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## Children Of Honduras Trust

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### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The phrase 'Christmas comes but once a year' comes to mind. This year it seems to have come round extremely quickly! The Lord is good and we thank Him for a super year and for our very special visit to Honduras. It will all too soon be Loading Day once again, so get ready!

Can I please take this opportunity to wish all our helpers and supporters a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous, fulfilling, Happy New Year.

I hope you enjoy the contents of this newsletter, which includes some of the observations of Jenny Smith and myself (Jenn Cox) arising out of our visit to Honduras during June of this year. This starts with the following article about the 'river people' of San Pedro Sula.



- THE MAIN STREET OF THE RIVER PEOPLE COMMUNITY -

## LIFE WITH THE RIVER PEOPLE

Many of you will remember that we told you about a community of people that lived by the river in San Pedro Sula. We again visited these people, whose homes stretch for four miles along the embankment. I do not call them houses, as you would not call them this. They would not even qualify as garden sheds in England. I cannot say that their homes have improved over the last four years but the opportunity for their children has. There is now a place nearby where the children go for a meal, help with their school studies and have a chance to be a child, free from family responsibilities and with toys to play with. We have helped to make this possible by sending tables, chairs, toys, dishes, beakers and food to eat. Pastor Pavon and his team do the caring for and helping of these children. They help with homework for those that attend school. They teach personal hygiene and check hair for unwelcome occupants. They help with shoes, clothes and other items needed by the families. One family lost their father and bread winner when he was killed. He was a security guard. We managed to help this family by giving sponsorship to one of the children. This provided her with school uniform so that she can continue with her education for another year. I say another year, as many children will go to school for a year and then miss a year or more because the family cannot afford the uniform or consumables required to continue.



**- CARRYING TABLES BACK FROM THE ZOLAN PROJECT -**

Jenny Smith recounts that while driving along the four miles of dwellings by the river, we encountered a young man cutting through a live electricity cable with a knife. Our driver stopped the car and suggested to him that it was not a good idea and was very dangerous. He was told “I have been doing this since I was 15 years old”. He is probably known as the local electrician! The river people obtain their electricity by splicing into the power cables that run along the main road. The resulting connections can then be routed to individual homes. This provides ‘free’ power, paid for by other electric consumers. You can understand why the river people are resented and the mayor is encouraged to try and move them off the river bank.

Pastor Pavon works with these deprived folk to try and help relieve their poverty and teach them a better way.

Jenny continues, while in San Pedro Sula we had the chance to meet the sponsored children from the El Brood area (River people). Some of the families have now relocated to Zolano but the children are still receiving sponsorship. Zolano is a mountain village near Choloma, about half an hour drive away. There is a nice community feel about the village and you cannot help but feel it is an improvement for the families. It is spacious and away from the river. Everything happens under a wooden structure out in the very hot sun; tables, chairs, food and toys are carried from a nearby house. They would like to build a church eventually but, to the pastors there, caring for the kids is of far more importance than the actual building. The project feeds 25 kids from Monday to Friday and 50 on a Saturday. A local lady has 8 children who are severely malnourished. They were present on the day we visited. Both mum and children alike were very thin and pale. The pastors have a help plan in place, which requires the children to call at the Pastors house every morning before school to breakfast from our supplies. It was nice to see them partake of doughnuts and an oat drink with the other children. This was where we saw the oat drink prepared and then cooled with large blocks of ice. It must have been very welcome, as it was nearly 40°C on that day. We also saw the children playing with Duplo and jigsaws from England. (We have lovely shots of the young children carrying the tables up the steep hill back to their storage location).

We met a brother, aged 8, and sister, aged 10, on the project at El Bordo, who gratefully received some school supplies. The children come from an abusive home where Mum is an alcoholic. Both children were taking an adult role and working to support and care for their mother. The project gives them the

opportunity to be children for a few hours and get the support they need to continue with their studies.

It is emotionally upsetting to be confronted by so much poverty and the great needs of these people. It is good to be able to provide some help, even if it is only possible to help relatively few of them.

