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GREETINGS FROM HONDURAS !



Good morning! July, 2006

It is early Monday morning and I am in the office at the Ministry Center, waiting for our girls to return from their weekend at home.

The first to arrive will be Dania and Joselin. They are from a Garifuna village about 20 km from Trujillo. They are both 12 years old and orphans. One is being raised by an aunt the other by her grandmother. We don't normally take girls until they are 15 years old, but made an exception in the case of these girls because of their home situation.

The next to come will be Nelis. She comes from a village in the department of Yoro, too far to go home for the weekends. She stays with a sister here in Trujillo on the weekends, and has only seen her mom twice since February. Yorlani should come next, but that depends on her mother who is expecting her third child. Yorlani has had to miss many of her classes this year to care for her mother and little sister. Once the baby is born, there is a good chance she will be expected to stay home and babysit. After Yorlani, will come the girls from San Francisco, including Maria Lidia whom many of you know from her trip to Canada with me a few years ago. She has graduated from our course but is now a scholarship student taking a computer course here in town and living with us while she studies. The other girls will arrive over the morning, depending on the distance they have to travel, with the last to arrive being our two girls from the city of LaCeiba.

This has been a "stretching" year for us, since the girls all come from very different areas of Honduras, different life styles and different cultures. Some are city girls with gang members for former boy friends, some are girls from fishing villages and some are from isolated mountain villages. Many of the girls are not from Christian homes and haven't made a profession of faith. As a result we have had some very different challenges this year, which is good in that it has made us even more aware of the necessity of continually calling on the Lord for wisdom, patience and understanding. But, He is faithful and is providing what we need.

Here it is July already. We are now at the half way point for this school year, and I can hardly believe how fast the last 5 months have flown by. Last week we said goodbye to Ruth North who has spent the past 6 months with us. She was a big asset to the ministry during her stay and we are all going to miss her. She taught English and recreation besides a few "beauty" classes, stressing inner as well as outer beauty. Now it is time for me to put on my running shoes and take over those classes once again. I know the girls as well as Erica and I have benefited from Ruth's presence and her friendship and it was hard to say goodbye. We pray God's blessing on her, and know that as she daily walks in His presence He will be her guide.

Erica is also temporarily away, in the States. On her visit there last month she was diagnosed with glaucoma and had surgery just last week. Now she is waiting for the doctor's "okay" to fly back to Honduras. She figures she will be back by the end of July.

One of our girls, Alba is in the States as well for surgery on her leg. Several years ago she had one of her legs amputated below the knee and was fitted with a prosthesis. Since then, she has grown and the prosthesis no longer fits and has been causing her a great deal of pain where it has been rubbing on the bone. Finally last month she received an appointment from the Children's hospital in Louisiana for surgery and a new prosthesis. She will be there for several months.

Well, the girls are starting to arrive and I must go and get things organized for the day. Thank you for your continued support. You are important to us.

Thank you also for the time you take to pray for us!

Please pray for:

1. Erica as she recovers from her surgery
2. Alba as she has her surgery
3. Ruth as she returns to her life in Canada
4. Yorlani's mom who is having a difficult time with this pregnancy
5. Dania who is fighting God's love
6. For me as I try, with God's help to hold everything together until Erica returns to help.

May God richly bless each of you as you continue to serve Him!

With much love from us all,

Sharon Francis