

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES TO CENTRAL AMERICA
17 - 3340B Tennyson Ave, Victoria, B.C., CANADA, V8Z 3P3
MISION VERDAD Y VIDA ~ APDO 18, Trujillo, Colon, Central America, 32101
E-mail:sharonhonduras@yahoo.ca ~ Phone # 011-504-434-4072
www.islandnet.com/cmca



GREETINGS FROM HONDURAS !



March, 2007

Hello everyone:

It hardly feels like a year has past since I wrote about our last years opening day. Now here I am again, another year and another group of great girls.

This year things are a bit "livelier", a bit "noisier" and a bit more crowded. I am now the proud mother of 20 beautiful, bouncing, teenaged girls.... Not many people can say that. All our beds are full and despite the fact that they eat twice as much as the last year's group and there is twice as much activity, it is a happy place.

It was great to welcome back our 9 second year students and welcome for the first time our 11 new students. It is always fun to listen to their comments and opinions of the house. I overheard one of the new girls speaking to her mom on the phone as she said "this place is beautiful, I don't think I'll come home." Of course, she did go home for the weekend, but it is nice to know they enjoy being here.

This year we are blessed to have some additional staff which is a great help to us. Ruth North has once again come to our rescue, and is helping out this year covering for Erica while she is off sick. Jean Turner is here and is helping me out by sleeping at the Centre and overseeing the girls during the evening and early morning hours. Maria Lidia is also helping out this year; overseeing the girl's chores and helping Jean learn the routines. All this help is giving me the opportunity to sleep at home, which is wonderful. I'm still putting in 12 to 14 hour days, but just being able to sleep in my own bed makes it a lot easier.

Because of the number of girls we have a very strict time schedule, beginning with morning chores "as early as they can wake up.", then breakfast at 7:00 a.m. and classes begin at 7:45. Classes go on all day until 4:00 p.m. except for the lunch break, then in the evenings it is either homework, church or on Thursday nights we have video night. Bedtime is 9:00 p.m., which might seem early but when you consider the hour they get up, they are tired by that time and ready to sleep.

We are still active, helping with our local church's Youth group, a great group of about 75 teenagers. It has become a part of the Centre's program to attend every Wednesday night. Last night some of our girls were able to minister in dance during the service and it was exciting to see the sincerity in their faces as they danced for the Lord. I can see a spiritual growth in our second year girls that excites me. A group of this size is of course mixed. Some of our girls have accepted the Lord, others are still waiting, but regardless, they are all being fed the Word and the promise is "so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve

the purpose for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11.

On this same subject we have been given the opportunity by the Honduran Bible Society to participate in a program to read the New Testament in a year. They provided us with dramatized Cd's which follow the Bible word for word. We have provided the girls with Bibles so that as the scriptures are read they can follow along. They listen for two half hour sessions a week and then, following the reading, write a brief summary of what they have heard and read. Just last week they finished reading Matthew, and today are writing a summary of the book. Next week we will continue on with Mark.

We are also encouraging the girls to memorize scripture with their “scripture of the week” which is posted on the bulletin board each week. So far every one of them have memorized the scriptures (maybe because I threaten them that they can't go home if they don't....) and repeat them on Fridays before catching their buses home for the weekend.

We are continuing with all of our other classes as well, Christian Education, Life Preparation, Recreation, English, Sewing, and Cooking. Once again Santiaga and Enma are here working to help train the girls in Culinary arts and Sewing. These two ladies are a great help to the program and would be hard to replace.

We were sad to learn a couple of weeks ago that Jeronimo, the man who has worked as our grounds keeper for the past 18 years, passed away suddenly in the hospital. He had been complaining of generally feeling unwell and of pain in his right side. Unfortunately, as is so often the case here in Honduras, no one really knows what he was suffering from or why he died. I imagine the doctors knew, but didn't share the information with the family. The family took him in to LaCeiba the nearest city for treatment, but he was only there a couple of days before he died. We will never be able to replace him. He was a good man with a love for the ministry, and worked hard to keep our grounds clean and well cared for. To me he was more than an employee but part of our family. I personally am really going to miss him.

Erica is still suffering with her broken neck. She is wearing a brace which she will have to wear for at least 6 months according to her doctor here in Honduras. This week she is heading to New York to take her grandson home to his mother, and will be checked there by an American doctor. The brace does seem to be helping so hopefully she is on the mend now. Please continue to pray for her.

Besides breaking 3 toes a few weeks ago in a fall, I am in great health. I think teenaged girls tend to keep you active and therefore healthy. God has truly blessed me by putting me in this place!

Well, I could ramble on forever, but I will close for now. Thank you to each and every one of you who give, write, and pray. We wouldn't be here without your participation in the ministry. Each one of us has a part in this special work. Thank you for being such a blessing!

May God continue to bless you as you serve Him.

In His Service

Sharon Francis