### COLEGIO THREE YEARS ON

Guanacaste Colegio is now in its third year! This year the first young people will graduate from the 9<sup>th</sup> (final) grade. They should be sixteen years of age but many are older. This is because some could not access this level of education until we helped them establish local colegio (secondary school) classes. Previous to this, cost/lack of transport and lack of finance for books rendered the nearest existing secondary schools inaccessible.

By means of sponsorship, it has been possible to establish local affordable secondary education. The young people receive enough money to buy the mandatory four sets of manuals for the year and help with the cost of their teachers. The annual cost per student amounts to £80. Sponsorship for these young people has not proved to be popular. So far we only have sponsorship for three students this next year out of a potential of more than twenty. In order to



**- END OF TERM EXAMS AT THE COLEGIO -**

reduce the financial burden to individual sponsors we have decided to split the costs into £50 sponsorship, £20 for manuals, and £10 from Funds. We hope this might help to make the scheme more affordable. The costs for manuals can be further split into four lots of £5, as they have to buy two books a quarter. Sadly, the saving which could be achieved by passing on manuals cannot be realised because they change them each year! They are designed for the student to write in them. Colegio operates in late afternoon when work in the fields has finished and helping at home is no longer essential.

Colegio equates to the first three to four years of secondary education in England. It is not college as we understand it. Most of the current students have written to express their gratitude. Some examples are included below:

#### **FROM DARLIN**

*I want to tell you that I am a student in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and thanks to you I will be able to continue in School and be able to graduate. I am 14 years old and have 5 siblings, a mother, father and nephew.*

*My family was very poor but when you began to help us we became happier because now we have something to eat. Your friendship is the best gift life has given me.*

#### **FROM VENIS**

*The reason for writing is to thank you for all the support that you have given to me and the families in the village. I must tell you that I have a beautiful baby who is two years old. I am a single mum and I am truly happy and grateful for the things you have sent me and they are really so useful. I never imagined that you sponsor me, (for Colegio studies), I swear that you made me cry with joy and emotion because it is true. Things are not easy for me but I am so immensely happy.*

#### **FROM RONAL**

*I am 18 years old and I am studying in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, final year at Colegio. Thank to you and to God because your help is so important to us. I can tell you that I am doing well at Colegio and I travel every morning by bike or sometimes on foot when I have problems with my bike. It is a total of 16 km. 8km there and 8km back. I am determined to carry on studying because I want to better myself and help my parents because they are elderly. My dad is 56 years old and still works in agriculture and at the weekends I help him. When I grow up I will help my parents and for this reason I continue my studies to improve myself. My dream is one day to be a great doctor of medicine to be able to help those in need. I see the need in*

my village for a health centre. God will help us to achieve that because the nearest health centre is many kms from the village. I have faith in God that my dream will become a reality. I say goodbye now and send you my love.

## **A HARVEST FROM THE SEEDS**

For several years now we have received a quantity of returned packets of vegetable seeds from Sutton Seeds. We share these between the different ministries we supply. One group grew their seeds and sold some of the produce to buy clean drinking water for their families. This year some flower and vegetable seeds were passed on from the church in Choloma to a community called Proteccion. The mayor of the community was asked for land on which to grow the seeds. Land was released and 100 women organised themselves to prepare it for the planting of the seed and tending of the plants. The crops, when harvested, would give both food and extra income to the ladies, which would be spent on food. The mayor was so pleased that she asked Pastor Francisco if he would go and preach the gospel to this large group of women and hopefully secure a supply of seeds for next year!

The children are also growing the seeds in school. I have received photos of the radish harvest. The children like growing radishes as they grow quickly and they can eat them like sweets.



**- WATERING THE ORANGE TREE AT GUANACASTE SCHOOL -**

During our visit to Honduras, we were also taken to meet a family who had been given some seeds. The mother and girls worked very hard in the nearby fields for the land owners. The husband, however, was usually to be found lying in the street, drunk. He was given some of the packets of seed that we sent and also some Maize seed. Maize is a protected strain that must be bought in Honduras. (We are not allowed to send it.) This help has been so successful that the father has overcome his drink problem and is now doing very well raising food to eat and sell. As business has blossomed, he has been able to expand by renting a field next to their home. He is progressively realizing his ambition to become a market gardener. It is amazing how much can be achieved from the giving of a little help.



