

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES TO CENTRAL AMERICA

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**GREETINGS FROM HONDURAS !**

March, 2006

Dear Friends:

I wish you could be here to share our joy. Maybe for the majority of you having 15 teenaged girls running around the house talking, singing, running up and down the stairs, slamming doors and playing their music isn't your definition of joy, but for me it is.

We prayed that God would send the girls to us this year that needed to be here and we believe He has answered that prayer. We have girls ranging in age from 11 to 24 years old. We have girls from 4 different departments or provinces of Honduras. Some are from the city of LaCeiba, others live a 3 hour horse back ride up in the mountains. Some only have a grade 2 education, others have finished grade 6. They are all individuals, with very different personalities and needs, but they all have two things in common, a need for an education and a need to have someone love them. In a practical way our classes will help meet their need for an education, and we pray that we will be able to meet their need for love by embracing them with the love that only comes from our heavenly Father.

Our classes opened officially for the year on February 13. Once again Santiago and Enma are teaching their classes in sewing and cooking. These classes are very important for our girls, teaching them practical skills that will help them obtain future employment. Erica will continue with her classes in Bible studies, Child care, and a study on a Woman's relationship to God, besides being invaluable in the kitchen helping the girls learn that there is more than one way to cook chicken!! We are also blessed this year with the help of Ruth North who will be with us for at least half of the year teaching English and recreation. I wish the Power Walk ladies from Glad Tidings could see how cute our girls look in the shorts and t-shirts they provided for recreation. Thank you ladies!!! Having Ruth here is helping to free me up to concentrate more on the administration work - which still doesn't seem to get done?. She is also taking turns with Erica and me sleeping at the Center during the week which is also a tremendous help. We are still praying that God will provide a house mother to live in residence, but we want God's best, the person He has chosen.

Besides our girls in the Center, we also have a group of girls who are a part of our scholarship program. This year there are 6 girls who we have been able to register in high school and one more who is taking a computer course. This is exciting for us.

Most of the girls have gone through our program and shown an interest in continuing their education. This would not be possible if it wasn't for the help of you who are contributing to this fund. These girls are not living in residence with us but in their homes. Besides their registration, books, uniforms and projects, we are paying their bus fares back and forth to the towns nearest them with a high school. We would have liked to have had them here with us, but unfortunately older students here in Trujillo have to go to school at night which would mean coming home from school at 10:00 or 11:00 at night. In the towns where they are registered they are able to go during the day which is much better.

With 15 girls and 3 teachers, it is quite an experience traveling in our vehicle to our church's youth service on Wednesday nights. You can only imagine what it is like to be crammed into a vehicle with 18 people. But it is certainly worth it. The girls thoroughly enjoy the interaction with other young people in the city. That group generally has between 85 and 95 teenagers and about 10 of us who are teenagers at heart. Our pastor's wife has a heart for teenagers, and is the organizer of these weekly meetings. I know she covets your prayers for strength and wisdom in directing this great ministry.

Last week we had the wonderful experience of seeing two of our new girls accept the Lord as their Savior during Erica's Bible study. Please continue to pray for our girls as several of them have not as yet made a commitment to the Lord.

Please pray:

For wisdom, patience and understanding for Santiago, Enma, Erica, Ruth and me as we endeavor to work with these girls.

For the girls who have accepted Christ that they will grow in their Christian walk.

For those that still have not accepted Christ that they will make that commitment.

For all the finances necessary to feed, cloth and educate these girls.

For Wilfred who is still struggling with his health.

For Erica's house situation which is still not settled after 4 years of waiting.

For our Honduran non-profit registration that it will finally come through.

For protection here in the Center and when we are traveling since because of the escalating problem with gangs and robbers, traveling on our highways is often not safe.

For good health for the girls and health and strength for us as we continue to serve the Lord in this special place.

10. For our girls - Sunilda, Lilian, Isis, Blanca, Maria Lidia, Nelys, Yorleni, Vilma, Jessi, Jocelyn, Dania, Wuindi, Nora, Alba, Victoria.

Thank you.

We have so much to thank you for:

1. Of course we are grateful for your financial help. Without that we would not be here, and would not be able to carry on this ministry.
2. We are also thankful to those men and women who have come to Honduras on short term missions trips and worked on the Center.
3. We are thankful to the groups that will be coming down this spring to do maintenance work on the Center.
4. We are thankful for the Board of Directors who take so much of their valuable time to oversee the running of the Center from the Canadian side.

5. We are thankful to those of you who have contributed to special projects like the sewing machine fund and the scholarship fund.
6. We are thankful for the Power Walk ladies who took it upon themselves to provide outfits for the girl's gym classes.
7. We are thankful to those of you who provide for the every day running of the home, providing the finances for upkeep, food, education, medical needs and all the other major and minor expenses involved.
8. Thank you to Esther Bowering who has taken on the ministry of keeping our Web site up to date. What a blessing!

Thank you for your involvement in this ministry. Thank you for caring for these girls. I wish you could get to know them all personally, they are great kids. We thank you especially for YOUR PRAYERS. Because of them we are ?more than conquerors?.

I know God will bless you richly as you continue to serve Him.

In His Service

Sharon Francis