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GREETINGS FROM HONDURAS !



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Hello everyone:

Well, we've only had this building open for three years, and already we need to expand. If it wasn't for the fact that our building nearly fills our lot, I would be begging for someone to come down and build an addition. This year we have 20 beds and 23 students. Yes, we have 6 girls doubled up in 3 twin sized beds. But, how could I say no? We actually did have to turn down a number of girls this year, but accepted as many as we could.

There really isn't enough room in the sewing rooms for 23 sewing machines plus cutting tables, so we have removed one of the tables and added it to our gigantic dining room table. Still, we are sitting elbow to elbow at meal times.

We have an excellent group of girls again this year, all of whom seem to have a desire to concentrate on their studies and learn. This year along with Maria Lidia, who has been helping for the past few years supervising the girls' chores and being with them at night, we have added Rosaldalia to our staff. She too is a former student from our class of 2002. She is working alongside Maria Lidia helping to supervise their activities. What a blessing these two girls are to me. They are doing an excellent job of freeing me up to have time to do more of the administration work involved in having this number of girls in residence.

We have also added Serena to our staff this year. She is a missionary who has a home for abandoned children here in Trujillo. She is taking two afternoons a week, while her children are in school, to teach the English class for us. I am so grateful for her willingness to help us out this year.

Of course, Erica is still here, and although she is still suffering with a very painful back she is teaching her classes and is happily involved with the girls. She has such a love for them.

Our sewing instructor Santiaga, and our cooking instructor Enma, are here again and are excited about the new year and all the new students.

We have also added another class to our schedule. The national trade school (INFOP) has a school here in Trujillo. They have volunteered to give classes to our girls during the school year, which will give them certificates in the subjects they are taught. They are starting this year with a 36-hour class in sewing machine maintenance. Hopefully, with this class the girls will be better prepared to care for their machines when they graduate and are home in their villages.

We have one of our scholarship students living with us this year, Keyni. She is a graduate of our Center and has completed her first three years of high school under a scholarship from us. She is now at the point of beginning to study for her career. She has chosen teaching, and since the teaching school is here in Trujillo she will be living with us for the next 3 years while attending.

We are also frequently visited by our graduates Joselyn and Dania who are starting this year under a scholarship to attend high school. Since they have classes in the afternoon, they are coming in to town each day, to spend the mornings with us and eat lunch before heading for school. It makes me so happy to know these girls feel so much at home with us that they just naturally come here to be with us. The first words out of their mouths usually are "I'm hungry, is there anything to eat". Yes, they are home.

Every girl that passes through the doors of our Center is precious, in our eyes, but especially in the eyes of God.

Thank you for praying for:

Icela, Lilibian, Johanna, Maylin, Damary, Emelina, Rubi, Susana, Keyni, Elda, Wendy, Meydi, Xiomara, Yolani, Keydy, Rosaida, Angelica, Belkis, Sindi, Victoria, Anabel, Cintia, Norma Maria Lidia and Rosaldalia

Erica and Wilfred, Serena, Santiago, and Enma and me.

God bless you all and thank you for your faithful support of our ministry. I know God has wonderful things in store for this year and I am excited!

In His Service (and loving it)

Sharon