



Children Of Honduras Trust

Newsletter December 2002

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Charity No. 1075562

This year the children in Honduras need:

FOOD

CLOTHES

SHOES



- 3 NEEEDY CHILDREN RECEIVE CLOTHES, SHOES AND FOOD -



- WEIGHING MILK AND OATS TO GIVE TO POOR FAMILIES -

NEWS EXTRA BULLETIN

Even though the ink is barely dry on the last newsletter we are pleased to offer you this extra edition. Hopefully it is just in time to wish you a very happy Christmas celebration and the Lord's blessing for the New Year. The reason for this late arrival is to share with you the news we have brought back from our visit to Honduras. We wanted to deliver it to you while it is still 'hot' rather than leave it till next year.

THE POOR ARE GETTING POORER

Unemployment has increased since Mitch because many businesses have left Honduras. The recent slump in the world coffee market has resulted in the abandonment of many plantations as non-profit making. These contribute to the high unemployment in a country where there is no state aid. So no income means no food. We should never complain about England where we are blessed with so much and where no one is poor in these terms. Here, in Honduras, basic foods, clothes and shoes are important for the children. The average basic wage is about 1,400 Imp (£70) a month.

THE DIARY

Our trip commenced on 17 October. We arrived back home just a few days ago on 5 November, not the best time for a good night's sleep after 27 hours of travelling! The Lord blessed us with a highly successful visit, a flavour of which we hope you can capture from the next few pages.

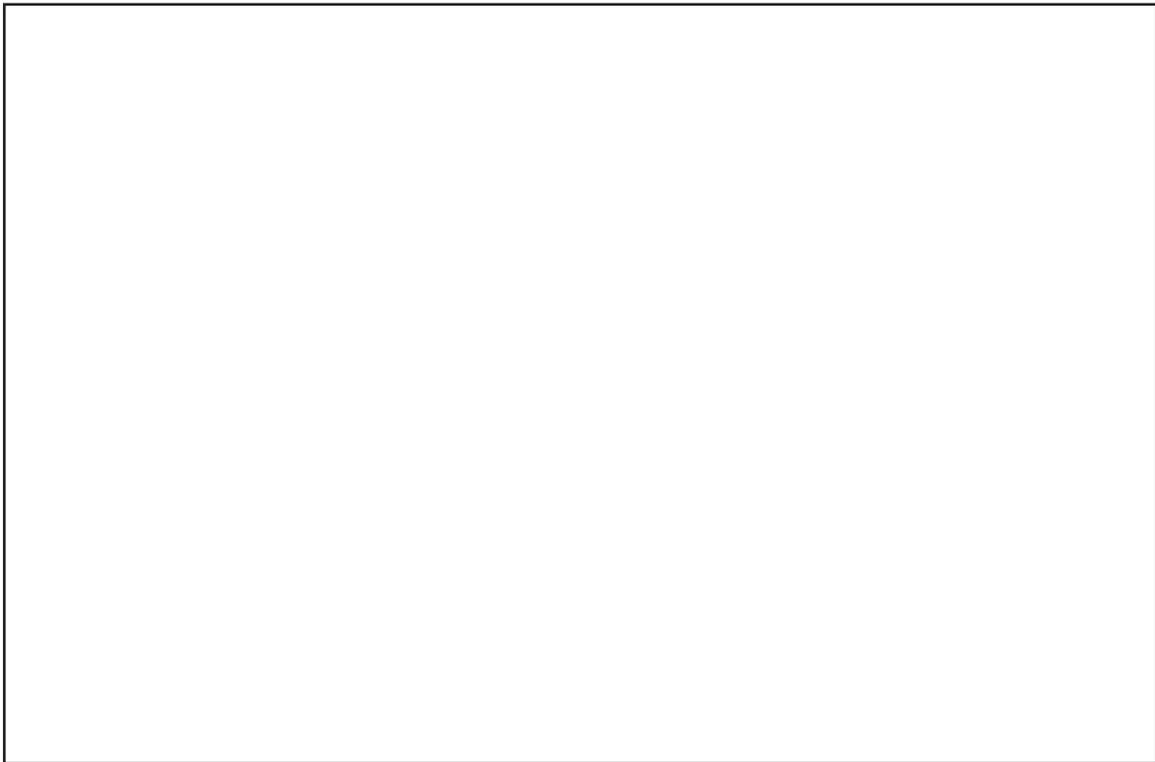
WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER - WE ARRIVE

Our trip began well. The flights were good and we arrived on time. We were met at Tegucigalpa Airport by David Dominguez, by Norma and Alberto from the Valle de Angeles church and Javier, who was to be our driver and logistics person for the next two weeks. We especially appreciated David's lovely gesture because he simply came to greet us, in circumstances where we knew he was facing a very busy weekend presiding over a church conference.

We climbed aboard the mini bus, an old friend from England (we sent this minibus out to Honduras about eight years ago). After a stop in the city for lunch we set out for the Valle de Angeles. We were pleased to find the road much improved since our last visit. All the areas damaged by Mitch have now been well repaired. We arrived at the church and were given a guided tour of both the worship area and the school. It was good to be able to make sense of what we had

previously only seen in photographs. Much has changed since our last visit.

We were very much impressed by what we were shown. The classrooms showed signs of much activity with children's work and other hangings on the walls, all the equipment tidy and ready for the next day. We recognised the toilets, washbasin and tiles in the shower room. These were all sent in the last container and are now well utilised. We then moved downhill a level to the computer room. This was well ordered but very small and hot. They hope to move it into a larger classroom when the new ones are constructed. Presently kinder and pre-kinder meet each morning in wooden rooms with low ceilings. Their small size and tin roofs make them very hot. They hope to re-house these classes next year. At the moment, the only two brick built classrooms are used in the morning by grades one and three and in the afternoon by grades two and four, with different teachers. Grade five is taught in one of the small wooden classrooms, not an ideal situation.



- CLASSROOMS AT NORMA'S SCHOOL -

Soon the school year will conclude, after which work will start immediately on the construction of the second level classrooms. The tin roof will be removed to enable them to build upwards and then put the roof back on again. Originally the second level was to be of wood but plans have progressed. It is now to be of brick, a much better idea but costly. Work will start on 16th November and

will have to be completed by the end of January, ready for the start of the new school year. To add a finishing touch we have bought five ceiling fans, one for each classroom. These will be much appreciated by both children and teachers when the weather is hot and sticky.

SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER - FRUITS OF LOVE

We were brought to the church compound at 8.00am Saturday morning, where we were met with a scene of great activity. Many children were there from around the village, some of whom were associated with the church or the school but by no means all. They were supervised by thirteen adults, who give their time to the 'fruits of love' project. On arrival the children go into the church where their name and age is taken. They are then given a worming tablet with a drink of water. Next their mouths are inspected to ensure that the tablet has been taken,



- FRUITS OF LOVE TEAM TREATING CHILDREN'S HAIR -

then they are permitted to ink one finger (from a pad). This is to identify that they have registered. By showing their inked finger they can gain access to the next area where they are given a vitamin tablet and a drink. Then onward to the outdoor hair salon! Their hair is checked for unwanted inhabitants and washed. The hair washing production line consisted of a row of six children all leaning back on chairs with a team of helpers making a very good job of washing, rinsing, conditioning and finally fine-tooth combing their hair. Haircuts were also on offer

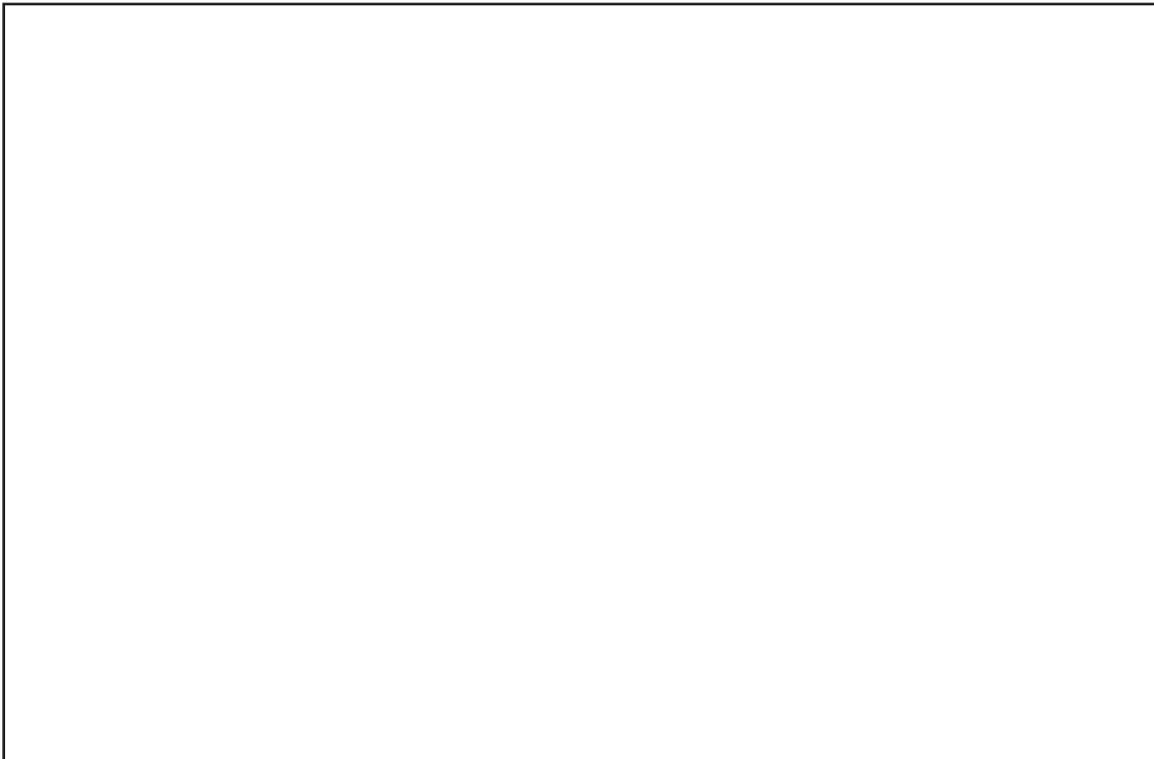
for the boys. Everyone's clothes seemed to get very wet. To help avoid this we are looking into finding **plastic capes** and **aprons**. Some of the smaller children would also appreciate **plastic protectors** to prevent the water and shampoo from getting into their eyes. They also need a good supply of **towels**. Only 62 children attended this particular morning but the numbers can rise to as high as 160. It must be good for the children to feel cared for and to receive the individual care and love shown by each worker.

SATURDAY NIGHT

For the evening we were invited to join one of the church house-groups. The minibus duly picked us up. On the way we crossed over the village stream which still bears witness to the tremendous force of the waters generated by Hurricane Mitch. The narrow streambed has been greatly widened and strewn with massive boulders and tree trunks, which are now well blackened with time. From here the "road", a very rutted track would be a better description, led steeply uphill for an exciting half mile. Fortunately it was still light when we alighted from the bus at the foot of a narrow, steeply stepped path. This proceeded through the trees upwards towards the house. On arrival we were delighted to learn that this was the home of our old friends Rene and Munda. Both family and friends made us very welcome. At 6 o'clock, in the fading light (no electricity), candles were lit. We, along with the other arrivals, went into the room. There were 25 to 30 people in the group made up of men, women and children. It is one of 12 groups held around the village each week. We started with a time of praise and prayer followed by a bible reading and study, which was led by Isabel, one of the church leaders. We closed with a prayer and greeted each other with a blessing. We understood little of the Spanish but the atmosphere was of worship and welcome. On departing we were assisted by a bright moon shining through the trees. However, it was still very dark and we were grateful for the help of someone's torch to guide us back down the path. It is easy to imagine the difficulties of the church members walking along these paths in total darkness. We now appreciate the need for a good supply of **torches with batteries, umbrellas and walking boots** for the rainy season. **Storm lamps (Tilley type)** would be a tremendous help to the 6 house-groups that meet by candlelight. These are very expensive, so if anyone has a spare lamp that we could send, we know that it will have a very good home.

SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER - THE SNAIL

On Sunday morning we awoke to dappled sunshine. We were staying in the “cabana” at El Campamento, which we had been kindly allowed to use by David and Lourdes. We were collected and delivered to the Church where the children were assembling under the supervision of Xamara, the leader of the Sunday School and her team of helpers. After taking the roll of the 60 children, we commenced by walking through the village, up the hill and off the road, following a winding path through the fir-trees. The path wound round and round uphill. We were told that the area was called the “snail”. From the top, through the trees, there was a good view of Valle de Angeles. After a short recovery time, there was a time of lively singing, prayer and a bible reading. The bible story was told by Anna, one of the teachers. Other lively songs were followed by merienda (a snack break). Diplomas were presented to some of the children for good attendance, behaviour and helping in Sunday school. Probably the highlight of the morning was the two pinatas, which provided a good excuse for a free for all. A few more games followed then the slow walk back to the Church. These events take place about every four months. They are obviously much enjoyed by the children and blessed with much dedication from the teachers.