**- THIS FAMILY NOW HAS A GARDENING DAD -**

From Pastor Roger, Peniel Church:

Pastor Marco Zeron runs a children's project with over 150 children. These projects usually involve food, varied activities and games. This village is situated 30 minutes from the capital, on a mountain called Azacualpa. In this area where they live, the climate is cool and the soil is fertile.

The children from the project have been planting the vegetable seeds that you have sent. The crops they produce they sell in the market town. In addition to educating them, this activity helps in sustaining the children's project.

## FIRST FRUITS

The trees, which we bought and planted two years ago, are doing well in the schools and college. We have pictures of the first fruits. The photos showed green oranges, these will hopefully turn orange as their season progresses. We also have new schools waiting for our funding to enable them to plant trees of their own, to provide fruit for the children's lunch.

## MARIA DE JESUS GARCIA'S STORY

28 year old Maria grew up in La Finca orphanage in the Valle de Angeles. Not long after she left the protection of the orphanage she met her husband and by the time she was 17 they had their first child, Luis, a son now aged 11. Three years later Maria had twin girls Karin and Dayana; immediately after the birth her husband left her taking their son. Maria was forced into homelessness with two young babies to support and CH Trust helped with provisions, clothes and shoes for the children in our "family in crisis" boxes. Friends helped with



- MARIA AND HER CHILDREN -

accommodation and childcare to enable her to work. The only time she was allowed to see Luis was when the container shipment arrived and she could visit, to take clothes and food provided in the boxes. Luis was now working to support his father and new partner rather than attend school. The following year Maria moved to Ocatepeque, a 10 hour bus ride away from the Valle de Angeles, to live with her mother. This proved to be a bad decision as her brother and nephews were using drugs and she wanted to protect her daughters from this influence. So last year, she returned to the Valle de Angeles and moved in with her cousin paying her rent and to look after the children while she worked as a cleaner.

On returning to the Valle she discovered that Luis was living in poor conditions and his health was suffering as a result. He had a foot infection that made walking difficult, that had not been referred to a doctor. With help from a friend with legal training, she obtained custody through the courts and all three children are now in education. Her cousin now wants to marry and has put pressure on Maria to leave but she is reluctant to rent anywhere as most properties are owned by men who wish for a different kind of payment. With two young daughters she cannot take that risk.

While in Honduras we discovered that single women born in the Valle de Angeles are entitled to a small plot of land on which to build a home. Maria has claimed her plot but does not have the financial resources to build on it. CH Trust have proposed to provide the materials for a 2-room adobe mud block house for Maria and her children. Maria's contribution would be labour, which her male cousins and friends will provide for her. Water connections are possible now but electricity will only be possible if the supply is provided to the area in the future. Maria works hard and is very protective of her three children. Life should be much easier in the future as the house would be legally hers and she will have the security of knowing she cannot be made homeless.

She plans to share the house with another young woman who grew up at La Finca and has problems with finding safe accommodation, in return for childcare. Her sister is living with an abusive husband so it will also provide a safe haven for her sister and two boys when needed. This very small house will achieve safety and security for a number of people and children. Maria could potentially be a beneficiary of the pila project and the chicken project in future years.

The house will be built during the months of November and December after the rains have finished. They will mix the mud with pine needles and form it

into blocks, which will be placed in the sun to dry. The blocks will need turning regularly until they are rock hard. The mud bricks will be used to build the house with the help of a builder. Money is needed to buy the wood for the doors and shutters for the holes which are the windows. The most expensive item is the sheet metal roof and the wood that supports it. This house is dedicated to the memory of Shirley Shepherd, a friend, supporter and packer at the unit for Honduras. A proportion of its cost has been met by a gift from her estate. Hopefully it will not be long after you read this newsletter, that Maria will have her new home.

