have joined the troops. I believe in these days, we will all be called upon to take a stand and NOT let Satan have his way.

Prayers for the Coming Battle

I know much of this persecution is the result of the revival which began January 2011 at our Crusade in Puerto Cortes. The January 2012 Crusade will continue this amazing time of strengthening our Honduran brothers and sisters in the Lord. There will be many spiritual and physical healings. Many will be saved for eternity. I ask you to join us in fervent prayer for our frontline soldiers in this battle. To God be the Victory! To God be the Glory!! Amen!

—Mary



— 2012 MISSIONS CALENDAR —

Please pray for the health and safety of our missions:

- January 4-14: **Wisconsin Crusade Team and Pastors' Conference**. Contact Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585 or maryf@wwh2h.org.
- February 14-25: **WWH2H Medical Team**. Contact Mary Renner at maryr@wwh2h.org.
- March 23-31: **EWU Mission Team**. Contact Rick Stephens at ricks@wwh2h.org.
- April 19-23: **Women's Conference**. Kira Maloof.
- May 4-13: **Furman University team**. Contact Lisa Closner at lisac@wwh2h.org.
- September 14-22: **Maintenance Team**. Contact Rick and Rick Stephens at ricks@wwh2h.org.
- September 22-29: **MRI Dental Team**. Contact Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585 or maryf@wwh2h.org.
- October 18-27: **Crazy 8 Women's/Children's Ministries**. Contact Alisa Swarz at 817.798.3441 or alisa@crazy8ministries.com.
- November 8-17: **WWH2H Christmas Prep/Letter Writing Team**. Contact Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585 or maryf@wwh2h.org.

**Mercy Ships Teams are coordinated by Gary Thacker at gary.thacker@mercyships.com*

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!

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 comfort through Christ our comfort overflows.

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