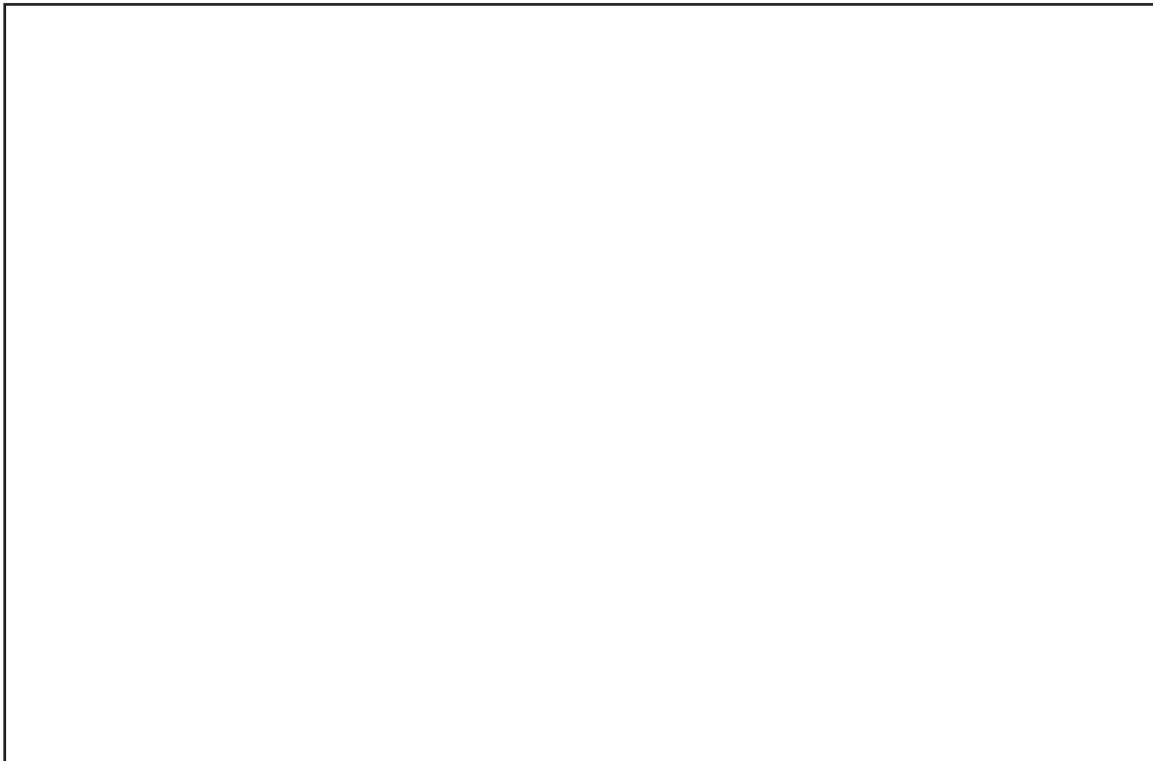


- AT THE TOP OF SNAIL HILL -

We later attended the Sunday evening service where some of the congregation from the Choloma church were visiting. We were introduced and made welcome. It was a lively service with dance and mime. The highlight was the sermon, with a visual aid consisting of the raised Lazarus, wrapped in newsprint paper and toilet roll!

MONDAY 24 OCTOBER - FOOTBALL THE SPORT OF ALL HONDURANS.

The men and boys of Honduras are all great football players and watchers. We even saw a teenager playing football in bare feet on the street. The others all had some sort of **shoes**. There is also great rivalry and many inter church matches. Any **football boots, kit (mens or boys) and pictures** would be appreciated as they also follow football teams worldwide.



- THREE BOYS OFF TO THE FOOTBALL MATCH -

Monday was a national holiday and designated by the church for a football match between Valle and the visiting team from Choloma. This took place at the beautiful local park. The pitch was not to be recommended since it was very uneven and sloped away from the centre in both directions. A great time was had by all. The final score was 7-2 in favour of the Valle. Choloma are looking forward to the return match to obtain their revenge! Lunch was brought to the park by the church members. This was on sale to the teams and the supporters.

Every opportunity is taken to raise funds! The current project is to pay for the school bus. As a further payment is due at Christmas. We took a short walk to the lake, where the children demonstrated the seemingly universal practise of skimming stones across water. The park was very busy with people enjoying the bank holiday.



- COOKING HONDURAN STYLE -

**TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER - A VISIT TO THE CHURCH AT DANLI
(96KM EAST OF TEGUCIGALPA)**

Pastor Raul Sanchez, Wife Iris, 3 daughters and 1 son

On arrival at the church in Danli we were given a very warm welcome. The church premises consisted of living quarters for the family, a covered area for Sunday school and a worship area at the side. It was interesting to learn that last year they had created a second level to the property. Two of the three rooms there were used for Sunday school. The small third room was allocated to a visiting church helper from Mexico. It was good to see evidence of things from the container e.g. a computer, filing cabinet, tables and chairs, Sunday School equipment and even a white sheet hung on the wall to function as a projection screen. The Pastor and his wife were eager to share the knowledge that the crayons etc gave the children opportunity to enjoy an activity to which they had no access anywhere else.

The Church is continuing to progress its plans for helping people in the area of marriage guidance by arranging meetings and creating opportunities to talk. If we are able to provide some assistance they would like, in the future, to start projects which enable the ladies to generate some income and thus help them feed their children. The majority of people in the Danli area are very poor since the slump in coffee production has led to severe unemployment. The two main ideas are for **sewing machines** and **material** and items to set up a kitchen, so that they can provide food to sell. They need items such as **catering size saucepans** (second hand are often better quality), **two burner stoves** and **stainless steel sinks**.

Half of the **toys** that we gave them have been given out but the rest have been retained for Christmas, as many of the children will have no other gift. Indeed they will be lucky to eat well. The Pastor declared “on your behalf, we want to give to the children, to the glory of God”

The Pastor recalled that in our previous letter to him, we did not know if we would be able to send a computer. “But God is good and we have received one from you.” (Which we saw installed and operational). He also said that the church had been much encouraged by the gifts from England as they had never before received such support.

Iris, who is a teacher in the local school, shared her concern that there were many children who could not access school due to lack of uniform and school supplies, since they are beyond the means of many poor families. **It costs about £45 per year to enable a child to attend school.** (Can we help?) There are around 18-20 children known by Iris who really need this help. If you wish to help let us **know immediately** as the new school year starts after Christmas.

They also hope to set up a scheme which provides merienda for the children either on their way to or from school. Many of these children will not have had breakfast and possibly no lunch. They would, however, need our assistance to provide the food. Merienda often consists of **milk and oats or milk, rice and sugar** drunk from a cup.

**WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER -
A VISIT TO THE EL VERBO CHURCH IN SIGUATAPEQUE**

Pastor Patricio Mejia, wife Bethy, 2 daughters one son

We were made very welcome by the people of the church. Previously the church

had been situated nearer to the centre of the town. However, high rental costs had forced it to move away from the centre to its present location. Some of the congregation are now uneasy about attending the church as it means walking, in the dark, through undesirable parts of the town.

The church is a small room, a part of the pastor's house, which is rented. About 25 adults and 40 children attend the church. The people were very thankful for all the things that we had been able to send to them, particularly the things for the Sunday school. This is a church currently struggling for survival. Our greatest gift will be one of prayer and encouragement.

THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER - CALVARIO CHURCH, SIGUATAPEQUE

Pastor Carlos Velasquez, wife Lourdes, two boys 5 years and 18 mths.

The first thing we noticed as we were welcomed into the Pastors home was the Derbyshire Building Society Calendar on the wall. We were able to tell the people about the pictures.

The church is a fairly new building attached to the Pastor's house. He has been working here for three years. Until recently there were 60 adults but this has now increased to 80 adults and 140 children. The old church building, across the yard, is used for Sunday school. They would like to construct some partitions within it so that the three classes can be separated and work as individual units. They also have other Sunday school rooms located between this building and the Pastor's house. In evidence all around were things from England, tables and chairs, **colouring books** and many other things. It was good to see some of the sheets (given by a laundry in Derby) being put to good use as curtains at the bedroom doorways. We were particularly impressed by the **white boards**. The church had received one very large board, which the Pastor had cut into three. He had framed each of the pieces and made stands for them. An excellent piece of work. One big difficulty on this site is that the church lies alongside and partially straddles a watercourse. This creates problems with mosquitoes and rats. It also poses a serious health hazard to the children since the water is polluted and very slow flowing. Sadly the Pastor's youngest son fell into this water and has suffered poor health ever since. An important project is to cover it over as soon as possible.

A specific request was for **photographic slides**. Amongst the items received from the container was a projector but no slides! If anyone has any spare slides

that can be sent, (almost any subject, scenes, animals, buildings etc) they would be very much appreciated.

The church is very grateful for all that they have received and are encouraged by the prayers and help from people so far away. This young couple are working as a team and we felt that they had great potential to further the work of God.

FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER - VISION CHRISTIANA, CHOLOMA

Pastor Francisco Ilias, wife Blanca and baby.

Our journeying ultimately brought us to San Pedro Sula, which is in the north of the country. Chaloma is a district not far from the city, a relatively new area consisting mostly of brick built houses and paved streets. Do not be deceived by this description, it is still very much Honduras. Dust, dirt and poverty abounds. There is also a large amount of crime in the area. To visit the church here was a delight. It is a daughter church to the one in the Valle. The Pastor here is Francisco, who we have known for a long while. He lives here with his wife, Blanca, and their very happy, small son Josue. (4mths). They are in the process of purchasing the property, which consists of a small house and a church area. They have made many improvements during their stay and have great plans for the future. These include the possibility to build a second floor for living quarters in order to expand the floor area of the church. Sunday school is held in the veranda area of the house. They aim to enclose this to protect it from the weather. They will also be fitting a toilet, received from the container, for the use of the children. They are working to encourage more children to come to Sunday school with a view to reaching out to the parents and inviting them to attend church.

It was good to learn that the church leaders are encouraging the people in the neighbourhood to give of any surplus that they may have in their homes, clothes, toys or anything else that could be redistributed to those in even greater need. Many people in the area also live under threat of losing the homes that they are trying to buy. If they default on payment by only one month the bank can reclaim the property, further resulting in the loss of any money already paid. Mortgage protection insurance is way beyond their means. Interest rates are 34%.

Blanca, the pastor's wife, is very talented in **arts and crafts**. She is busy sharing her skills with the people of the church. The aim is to enable them to make things to sell which will help the family finances and thus cultivate the conditions where

_more children can attend school and be better fed. There is a good, friendly, prayerful atmosphere in this church. It is a privilege to encourage them with things from England, particularly when it is obvious that they are being well cared for and put to good use. Francisco proudly showed us a bike that we had sent in the container. This is his only means of transport and he expressed his gratitude for this gift.

While we were in the north of the country we had opportunity to visit Puerto Cortes and the dockyard at which our containers arrive. After a little negotiation, we were invited inside the dock area and taken to the water's edge. Here we could see a ship being loaded with containers. It was interesting to observe another part of the picture. It is apparent that there is not much room for storage here, which helps to make sense of the high costs incurred by any containers that have to be stored in this area.

David told us that the customs had requested permission to open and inspect the contents of our container. We had no problem with this, in as much that all was correct, above board and declared. However those who help us on packing day and stay to the end will realise that the customs people had a problem which they did not appreciate until they were committed to their task. Firstly, as they opened the container the contents would have probably come out to meet them. This was not a container shipping any fresh air. Having unpacked some, or all, of the container (we do not know) they then had to put it back again. The men at the docks it seems were not as proficient as our expert packing team in Derby. In the process of repacking the container they failed to get all the contents back in. They had to mount a second attempt before succeeding. Unfortunately David was billed for all this unloading and repackaging. So, even as we smile at their dilemma, we can also say well done to our packers in Derby. It was not your fault that paint got spilt in the container. The problem was caused by the unloading exercise at the docks.

MONDAY 30 OCTOBER - EL SITIO CHURCH

Pastor Fernando Montero

This church is located in the barrio (suburb) El Sitio, at the bottom of the mountain leading to the Valle de Angeles. They have a congregation of 30/40 adults and 60 children. The church leaders proudly showed us the newly built toilet block behind the church. It housed the toilets that they received in the container and sported doors painted with the green paint sent from England. We

we were beginning to recognise this nice shade of pale green paint. It seemed to be in evidence everywhere that we visited! The paint was supplied by Kalon, the company which donates emulsion paint to the Trust each year. Paint in Honduras is very expensive and inferior in quality to that sent from England. Thus paint is put to use as soon as it is received. Fifty per cent of the churches we visited were sporting this green paint on outside walls, on chairs, tables and interior walls. It became a pass time to spot our English green kitchen and bathroom emulsion in its different locations. To say it was appreciated would be an understatement.

Fernando, the Pastor, was eager to show us the supplies we had sent that were being kept for later in the year. He also showed us **colouring books** from which they had copied pictures for the Sunday school. It is a different world and one that it is difficult to imagine when one colouring book can be such a valuable resource to a Sunday school. He was also pleased to have the **crayons, paper and coloured sugar paper** for use in the Sunday school. These are resources that the children do not have in their homes and are, therefore, very special. In fact a real treat.

Their immediate vision for the future is to build a dining room behind the church. It is needed to provide meals for the children and to facilitate other church occasions. At the moment they are obliged to use a temporary room remote from the church. The majority of the congregation work in the city but in low paid jobs. Most of them, therefore, are poor. **Children's clothes, shoes and basic foods** would be a great help to them, in addition to the **school supplies** we have sent to date.

MONDAY 30 OCTOBER - CENTRO CRISTIANA PENIEL

Pastor Roger Rivera, his wife and little girl.