### THE 'PLASTIC HOUSE'

Following this theme we visited a family who lived in a shack we called the plastic house, as it consisted mainly of cardboard, sticks and black plastic bin bags. This is the home of Doña Isaura and her family of 10. Their "shelter" houses Mum, Dad and eight of their ten children, ranging in age from 6 to 26. It consists of 2 rooms divided by a sack cloth screen, has a mud floor and a corrugated tin roof. One of the rooms has a bed made of old clothes. This is shared by Mum and the five youngest children. Dad sleeps on bits of cardboard spread out on the mud floor. The older children also sleep on cardboard in the other room.

Earlier in the year Mum had been given seeds. We were pleased to discover that



**- THIS IS THE HOME THAT WILL BE REPLACED -**

she had grown and harvested them. The main reason for our visit was to see how well the lady of the house had succeeded with the chicken project. She had received a cockerel and three hens originally. Now she had 2 cockerels and 20 hens in total. Even though it must be so tempting to eat the hens, when you have little food, she had properly managed the chickens and increased her assets. We felt that this family were worthy of further help. The trust has agreed to use the donation of Lindsay's special birthday money (one of our packers of many years) to build this family an adobe house like Maria but a bit larger. This will be built in November, after the rains have ceased.

### THE LONGER VIEW

Much of what we send in the containers is consumed within the year. However, we do try to find things to move the people forward on a longer term basis. This includes such projects as the planting of trees and keeping of chickens, the houses we are building, the pilas etc. All are part of trying to improve the lives of many children and families. It is great when we can find ways to help them earn money.

I have just received two requests for longer term help. As well as making home and caring for her four children, Reyna has to look for and carry water, usually from the local dirty, polluted river. She has to use this for drinking, cooking and all other needs. Thirty five pounds would pay for her house to be connected to the village water supply. Surely, a good investment?

Lourdes and her six year old son live in a house where the corrugated metal roof is badly holed and rotten to the degree that it needs urgent replacement. The cost of this is about £250, depending on how much supporting wood has to be replaced. Such an improvement will last for years and greatly improve their living conditions. Thankfully, we do not often experience water dripping through the roof whenever it rains. There are many houses in Honduras that need a new roof! Hopefully we can help a few.

### CH TRUST MEDICAL SUPPLIES AT WORK

Reports have reached us that medical brigades have been enabled to go out into the mountains because we had supplied the childrens medicine that they needed. Others have held clinics in poor urban areas, where the people were too poor to attend a doctor and could not have afforded the medicine prescribed. The doctors are usually volunteers, as are those dispensing the medication and recording the patient's details. We have also managed to place nebulisers in some key positions,

where help can be given to people with severe breathing difficulties. It seems that many people living in the mountain areas have breathing problems. The pine trees are responsible for some respiratory ailments. It must be very scary for a mother caring for her child, who is struggling to breath, without access to medical help or any medication. If an ambulance is needed, it is more usual to send for the fire brigade. Often there is only one ambulance for a large area and, when called, is more often than not attending an incident elsewhere. The fire brigade truck is more available to take you to hospital but money will be needed to cover or contribute to the fuel bill. As usual, the government only provides a fraction of what is needed. If you live far up the mountain it is often impossible to reach help in time. Sadly, the 18 year old brother of one of the Guanacaste support teachers was struck by lightning while leaning against a tree. He died half way to hospital, which was four hours away.

Doctor Rigoberto, associated with the Orica Clinic, wrote as follows:

*The first of October we held a Medical clinic. A Church called Mizpa asked us to help it on their behalf. This was their first medical clinic in 30 year, and were able to do it, thanks to the medicines ,clothing and toothbrushes that you have sent to us from England. We also applied fluor on the children teeth and gave each child a toothbrush and a toothpaste. One girl came to us twice because she said that she wanted a toothbrush for her sister. Thank you all for the good work that you do for Honduras. Blessings.*

Each year I spend between three and four thousand pounds on medical supplies. The main items are antibiotics, vitamins, worming tablets, iron, paracetamol and water purifying tablets. This sounds a large bill and it is. But it is the quantities that make it so expensive. I have ordered 900 bottles of antibiotics and 30,000 tablets for the older children. 150,000 iron and iron with folic acid for the expecting mums to help prevent hair lip in the children and to give them sufficient energy to cope with their existing families.

