



Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2008

Children's Village: Reaching Them in Time by Amy Serrano

This month I want to introduce two of the liveliest young women I know. They are two young sisters that have been with us for nearly three years. I will call them Heidi and Belinda.

Daughters of a Prostitute

Heidi and Belinda grew up in Tegucigalpa. A small and relatively safe town, just as anywhere, a criminal element does exist. Heidi and Belinda are the daughters of a local prostitute who was also a local gang member.

One day, she showed up at the Village and asked us, with tears in her eyes, if we could take her two daughters. She said that she had committed a crime and that she had to report to prison for a six-year sentence the next day.

Permanent Custody

We initially told the mother that we would not take the girls, that the Village was for children who had no other place to go and no other family. She told us that there was no one that she could trust. We consented to take the girls on one condition—she would sign custody of the girls over to us. If the girls were going to live with us, she could not come back in six years and pull them out of the stable home that we would provide. The girls came to live with us that day.

The Girls Today

Heidi and Belinda are now four and seven years old. Heidi is one of the most lively, self-confident children I know. Belinda is now in the first grade and loves going to school. One thing that is notable with these two girls is that the mother did seem to keep them safe from the lifestyle that she maintained as they show no obvious signs of abuse.

In the Nick of Time

Why did I decide to present this story? The two girls in question have not been grossly emotionally damaged. That is the point. It shows that when you are doing as God has called you to do, you may be there for people,

just in the nick of time, right when they need you. And because you were obedient to God, others' lives may have been saved. I shudder to think of where Heidi and Belinda might be right now if the Village had not been an option for their mother. She may have been forced to leave them with someone that even she did not trust.

Growing Up Safe and Loved

Though they are not with their mother, I am happy to report that Heidi and Belinda are growing up *NOT* knowing what it means to be abused, hungry, uneducated, or live on the streets. And it is all because God, before they were born, knew their situation and had it all figured out. It is because this time, thank God, we weren't too late.

All Because of You

And all this is possible because of you: those of you who came down and gave your heart to build what these kids now call home; those of you who helped send the people who came; those of you who provided funds for the construction. And of course, all of you who continue to give toward the everyday needs of the children and are lifting them up in prayer each day.

Needing Your Help Today

If you are not currently part of our prayer or sponsorship family, I encourage you to prayerfully consider making an investment into the lives of these children who need your help today. God bless all you do in His name.

-Amy



Lindsey (holding Baby William) was part of the Damascus volunteer team that took care of babies while house mothers had a vacation.



Village Report for June 2008

by Amy Serrano
Honduras National Co-Director

This has been an exciting month down here (I think I say that every month). But it really has!

May Fund raising Tour

As many of you know from the last newsletter, Oscar and I spent most of the month of May in the U.S. with ministry president Mary Frenter and her husband Lyle on a fund raising tour from Florida to Texas. We met many wonderful people that are interested in what is going on Honduras and we hope to see them here soon.

Bus Garage

And thanks to Wil and Jane Meckle and all of the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Centralia, Washington, we had work to return to in Honduras. These wonderful people provided the funds for the roof for the bus shelter back in October, and now they have provided funds for the floor that will make it a bus garage. The bus has a nice little home and is out of the elements.

Update on the Children

The children are all doing great. When we were away, one of our babies, Sammy, learned how to walk. Sammy is three years old and grew up in a public orphanage in San Pedro Sula where babies are never taken out of the cribs and often don't learn how to walk.

Miami Kendall Bible Baptist

Allison has a 17-member group coming from the Miami Kendall Bible Baptist Church that we visited in May. This is the group responsible for sending the 40' container that is now sitting in the port of Puerto

Cortes, waiting to be processed and sent on its way to us at the Village in Tegucigalpa. Many items are destined for Allison, some for us, and also some to be given out to the community.

Team members have divided forces. The women are at Allison's house painting, and the men are working at the new WWH2H Headquarters property, which, all praise to God, is going well.



Kathy Cadden of the Miami Kendall Bible Baptist Church coordinated shipping a 40' container of desks and other furniture, equipment and supplies.

Long-Term Volunteers

Bernadette Campbell, or just "B" as we call her, a 21-year-old volunteer from Home Valley, Washington, has been working tirelessly with the babies. She speaks no Spanish, so the kids are learning English. She practiced walking with Sammy for hours each week, and now, let's just say she may be regretting it. He's on the run!



The Geraci Family is going to be helping at the Village for six weeks beginning July 8th. Look for a report from them in the August newsletter!

We also have the blessing of another long-term volunteer, Chelsea Swedberg. She is a nursing school student from Centralia, Washington, and her parents serve on the board of WWH2H. She is working with the Girls' House teaching English, P.E. and math.

Three great young women from Canada joined us for three days in June. They are volunteers from Allison Alexander's ministry (Allison is a missionary working with young girls in Honduras and a great personal friend of ours). We want to thank all our volunteers and wonderful Honduras staff for all that they do. They are truly amazing!

Mercy Ship Team #1

The first 2008 Mercy Ships team has arrived. Gary and Sylvia Thacker (Mercy Ships team coordinators) brought seven volunteers from all over the U.S. and Europe. They are painting in Tegucigalpa. Two of their members speak Spanish and our kids are definitely enjoying their time with them. Gary and Sylvia are staying in this area until the beginning of July to bring another group that will work out at the Village.