This church has not, as yet, received anything from us. It is one of the largest churches we visited, situated in a very rough part of Comayaguela, a suburb which adjoins the city of Tegucigalpa. The district plays host to many prostitutes and street children which brings its own and varied problems. They have a congregation of 150 and work with 190 children. Next to the church they have several classrooms which are used for bible classes with the children. They hold classes three days a week, some in the morning and some in the afternoon, catering for the children when they are not in school. They have a large impressive kitchen, which is used to feed the children.

They hope to develop skywards during the next two years by adding a third level to the building. This will house more classrooms. They have requested **recorders** for the children and **toilets** for the new development.

MINISTRY BOOKS AND TAPES IN SPANISH

As part of our own personal ministry we took with us a selection of Christian ministry books and tapes, in Spanish, to launch a library for the church Pastors and leaders. These were gratefully received and more requested. They have also received “Word For Today” in Spanish sent direct from Spain. If anyone has access to any more **books, tapes or Sunday school resources, in Spanish**, please let us know. They also love **flannel graphs and pictures of bible stories** that can be shown as the story is told.

MOUNTAIN VISITS

We were fortunate to be invited to the homes of two of the sponsored children. Our visit to Sindy’s house began with a walk which involved crossing over the river by means of a violently swinging rope bridge followed by a steady climb which eventually degenerated into a zig-zag path along which we had to scramble up to the house. The house belonged to an uncle of the family who is a woodworker. (Many of the houses provide shelter to a large extended family, within which individual families may occupy perhaps one or two rooms). Sindy’s family included Mum, Dad and four children, three of whom were school age. Their small kitchen was dominated by heat from the fire cooking the midday meal. Added annoyance came from the ever present dust and multitudes of flies. A narrow earth path surrounded the solidly built house. Since the ground fell steeply away from the house it must be extremely difficult to live with and particularly dangerous in the wet season. On our return, even though it was dry, I managed to slip down the mountain nearly uprooting a small tree in the process. Their water supply fed into a pelar (a large sink) outside and, of course, the adjacent toilet (bucket flush) and only washing facilities. The father of the family invited us to see the new house that he was in the process of building for his family. We followed him down the hill, grateful for the presence of some fairly strong trees, and viewed the house that he has been working on for over a year as time and money allowed. There are just two rooms and no roof at the moment. Other rooms will be added as time goes by. We observed that the roof timbers were almost ready to be put into place. However, it will probably be at least another year before it can be lived in. The family owns the plot of land around the house but the steep slope makes it very difficult to use it for growing anything.

We also visited the home of another child from the school. To reach this one, we were very grateful for the offer of a ride in a 4x4 vehicle. For about 15 minutes the vehicle battled to ascend the steep and very uneven path from the Valle. Finally we had to leave the vehicle to walk another 15-20 minutes further up the hill. We found ourselves in a very beautiful area, very green and pleasantly cooler because of the altitude. The biggest disadvantage here is that it takes the children an hour to walk to school and probably a great deal longer to get home up the hill. The family horse provided transport when possible. Unfortunately this year the two children have been in school, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The younger child got to travel by horse but the older one has had to walk. Next year both their grades will be in the morning so they should be able to travel together. Hopefully they will both attend class most of the time and better continue their education. The family home belongs to the grandparents, who try to make a living by growing coffee. There was no electricity here but they were fortunate to have a water supply. The house was well built but they had few possessions and carefully looked after those that they had.

On our return we were taken another 5 minutes drive up the mountain to visit Las Martinas, the house of prayer. The land here was donated to the church by the mayor of Valle. At the moment there is a floor to the house, a roof but no walls. The rest will be completed when possible. It was a beautiful peaceful place with wonderful views. We could understand the church leaders and members being willing to walk for an hour to spend time here.

TEACHER AND VOLUNTEERS WANTED

A teacher and several volunteers are needed to spend periods from two weeks up to a year working for Norma's church and school in Valle de Angeles. The teaching post requires English language to be taught to Spanish speaking children between the ages of 5 and 10 years. No formal qualifications are necessary.

Help is also required by the 'Fruits of Love' project referred to elsewhere in the Newsletter. Anyone interested please contact CH Trust via the address shown at the top of the front page of this newsletter. Your details will be forwarded to Norma in Honduras.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Thank you to all of you who have prayed for our visit. It has been our best visit ever to Honduras. An occasion when we have met so many people and witnessed

the love and commitment demonstrated by those in leadership to serve people who are less fortunate than themselves. It has also been a joy to learn how we can help them reach out to more children and families. We enjoyed good uneventful flights and safe journeys within the country. Although you may take that as the norm, it has not always been our experience. We remember an emergency landing, when our plane developed serious problems on a previous visit. This time it was only a plane on the one runway as our plane descended through low cloud into Tegucigalpa! This caused us to circle low over the houses and between the mountains as we waited to land. I am sure very safe but still scary. The Pan American highway that stretches from the North to South coasts of Honduras is extremely busy. It has one lane each way and carries all the heavy imports across the country. It winds up and around the mountains and down the other side. The main problem is that no rules are observed by many of the drivers, even basic survival rules such as no overtaking around blind corners, or no overtaking into on-coming traffic. It is comforting to travel with the Lords protection in the face of so many heavy lorries and containers on roads, where probably thirty per cent are unable to pass an M.O.T. We did suffer one breakdown but this was in Tegucigalpa, after visiting the church in Comayagua. As we were travelling along a dual carriageway, there was a clatter underneath the minibus. It sounded like the exhaust system had dropped off. We discovered that the petrol tank had dropped from its supporting brackets, dragged along the tarmac and spilt, fortunately, only a small amount of petrol onto the road. Javier, our driver, disappeared and eventually returned with new brackets and a sturdy piece of rope. Repairs took place in the road with the help of a passer by. It was rush hour and we were stationary near a junction. Our task was to pray the other cars around our vehicle and thus protect those lying underneath doing the repairs. The water supplies in Honduras are also a concern since much of water is unfit for the locals to drink let alone delicate travellers like us. But how does one decline to drink without hurting those offering hospitality? Thankfully the Lord has kept us safe and well. You drink an awful lot of Cola in Honduras! Thanks again for your part in making it such an excellent trip.

PASSING OBSERVATIONS

Many of the churches that we visited often had groups of people needing to stay with them. They would appreciate some mattresses for them to sleep on. The best **mattresses** for this situation would be those that are surplus from our hospitals, as they are fully covered in plastic which keeps them clean. We know that when hospitals decommission mattresses there is often only a very short time period when they may be collected. So, if anyone hears of any, please let us know.

All churches have been delighted with the supplies that they have received from the container, so for the future we would hope to be able to continue to send school and Sunday school supplies (**crayons, pencils, colouring books, exercise books, drawing books, paper etc**). We were pleased to learn that Norma donated a bag of milk and a bag of oats to each of the churches out of her own quota. This was to help them provide merienda to the Sunday school children. She did this as a result of her experience of the value of it to the ministry in the Valle. All the food that we have sent has been much appreciated. It helps to supplement that which the children have at home.

