

**CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES TO CENTRAL AMERICA**

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GREETINGS FROM HONDURAS !



November, 2008

Dear Friends:

Sitting here in the office at the Ministry center, looking out the window at the blue sky and the sun, it is so hard to believe that just a couple of weeks ago we were in the midst of torrential rains. Things change so fast here.

Graduation this year was very different from other years, since the majority of our parents were unable to attend due to the flooding and the impassable roads. But, still we carried on with the guests we had invited from Trujillo. I know the girls were very disappointed that they couldn't share this time with their families, but we tried to make it a special time despite the problems. Their disappointment was compounded when over half of them realized they weren't able to go home for several days after graduation, and were stranded here in Trujillo. All of those girls eventually went home in boats. I wish I could send you a picture of the girls, who had to travel for over an hour in the ocean in an overloaded boat, without life jackets in the pouring rain. I was really nervous about letting them go, but one of their fathers had come to take them home, so we had no choice.

The flooding this year was much worse than in previous years, and access to Trujillo was closed for several days. Of course, this meant no produce could get here either. By the time food began to arrive again, the store shelves were pretty empty and there was no gas or diesel for our vehicles. The main highway out of town is still not usable since the middle span of the main bridge going out of town was washed away, so we are using a back road, which is similar to driving over a wash board. I'm sure they will eventually smooth it to make the trip a little more tolerable, but in the meantime I'm not going anywhere unless I have to.

Despite these minor setbacks this has been a very good year. Although we had the normal "teenage girl" problems with discipline, nothing happened that was beyond the scope of God's help. It is wonderful how He fulfils the promise to give us wisdom when we don't feel we know what to do. He gives us strength when we feel weak, and He sends someone to bolster our spirits when we feel down. It is so true that He never leaves us or forsakes us.

Already we are taking applications for next year. We have parents phoning and coming here already, afraid that we won't have room for their girl. Even though I tell them registration isn't until the end of November, they still show up at the Center asking for application forms. Please continue to pray with us that God will send the girls to us that need to be here. This is another time when we need a big dose of wisdom and God's direction. We only have 20 beds, and they fill up very fast.

This year we will be adding four of our graduates to our scholarship program so that they can continue their studies in high school. For those of you who are interested in helping one of these girls continue their education, the cost per month for each girl is approximately \$45. This covers their books, uniforms, monthly class projects, and their travel to and from their school. It is so important for these girls to get their high school diploma as this

opens up so many more employment opportunities. Most of our girls want to help their families financially. Finishing high school will go a long way towards helping them reach this goal.

#### PRAYER REQUEST:

Please pray for Wilfred. Last week he was experiencing a great deal of chest and arm pain. Erica took him to the hospital here in Trujillo. Since this hospital is not equipped to handle cardiac problems, they kept him in the hospital for a few days and then sent him home telling Erica to take him to LaCeiba, our nearest city, for a consult. Because of the poor road conditions, she waited until Monday to take him. When she got to LaCeiba she discovered that there are no full time cardiologists in LaCeiba. Most work in the city of San Pedro Sula and come to LaCeiba only 2 days a week -- usually on the weekends. She finally found one, but he works in a clinic and not in a hospital, so, as a result, Erica and Wilfred had to stay in a hotel while he underwent tests. Yesterday they got back the test results. The doctor feels he had a heart attack, but sent him back to Trujillo with a lot of medication and instructions to go to bed and come back at the end of the month for a check up. He is here, and not feeling very well, but Erica is coping the best she knows how with the help of a local doctor who is a General Practitioner. It is a frightening time for them both. Wilfred is a friend as well as an important part of our Ministry team. Please remember both Erica and him in your prayers.

I can't close this letter without thanking you, because I know many of you pray for us every day. Whenever we pass through difficult times I know I can count on you to pray. This Sunday we are presenting a special children's program at our church and the verse we are teaching the children is Joshua 1:9 which tells us "...Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." I have claimed that verse so many times since coming to Honduras, and I know I'll probably claim it many times more, because I know it is true.

I trust each of you will have a very special Christmas season, remembering our Lord and Saviour Jesus. God bless you as you continue to serve Him. Thank you for your prayers, financial support and friendship.

With much love,

Sharon Francis