76,000 worming tablets as most poor children have intestinal worms, which take the goodness from the food they eat and also cause anaemia. After they have been given a course of worming tablets they like to build the child up with a vitamin tablet each day for one month. As we now supply many thousands of children across Honduras the numbers have many noughts on the end. I have ordered 350,000 vitamin tablets and 108,000 water purifying tablets. This all comes to a big bill, which I am trusting that I will have money for, when payment is due.

## NEW LIFE BLESSINGS

Our Honduran helpers have enjoyed giving out the baby bags and family bags that many of you make. They say that they often reduce the new mums to tears when they see the beautiful things given to them. We now have many ministries asking for these bags.

Pastor Beverley wrote:

*The Cristocentro women's ministry continues to visit the maternity hospitals and touch hearts and lives with the baby items you send. Please continue to do so; it is one of the greatest joys of our women's ministry. The need at the national maternity hospital (Hospital Escuela) is inexhaustible and our teams love to go there, so we are willing and able to handle whatever you can send us of these items.*

## HELPING THE HUNGRY

Once again food will be a large element in this next year's containers. There are far too many children suffering from malnutrition, as well as those who often go hungry. We saw many children enjoying a meal of pasta during our visit to Honduras. But only because we had sent it! Every ministry asked for more of our dried full cream milk, which tastes so good and is full of goodness. Last year we bought four tons (120 sacks) which, when divided between all the children, is not much. But it cost near £8000! We paid for one ton with the money raised on the weigh and pay recycle.

As the world experiences economic contraction and increasing unemployment, Honduras suffers as well. The little employment that had been available is also decreasing. The cost of things in Honduras is increasing in the same way that we notice in our weekly food shop. In Honduras it usually means that more people go hungry. There is no government aid/social security in Honduras. The lack of employment therefore compounds the problem. No work means no food. We are able to help some of these unfortunate people with basic foods. As you can guess this includes foods such as dried milk, rice, pasta, oats, red beans, tinned tomatoes (chopped are good), meatballs, hot dogs sausages, sweet corn. During the year we have managed to buy several tons of pasta at 9p and 18p per 500g packet. We are still buying as they love the pasta. It is easy to cook, easy to eat and can be mixed with very little to make a meal. We hope to buy four tons of oats as usual. This seems to be mainly used to make the traditional 'merienda' filling drink of oats, water and sugar. How much rice we manage to buy will depend on the adequacy of our finances.

### Where the Money Went Last Year:

4 tons oats	£1600
4 tons milk	£7440
5 tons pasta	£2500
6 tons rice	£1950
Medicals	£4690
Shipping	£14000
Import	£4000
School uniform and shoes	£3000

### Pastor Beverly wrote from Cristocentro, in Tegucigalpa:

*At Cristocentro, the number of families in crisis has increased this year (as I'm sure it has in your area as well). The excessive rain has caused damage to homes (just today, we extended help to a church family who were evacuated forcibly by the government from their home, which is now uninhabitable because of mudslides) and the very difficult economy is affecting professionals and business owners as well as labourers. So the clothing, shoes and food you send to Centro is still needed, and the amount you have been sending is excellent. We love the seeds too!*

## MISCELLANEOUS NEEDS

### COMBS AND HAIR BRUSHES

These items seem to have become more expensive and therefore we are getting less. Good combing and brushing can reduce the breeding ability of head lice but many families will not have these items. The nit combs are used by the churches, when they teach personal hygiene. There are also days when they will cut hair and teach on such matters. Many are asking for hair cutting scissors. This task is usually a team effort with several ladies working simultaneously. Thus several pairs of scissors are required by each ministry.

### BEAUTY ITEMS

Many are now asking for these items because they are running classes on hair care, nails and beauty care. This can give a girl the ability to earn a little money locally, helping to feed her and the family. Others may be sufficiently talented to start a small business. Also all the teenage girls like these things.

I am not asking for money to be put into these items as they do not rank high in our priority list. However, many people may have spare items in their possession that they might wish to donate. New and complete bottles are not important.

Ordinary size frying pans are good for the families as they often fry their beans or rice.

### **WOOL**

We have many local ladies who knit for us but many are running out of wool. Is there any knitting wool looking for a good home?