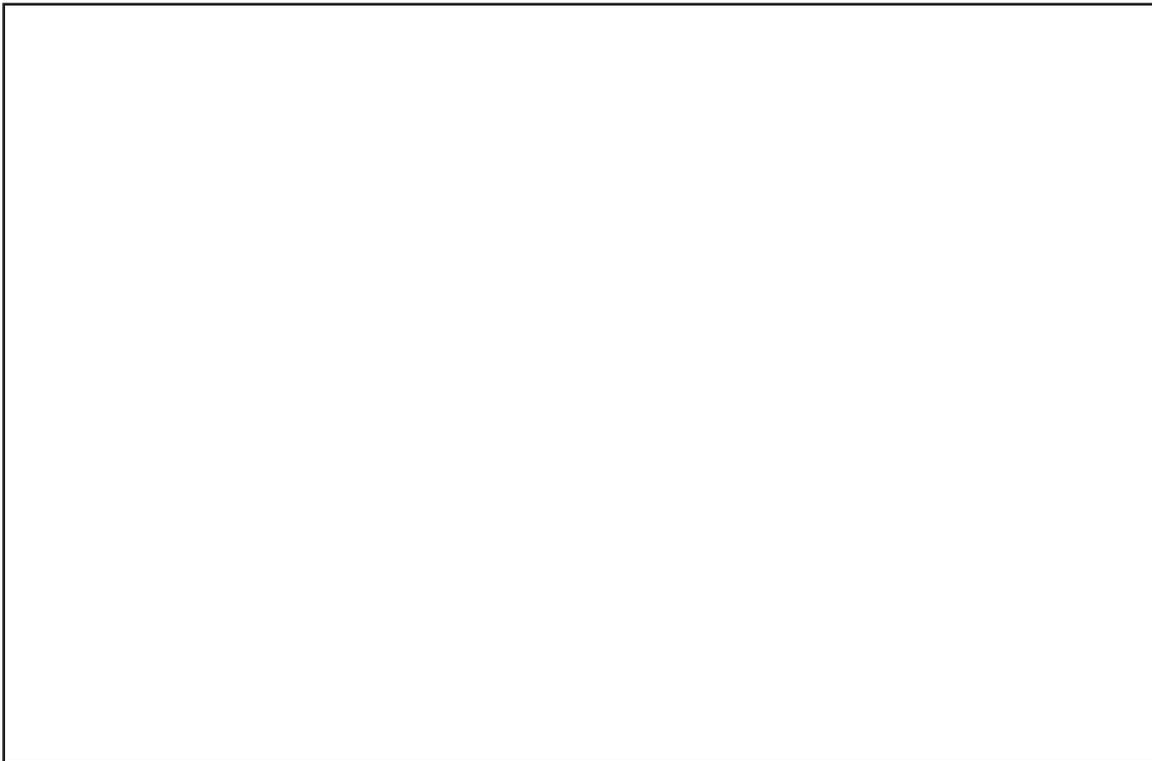
We have found that all the churches would welcome a supply of good **second hand clothes and shoes**. Many of the people live in extreme poverty. Feeding the family is their first priority. Next year we would like to be able to send many more clothes of the best quality that we can acquire. But please remember that Honduras is a hot tropical country. Light jumpers and sweatshirts are, however, appreciated for the cooler evenings. All children's sizes are required including **baby clothes**. There is a very high birth rate in the country. Clothes and shoes are needed to fit up to about the size of a 14-year-old. The Hondurans are mostly a nation of fairly small people. Shoes (particularly black ones for school) and Wellingtons are required. Spare laces are appreciated, as these do not often last the life of the shoe. We consider that lightweight walking boots would be useful. Some people walk many miles each day in order to get to school or church. Many of the paths and roadways that they use are very uneven, deeply rutted and, in the rainy season, very difficult to negotiate.

On the last Saturday of our visit, Randall offered to show us a little of the centre of Tegucigalpa. We visited three churches, all within a short distance of each other, all Roman Catholic. The first was extremely ornate inside with a vast amount of "gold" décor. The second was a little more subdued but with a lovely peaceful atmosphere, where it was good to spend time in the middle of a very busy city. The surrounding area was full of market stalls offering every type of bargain. We finished our visit to the city by calling at two museums, both very small by our expectations, one housing various pottery artefacts from around the country. The other had a display of art, from old religious to modern, perhaps not to our taste but interesting to see, not dissimilar to what you could find in our country.

SUYAPA

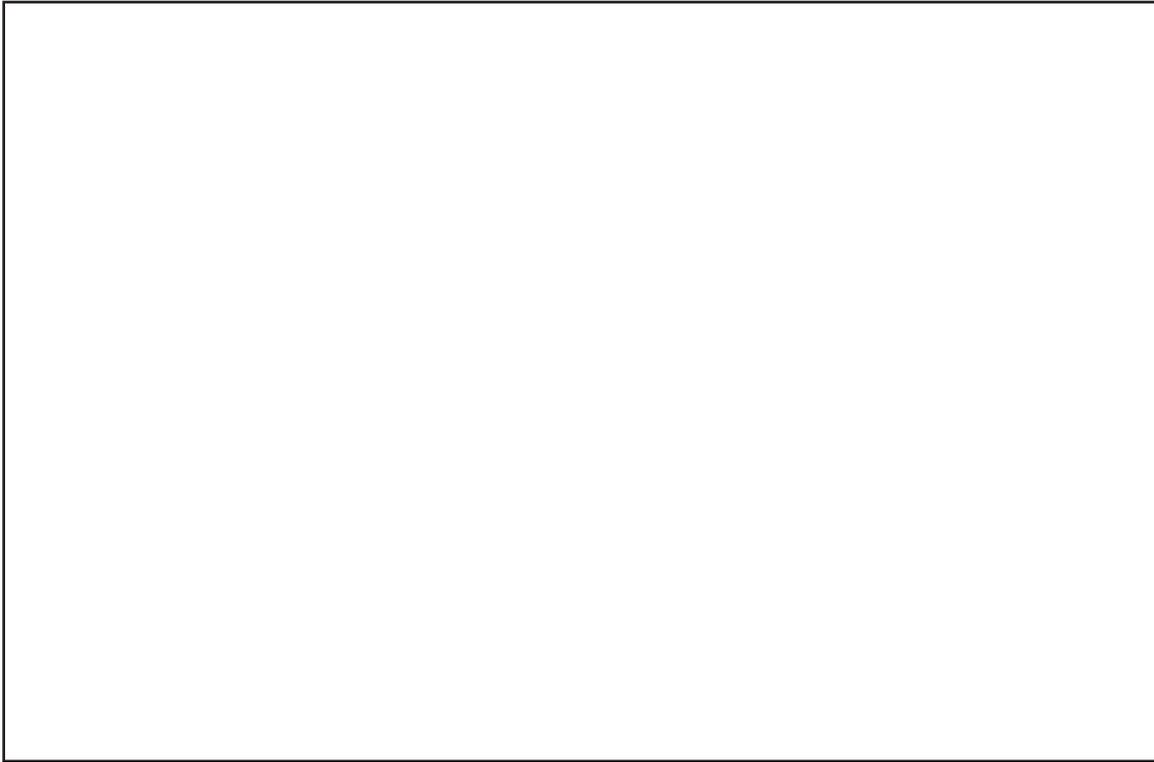
Suyapa is a very poor barrio overlooking the city of Tegucigalpa. It developed after hurricane Fifi in 1974 and is built on a disused city rubbish dump. It is home to many poor families with a high proportion of single mothers and where drugs and gangs are an added problem.

