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GREETINGS FROM HONDURAS !



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Dear Friends:

This letter has been hard to start. It has been a tough week, so today I am especially thankful for your prayers. Working with teenage girls can be such a blessing, but, along with those blessings, often comes an overwhelming sadness when we see the choices these girls sometimes make.

We just got back from driving one of our first-year girls home. This week she chose to take off and spend Monday with an older, married, man - the driver of the bus that brings her to Trujillo. Apparently this is not the first time she has done this. Today, she came to the Center and told us she had been sick and was staying with her aunt in another town. Of course, when we phoned her family, they knew nothing about her being sick or of the non-existent aunt. I'll be honest; I am struggling with how to deal with this.

Another one of our girls comes from a family with a long history of witchcraft. Her grandmother was a witch, and her father is carrying on the tradition. Lately she has been having terrible recurring nightmares. In her dreams, her grandmother, who is dead, is telling her that she is coming for her mother, who is an abused wife, in order for her to have some peace. She wakes up crying and shaking, and is almost inconsolable. Dreams are a very real part of the culture here, and many of the people believe that their ancestors communicate with them through dreams. This is a serious spiritual battle and we covet your prayers.

One of our girls stayed with us last weekend. Why? Because her parents were fighting and told her they didn't want to see her any more.

Three weeks ago the son of a friend of ours was kidnapped and held for a very large ransom, since the family is quite wealthy. He was held in a house, tied and blindfolded for a week, until the police found him. The parents are not Christians, but are now convinced that there is power in prayer. They believe that it was God who intervened and led the police to their son before he was harmed. We are praying for their salvation.

It would be easy for me to just tell you the happy things about our work here in Honduras, but I felt I had to share some of the negatives with you as well, to show you how you can pray for us. As I've said so many times before, without your prayers we couldn't be here. We need an extra dose of protection, wisdom, and discernment, just to get through each day.

But, as I said there are happy times as well. A couple of weeks ago, our girls ministered in the youth service at our church with a mime/dance. It was beautiful to see our girls praising God in this way.

Once a week we take the girls to the Youth service at our church, which is always attended by more than 100 teens from Trujillo. It is a great outreach to teenagers who would otherwise be on the streets involved with gangs, drugs, and so on. It is also a place where our girls love to go where their lives are being touched and changed.

In April, we enjoyed a visit from Rev. Lester and Pat Markham and Marlyse Essex. What a blessing they were to us. All three of them ministered in various ways and touched the lives of many people. Pat ministered in ladies meetings here in Trujillo and in the village of Palos de Agua. Lester spoke in Guatelupe Carne and here at our church in Trujillo, besides teaching the English class here at the Center, while Marlyse used her sewing skills to teach the girls. She was also a great help along with Jean Turner preparing the refreshments for the ladies meetings. Thank you for coming. You have no idea how much you lifted my spirits, while you were here ministering to others.

Also a big thank you to Jean Turner, who was here for a month - one that went by far too fast. Just having her here to help with all the little things that come up every day, and being here to listen to me talk, was wonderful. Sometimes I need someone to share my "ups and downs" with, and she was here at just the right time. Thank you Jean.

Last month after 4 years of paperwork, paperwork, and more paperwork, combined with I don't know how many visits to our lawyer or how many phone calls, we finally have our legal registration for our ministry here in Honduras. This is such a relief and now we can begin to think about expansion.

Well, the girls are here and getting ready for afternoon classes. I have been interrupted at least 6 times since starting this letter, so I think I should get it sent.

As I think I say nearly every time I write, Thank you for your prayers. I really am thankful for each and every one of you who pray. Also, for those of you who are supporting this work with your finances. Thank you as well. It is expensive to clothe, educate, and feed this number of girls, but you are making it possible.

Thank you, and may God richly bless you in the same way that you are blessing us.

In His Service,
Sharon