### **SHOWING THE WAY**

The wind up lamps and torches continue to be popular in the poor areas where there is no electricity or money for batteries. The lamps we buy in bulk. I think this year they will cost about eight pounds due to increased costs. The torches are coming down in price and I managed to buy some from the pound shop. If you wish to purchase a lamp for us to send please send the money to me as soon as possible as we buy in January.

### **TAPS**

We often get given stainless steel sinks and ceramic sinks but no taps. Have you any spare taps you can donate?



**- THE YOUTH OF DANLI CHURCH GIVING OUT OUR FOOD -**

## **JEANS RULE OK!**

My packers often complain that the goal posts keep moving when it comes to selecting what to send and what to reject. This is because things change in Honduras along with our understanding of what is needed most. As our understanding develops we alter what we are trying to send. We have discovered that the Honduras government has made a very sensible decision to allow boys to wear jeans for school instead of formal school trousers in some schools. This is very good news as they cost half the price and last twice as long. This change of policy does not seem to extend to all schools but a significant proportion is electing to adopt jeans.

Here in England, children's jeans can be purchased from the large supermarkets, ranging from £4 to £5. We need ages six to fifteen. If anyone wants to help a child attend school, this would be a good purchase. They start school at the age of six. Whatever we send will fit someone! Will this be a jean year?

## **OTHER CLOTHING NEEDS**

Black shoes of any description, second hand, new, even plimsolls allow children to access school.

The white or blue school shirts help to achieve the same. They do not seem to have a preference for long or short sleeves so, if we are buying; we purchase whatever is going out of season in England that offers a good reduction in price. Dark blue is still the main school colour for skirts and dresses. In the mountain areas pants are needed, especially for the girls. We rarely get them second hand. Underclothes are very much valued, especially for the older girls. They have also asked for bras for the older girls.

All children's clothes are needed. Boys and baby clothes are the most expensive to buy, even second hand, as boys pass little on after they have played in clothes.

It is a hot country so no thick coats or tights please. So far we have had very few clothes this year.

School uniforms are also needed and prized by the children. A 7 year old girl wrote "When I get home from school, I take off my school uniform and hang it up before I help my Mum with the work in the house" Many children are attending school because they have received uniform from England. Does a school near



### **- TEENAGE GIRLS DELIGHTED WITH THEIR BAGS OF TOILETRIES -**

you have lost property that could be donated to us, rather than throwing it away at the end of the year?

### **SHOES, WELLINGTONS AND FLIP-FLOPS**

This was often the next most requested item after food. Footwear in Honduras is very expensive and of poor quality. A pair of UK second hand shoes has lasted for over four years, being handed down through the family. We were told a pair of new Honduran shoes would only last three months. No wonder ours are in such demand. Black shoes or pumps will allow a child to go to school. Wellingtons preserve the precious school shoes during the rainy season when tracks become thick mud. Flip flops can cope with most types of weather and are worn by many, since they are the cheapest form of footwear available. Any footwear is better than none because they protect the feet. We saw one boy with one bare foot and one with a sock covering an oozing sore.

Wellington and walking boots, in particular, are very practical for negotiating the thick mud which makes up the paths to school during the rainy season. They are also a fashion item for some who live in the city, as wellingtons are not too common, especially when they are in the nice bright colours for the tots. Charity shops and stalls can be good for those.

Please note that we are no longer able to accept the Oxfam style knitted teddies.

Towels and bedding including blankets, knitted or ordinary, are needed in the high mountain areas.

## SCHOOLS AND KINDER

Each child to attend school needs:- a rucksack, black shoes, paper pad or exercise books, pens, pencil, felt pens or crayons, 30 cm ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener. The older children need a compass, protractor and set square.

## SCHOOL NEEDS

There is so little in their classrooms that it is difficult to know where to start with a wish list. Obviously they need basic items, sugar paper, marker pens, white board pens, blackboards, white boards, chalk, liquid paint, paper, exercise books or reporters pads (the cheapest). They also need equipment for the more specialised lessons.