David is beginning to see the unfolding of his vision for the area. He wants to improve its tenor so that people will choose to stay in Suyapa rather than move away if they are economically able to do so. He also wants to encourage professional people to make their homes in this area. In order to achieve these goals he has initiated a house building project in Suyapa which has now reached the magical number of one hundred completed houses. These brick built houses are scattered throughout the area, thus influencing many people. David's original building, called Genesis, houses a large school, doctors surgery, dentistry, pharmacy and a community bank which continues to flourish.



- NEWLEY OPENED LIBRARY IN THE GENESIS BUILDING -

To view David's new project, Onisimus, you have to cross the road and walk up a steep slope to its summit. There you see a building site with men working on the construction of a church building. A lady is busy swilling and sweeping in an attempt to keep the mud from trailing into the adjacent school building.



- CLASSROOM IN THE GENESIS BUILDING -

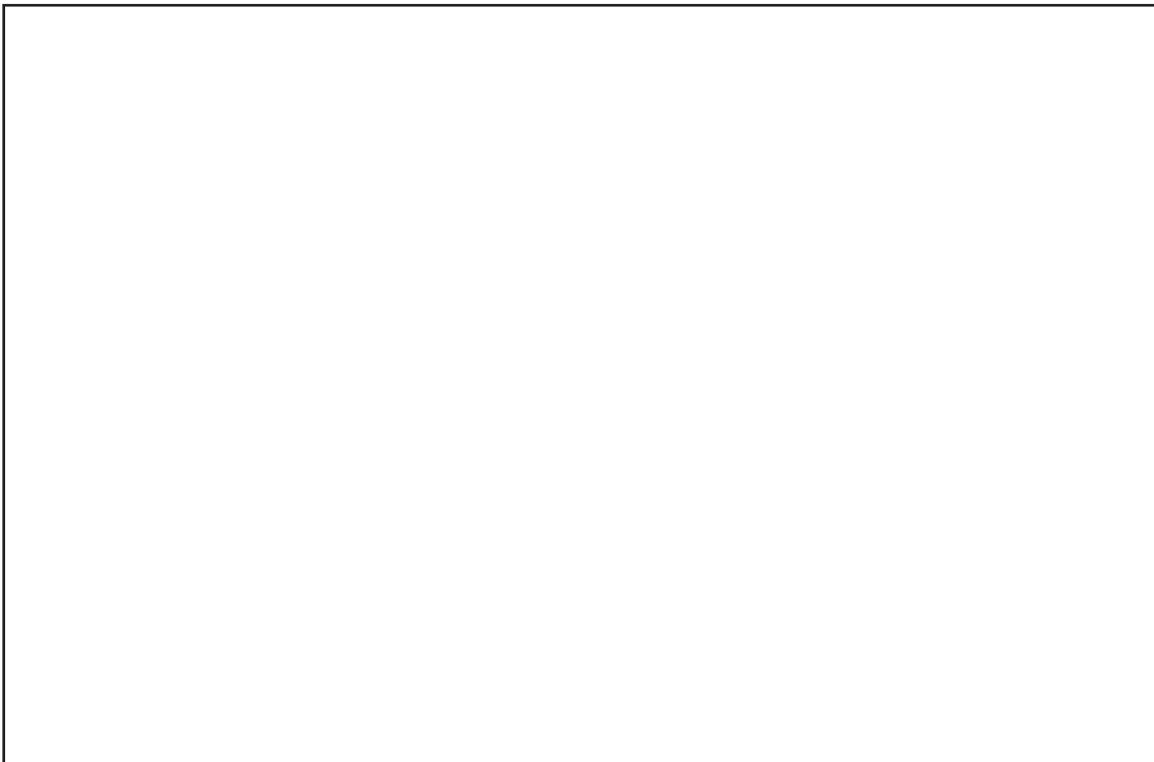
This has been in use since the beginning of February. Four classrooms are now operational of which two are extra this year. It is a high school offering a curriculum with music, bible, philosophy and English as well as the basics. Here we saw in use our much prized roller blackboards which have never been seen before in Honduras or by the school inspectors from America.

The school will have a second floor. As this is not yet required other buildings are taking the resources. The church building is taking shape at the side of the school. It will have two floors with Sunday school rooms at the side.

We then navigated across the mud to view where the next phase of construction will take place. This will include a gym, a separate sports area for team games and eventually a swimming pool. Beyond these facilities will be a row of houses. Two have already been built to house people employed by the project. We also visited a small market garden area with flowering plants hung under a shaded canopy to protect them from the scorching sun. All the plants looked healthy and very saleable.



- FACE PAINTING AT DAVID'S DAY CENTRE -



- 3 BOYS -

DAVID'S DAY CENTRES

We were taken to one of the five day centres for children that were only an idea in David's mind on our last visit. These cater for children across a range of ages who are not in school or not old enough to attend. The purpose of these centres is to allow single mothers to be able to go to work to support their family knowing that the child is safe, occupied and fed.

There was great excitement on the day we visited as a truck had just arrived with a new cooker and refrigerator. These had been bought for each centre by a donation from a government body. The cooker replaced the two-ring burner. The refrigerator terminated the previous situation of no food chilling facility in a hot climate environment. The centres are smaller than ideal and they would like to have larger play areas for the youngsters. They do however meet a desperate need in the area. The children cannot wait another few years, they need help now and that is what they are receiving. The future looks good.

To visit the day centre we walked down a concrete walkway. This had been a mud path three years before. The government has also been active in the installation of many sets of cement steps to provide easier, cleaner and safer access to people's homes. We were told that the water supply is also more regular in that they usually have water five days a week instead of one day, the norm during our last visit. We climbed over the excavations associated with the laying of better and bigger water pipes. David's organisation has also inputted into this project. The main street and other side roads still consist of earth and are very dusty, except in the rainy season. The conditions then we will leave to your imagination.

Finally we were taken to a 3D complex built into the mountainside consisting of five houses for David's staff and visiting missionaries. There was an Internet café underneath. The whole area is showing signs of improvement with hopefully more to follow.