The Mercy Ships Team brought the funds to build the entrance and the back end of the sanctuary building. We have a long way to go, but hope to begin holding services in the building by next month. We ask you to keep this in your prayers.

Prayers and Needs

We are so excited about what the Lord is doing. God is providing for our needs and taking care of our kids. We also ask for your prayers for Kevin, one of our three year olds, living at the nursery. Kevin is in the hospital at the moment, battling anemia. We believe that he will be coming home soon.

We thank you for all of your prayers. We are certainly seeing the results! Praise God!!
- Amy



Operation Ukraine

Although their primary focus is the Ukraine, Operation Ukraine also ships containers to Honduras (including two to WWH2H), Tajikistan, Sudan, Somalia, and Moldavia and help get supplies into the Philippines, Kenya, Brazil, and Peru. Kathy Cadden is founder and President of this mission work.

The following are excerpts from the May newsletter of Operation Ukraine:

Phi Theta Kappa Baby Shower

Christopher Wilson, a sophomore at East Mississippi Community College, sponsored a baby shower

drive for baby and infant items for Honduras. Through Wilson's contacts at both EMCC and Mississippi College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, he and Taylor Ray, a friend in that chapter from Columbus, collected almost \$3,000 worth of items. There was enough to send some to Honduras for WWH2H Children's Village and some to the orphanages in the Ukraine.

Medical Needs for Kenya

Recently, Larry Wilson of Operation Ukraine was traveling on Southwest Airlines. A man asked if he could take the window seat, as this airline has open seating. As the flight took off, they started chatting and it became known that he was a medical doctor home from St. Mary's hospital in Nairobi, Kenya. He was home raising support for his mission work.

He very casually stated that he was in need of certain items to take back with him this month.

Dr. Michael Johnson couldn't have been more surprised when Wilson casually told him Operation Ukraine could provide some of his needed items. We have shipped several thousands of dollars of needed sutures and operating room tools.

Container Craze

The container for Ukraine that was loaded before Christmas was unloaded in February at the Chernobyl hospital in Konstanovka, Ukraine. This shipment contained \$245,360 worth of humanitarian aid.

For more information about Operation Ukraine, contact:

Kathy Cadden: 662.549.2416

kathy.cadden.ukraine@gmail.com

By the Grace of God, He has found sponsors for many of our children listed without sponsors in the April newsletter. With the addition of our two newest children (no photos yet), Mariela (age 11) and Elder (age 8), we now have 14 children who still need sponsors:

These Children Need Sponsors



Jose Cruz
11 years old



Karen
10 years old



Juan Carlos
10 years old



Karla
9 years old



Nhuan
8 years old



Dilcia
10 years old



Mayra
7 years old



Darwin
5 years old



Cristian
4 years old



Kevin
3 years old



Daniel
1 year old



William (Edgar)
6 months old

Bernadette's Blessings

Due to so much news in June, here is the June and July "Hello" from Bernadette:

I have lots of fun updates. I am no longer the only "Gringa" here, as Chelsea Swedberg joined me this month. The boys and girls have really taken to her. Also, Christian's little brother Braynan, age 10, has joined our family, as well as Elder, little brother to Juan Carlos, Olga, Danilo and Marizol. Both boys are just as happy as can be and have settled in very nicely.

With the return of Oscar and Amy from their fundraising trip to the southern USA, came the new paved area for the bus by the shop.

This past couple of weeks we have had a refreshing break from the hot sun with rain. It has been really nice but unfortunately, what comes with rain is no power.

I have some prayer requests: the babies and the other two helpers at the baby house are battling colds. Please pray for speedy recoveries for all of them. Life here is amazing and the Lord has really blessed me by letting me be here and a part of these kids' lives.

-Bernadette



From the President by Mary Frenter

Many blessings continue to rain upon God's work in Honduras through WWH2H. There have been two Mercy Ships teams working for us this past month. Carolyn Williams from Buffalo, Texas spent a week helping us at the Village. The container from Kendall Baptist Bible Church in Miami, Florida, arrived along with a visit from a mission team from their church. Included in the container shipment were two cold water drinking fountains. What a blessing!! Thank you and God's blessings to everyone who has made June a special time for our kids and this ministry.

Upcoming Missions

July 8-23, Team Leader Lisa Closner and her assistant Mandy Russau from Oregon, will coordinate two teams: a team from The Rock

Church in Lynnwood, Washington, and a team from Oregon. Also this month, the Geraci family from Greenwood Village, Colorado will arrive to spend six weeks of their summer helping at the Village. Look for news from these teams in the August newsletter.

Three New Kids

We have three new children that just arrived at the Village. I am not even sure of their names and ages yet. Please pray for them, that they will have a smooth transition into our family.

Thanks to God and Everyone

Thank you everyone who prays for God to bless our kids and this ministry. Without your prayers, monthly support and volunteering, this work would not happen. God bless you!! *-Mary*

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. 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 lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

wwhzh.org
Heart to Heart
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