- **School Supplies** e.g. Pens, pencils, felt pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, calculators, compasses, protractors, set squares, pencil cases etc.
- **Paper** is very expensive, so reporter's pads or exercise books are a great help to families. They also need individual glue sticks or containers of glue.
- **For science**; test tubes, thermometers, beakers, flasks, mesh and gauze for bunsen burners, tripods for burners, magnifying glasses, magnets, prisms, lenses, laboratory weighing machines for chemicals, microscopes, prepared microscope slides, basic electronics material, etc.
- **The schools also like our wall charts and posters.** Sometimes you can find them in Spanish in some of the shops. If they are in English they cover the writing over with Spanish. They also like pictures of animals and plants that they can display or cut up. Old calendars are good for this.
- **Craft resources** such as artist paint brushes, embroidery silks, large hole needles and other sewing needs, etc.
- **Football** make for great playtimes, great gifts for the boys as well as the old favourite, marbles.
- **Football boots** are a real treat.
- **Skipping ropes** are popular with the girls. Also **dolls**, baby or Barbie are greatly loved by the girls.

Modest resources such as these can facilitate exciting lessons for children only used to chalk and talk.

- **Black and white boards** are still being requested by the schools.
- **Recorders** are an item asked for by many schools. They have recorder groups but lack enough recorders for the children. **Guitars** are also needed.
- **Inexpensive digital watches** for the older children.

**Large saucepans**, jam pans or pressure cooker bases. These are needed for cooking lunch in the schools. Very large frying pans and catering size saucepans.

### **VITALITE**

Has anyone got any of the round plastic tubs that originally contained Vitalite margarine, before they changed to a more modern style? We sent some to a soup kitchen to use as bowls about five years ago and they are still working well. They said that they are better than any bowls we can buy! Are there any languishing in your cupboard that we can send?

### **MOSQUITO NETS**

Malaria and dengue fever are a seasonal hazard in Honduras. The poorest houses are those that need a net the most, as the wooden and cardboard walls do not seal against insects. The family size net is needed to cover both double and single beds, as they usually have several people sleeping in them.

£5 can purchase a family mosquito net which will be given to a family who cannot afford to buy one to protect their children in Honduras. Malaria is not a great problem in most of the country but Dengue Fever is. This is spread by mosquitoes, especially in the rainy season. If you would like to contribute, we will be sending in a 'bulk' order for mosquito nets before Christmas. We would also appreciate the donation of any nets that are now surplus to requirements. Cards are being sold to raise money for this project.

### **CHICKEN WIRE**

Several schools will need chicken wire to form a fence around the school property.

In the places where we have planted trees, without a fence, the ground is seen as open ground and anything planted there can be harvested by anyone. With a fence in place, even though it would be easy to climb over, the plants will be respected as private. So this is the first need, to fence the schools boundary.

### **SNOW CHAINS**

Does anyone have any that they can donate or something that would do the same job of helping to get vehicles up the mountains through thick mud?

## TARPAULINS

Three ministries have asked for tarpaulins for their children's work. These are needed more against the sun than the rain. Many of the children are fed outside but the sun, through the clear air, is very strong and very hot. They really need the old fashioned canvas tarpaulins, as the modern plastic type will only last about three months due to the destructive power of the sun's UV rays. The modern type is good for keeping rain out of vulnerable homes.

## LADDERS

Several of our ministries in Honduras have asked for a ladder to aid decorating and maintenance.

## SPECIALIST ITEMS

### ROTAVATOR

We sent four 8 horsepower petrol rotavators. These were asked for to help turn the ground, which is often very hard due to lack of water and the baking sun. Large areas of land are hard to till with only a spade or fork. We have sent them to areas where the students are working to provide food for the dining room. We have since been asked for more, especially from the Orphanage, which has over



**- GIVING OUT TOYS TO THE PEOPLE THAT  
SURVIVE BY WORKING ON THE RUBBISH DUMP -**



**- TARPAULIN NEEDED TO PROVIDE SHADE TO THESE CHILDREN -**

50 acres of land that is gradually being brought into cultivation. Small domestic rotavators are not capable of performing this task.