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER

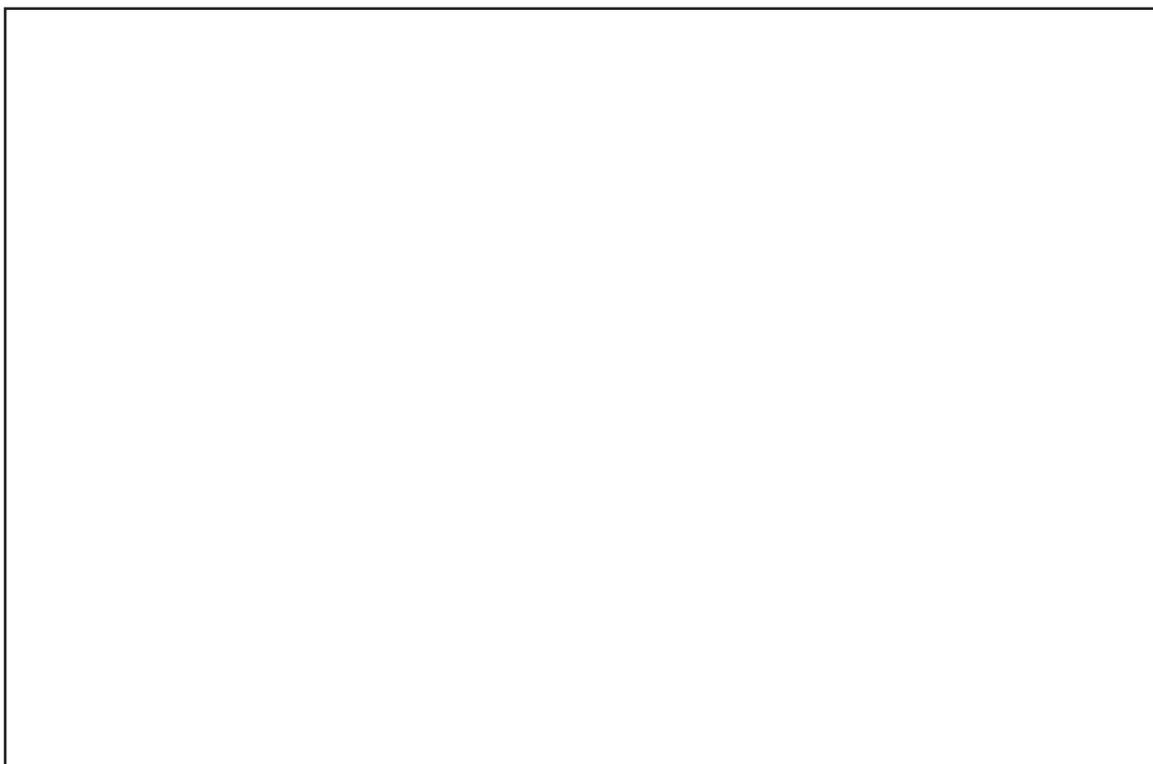
We joined Anna and Miguel Nasralla at their home for lunch and to share in the birthday celebration of his brother Dr. Nasralla's 76th birthday. (He is chairman of David's ministry as well as a practising doctor at the Siguatepeque hospital). He thanked us for the work that CH Trust was doing in Honduras and for all that we supplied through David's Ministry to the people.

We attended a baptismal service in the local church. David preached and four young ladies received full water baptism. We were made very welcome and again met friends encountered earlier at Encampamento and the ladies meeting. We were fed cola and home-made doughnuts at the end of the service.

David mentioned that they needed a **portable heater for the baptismal pool** which could be used by the various churches around the city. They do not possess such an item. Baptism is therefore always a cold water experience! Can anyone help? Is there a spare one around that can be donated?

AFTER THE FIRE AT EMAUS

We are pleased to report that following the fire in January the reconstruction of the Emaus building is well underway. The building now has a new roof and floors. The print shop is in production again, although on a smaller scale. The doctors and dentist are fully operational again. The fire provided an opportunity to rethink the layout of the different floors to best suit the different areas of ministry. There is still work to be done but all areas are now functioning again. A positive outcome from the fire has been a new unity created between David's staff working the different areas of the city. This has developed out of the need for them to meet and work together during this time of need. In the aftermath of the fire the Lord has provided many blessings and good things.



- THE PRINT SHOP AT EMAUS IS OPERATIONAL ONCE AGAIN -

THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND GENEROUS GIVING

We wish to pass on to our readers the thanks that we have received from so many in Honduras. Without you we would not have the goods or the funding to send out help to them. We have been privileged to see the work of CH Trust making a difference to the lives of so many children and their families. Well done to all involved.

Now to more mundane things in cold wet Britain!

PRAYER REQUESTS-

1. For the health and safety of all those concerned with the packing and transporting of goods up to and including packing day.
2. For warm dry weather on packing day and half term week.
3. For safe passage to the containers and a quick exit from the docks since this can cost us big money if they are delayed for any reason.
4. For the paperwork needed for importation of the containers. The Honduran government is considering removing the dispensa system which exempts much of our cargo from tax. This could greatly increase the cost of importing.
5. For the protection of those who live and work in the lovely but impoverished country of Honduras. We only had to survive the difficulties for two weeks. They are there for a lifetime.

NEEDS

Those items in **bold** type in the previous text are things that we have been asked for. The following lists contain some of these items plus others.

Toys

Kinder, ride on and individual toys.

Furniture/DIY

Hospital mattresses, Single mattresses (good quality) and Sleeping bags. Nails and screws.

Travel

Tilley Lamps, Torches and batteries. Travel iron. Umbrellas (for the rainy season). Adult bikes.

School supplies

Chalk, pens, pencils, crayons, paints, etc. Colouring books, Bible colouring books. Glue, scissors, exercise books, duplicating paper and photocopier paper. Rucksacks/school bags for children. Musical instruments (any). White and black boards. Overhead Projector and Screen. Tape recorders (not too large) and office chairs. Computer printers and scanners.

Childrens Clothes

Children's and baby clothes. Children's shoes (they need black ones to attend school but all are acceptable). Football boots, walking boots and sports equipment.

Craft

Material to sew, cottons, embroidery silks, lace trimmings, etc.
Craft items

Kitchen

Catering saucepans and frying pans. Two ring cooker, Mini oven beakers (Ikea type are nice and strong) and jugs. Freezers and stainless steel sinks (taps and pipes if possible).

Food

Rice (55p a Kg), PLAIN Flour (12p), Dried spaghetti (14p), Pasta shapes, Oats, Oil (costs double in Honduras), Sugar, Tuna, Evaporated Milk, Fruit Salad (17p), Tin toms and Squash.

An Important Request

Please do not pack bottles in boxes, we will put them in buckets in Derby for safe passage.

HALF TERM DELIVERY WEEK FEB 15-22ND.

We are not at the yard all of the time so please ring and let us know before you come please.

PACKING DAY MARCH 15TH 2003