

Christian Ministries to Central America

C.M.C.A.

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Dear Friends:

This year I am celebrating 20 years of living and ministering in Honduras. This milestone anniversary has given me an opportunity to think back and reflect on all that has happened since I first arrived. One thing I can say with certainty, I have no regrets. I still remember the peace I felt in my heart when I lifted off from the airport in Victoria in December of 1988 and the feeling of being where I belong when I landed at the airport in San Pedro Sula. I really had no idea how God could use me, but He had a plan.

A scripture verse that I am always quoting to our girls at the Center is Jeremiah 29:11 which says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." It is so true, that no matter who we are, no matter what our skills or talents are, He can use us.

Today I can see the results of our labors. The Girls' Teaching Center is one of those results. This is our 8th year of operation and as of this year we have seen 66 girls pass through our program. Erica and I were going over the list of girls the other day and it was exciting to remember where those girls came from and where they are today.

One of our girls, Keyni came to us in our first year of operation as a very energetic, talkative, 12 year old. She lived with her grandparents who could not afford to send her to high school, so once she finished grade 6 she was relegated to cleaning her grand-parents home and doing laundry in the river that runs behind their house.

Her grandparents knew Erica and I well, as a result of our years of holding children's Bible clubs in their church, so didn't hesitate at all when we invited her to come and join our first class of girls in our Center. I had the privilege of taking her, along with two other girls, to Canada during her second year with us. Many of you have had the opportunity of meeting her.

Keyni is now one of our scholarship students, attending Teachers College, and is just one year away from receiving her teacher's certificate. She will then be licensed to teach elementary school. The exciting thing about this is that YOU are responsible. If you hadn't given towards her support, she would still be cleaning her grandparents' house, or would be raising babies as a single mom.

I'm sure sometimes you wonder what happens when you give to the ministry. Well, Keyni is just one example.

Another of our girls, Deysi, only finished grade 1 in elementary school, and came to us when she was 19 years old. After graduation, there was no possibility for her to continue her studies, but God had another plan for her life. She is now married, using her sewing skills to earn a small income and is the Sunday School teacher in the church in their village.

YOU bought Deysi her sewing machine and helped her develop her skills as a church leader. YOU helped her

develop the skills to be a good housewife with the knowledge necessary to keep a spotlessly clean home.

Don't ever think your money has been wasted. These girls will all bear the stamp of your love and your giving.

This has been a busy year so far and it is only May. So far I have had 26 different guests, and each one has been a blessing. Some came to give us a "break", some came to pray for us, others to do maintenance work at the Center, but all were an encouragement. Thank you to each one who came and demonstrated such a willingness to serve. You are special people.

We have been blessed also by the donation of a beautiful new piece of property this year, a gift from two faithful supporters of our ministry. These men have been a big part of our ministry since the opening of our Ministry Center. To say "thank you" doesn't seem like enough, but I can also promise that this property will be used to help the young people of Honduras, to teach them, to bless them, and to help them attain a higher standard of living. We dedicated the property to the Lord on April 30th, and know that He has the ultimate plan for how it is to be used. I'm excited, just waiting to see what will happen next.

Another great blessing – computers!! Three weeks ago, Walter drove into our yard with 25 computers. The Fraser-Cascade School district in Hope B.C. was upgrading their computers and instead of sending the old – good – computers to landfills, they sent them to us. You should have seen the girls' faces when they discovered the computers were ours.

It wasn't an easy trip for Walter with all the police, and military stops throughout Mexico, but he came, and we are so thankful for his willingness to make a very long trip. Now he still has to drive back, so please remember him in your prayers.

I have already started the computer classes. Yes, I am the teacher. I know that I am probably the least qualified person you could find to teach computer (next to Erica who is still learning how to turn one on), but I'm starting with typing, which I can do. I figure that by next year when the students are more advanced there will be an expert around to give me the help I need.

Speaking of computers, I am trying to learn how to BLOG with a link from our CMCA website. I'm still trying to figure out what I am doing. Esther Bowering, who does such a good job keeping the web site up and running, is waiting for me to give her the go ahead to connect the link to the site. Keep checking. One of these days, hopefully soon, I will start keeping things a little more up to date with my blogs. Just remember that when I came to Honduras computers weren't being used by everyone the way they are now, and I have had to learn everything by trial and error – usually error. Just one more thing I have had to learn over the past 20 years.

As you can see we have had an exciting few months, and I'm sure the rest of the year will be just as exciting. None of this would be happening without YOU, so thanks from the bottom of my heart.

I am now beginning my next 20 years of ministry here in Honduras, and covet your prayers. Thank you for continuing to remember us. I know that right now the financial situation in Canada is bad, and I know it takes a great sacrifice on your part to help our girls. I also believe with all my heart that this ministry belongs to the Lord, and He will provide, and that OUR GIRLS ARE WORTH IT.

Working for Him – and loving it

Sharon