**PETROL STRIMMERS**

These have been requested to cut down the grasses and weeds that grow prolifically during the rainy season. When the rains end, these weeds dry and become a fire hazard, threatening crops and buildings. Again small domestic trimmers are not suitable for the scale of this task. Electric powered tools, again, are not suitable because of the lack of electricity supply and, where available, the supply standard (i.e. 110 Volts, 60 Hz). The trimmer type which uses metal cutters, rather than consumable chords, is preferred because obtaining replacement chord is likely to be a problem in Honduras.

**FRUSTRATIONS OF IMPORT**

The import of this year's containers met with every problem imaginable. The process also cost us an extra £2000, for which we had not budgeted. At the last moment Honduran authorities demanded extra import documents for the milk, after which they then created problems with the oats and rice; very frustrating when the shipment of all of these items was no different to previous years.

When the containers arrived at the docks in Honduras, one of them at least was scanned in some way. The Customs observed on the scan a large unidentified item that they could not explain. This delayed the exit of all four containers from the docks. Because we had sacks of grain and milk on board the Customs also wanted to open the containers at the docks. This is always bad news, as things go missing if the containers are opened at the docks. Even worse, is the problem that they cannot get everything back into the containers, in circumstances where the delivery centres are a six hour drive away.

We had about ten days of wrangling and negotiation, when nothing stayed the same for more than 12 hours. Every credit must be given to Dina and Cristocentro church, who overcame every obstacle as it was placed in their way. The pressure on our Honduran representatives is tremendous, as every passing day can cost us hundreds of pounds in storage (which is how we incurred most of the £2000 extra bill). One moment we could open the containers in the capital, twelve hours later we could not. Next, we needed all new paperwork and permits. Little can be achieved on the phone in Honduras; it is always a visit to several offices and much waiting!

Thankfully, common sense eventually prevailed. The containers were released from the docks unopened, taken to the bonded yard in the capital and permission finally given to move them to their final destinations.

On the appointed day, all the different churches and organizations arrived early with their borrowed or hired vehicles and groups of helpers. They waited all day for the containers to arrive at the unloading depots. However, they waited in vain because the authorities would not release them from the bonded yard. This caused significant problems for the unloading teams and significant cost to CH Trust. Some had travelled for seven hours in order to collect their shipment. All had travelled over an hour. The following day three containers were released but the fourth was not, until mid-afternoon. It goes dark at six o'clock in Honduras, so one large group of men had to sleep on the church floor. It was too late to return up the mountain and it also gave security for the things that could not be moved away from the unloading area within the church grounds.

What an import! Various people have voiced the view that the Honduran authorities should be grateful for the help we try to give to their country and spare us from this kind of hassle. The Trust wishes to comply with the Honduras import process and regulations. However, we are not shipping professionals. It would be

a great blessing and encouragement to receive sympathetic pro-active help and facilitation from the authorities, rather than obstruction and prevarication over unimportant details. Why do we continue? It is because we are helping people who are unable to help themselves.

Please pray that we enjoy a better experience next year. On this occasion, someone else will be taking over Dina's role. She will be moving to America, with her husband and two children, to pastor a church in a Spanish speaking area of Florida. We wish them all well in this new venture for the Lord and send a big thank you for all the help they have given CH Trust over the years, especially with the import of the containers, which is never easy.

By the way, the large unidentified object turned out to be, as far as we can establish, an IBC (bulk liquid container) filled with sanitary ware!

### **FEBRUARY DELIVERIES TO DERBY**

Please note the dates of receiving week in Derby. It is possible that it may be half term school holidays in your area. It varies around the country. I will not be available to come and meet people the week before 11<sup>th</sup> February. The unit will be open every Tuesday up to receiving week but not on other days. We will probably work the Saturday before Receiving Week, as well. If you wish to bring your things prior to receiving week that would be good but we are only open on a Tuesday. I need everyone's cooperation on this issue, as the pressure and demand on my time around this period is great.

Where applicable, could you please get in touch with me and tell me when you hope to come. I also need to know, as soon as possible, of any large or unusual items that you intend to bring this year and their delivery date, please, before the end of January. This is necessary for customs purposes.

### **BENEFITS OF RECYCLE**

Some of the clothes and shoes that we receive are not suitable to be sent to Honduras. We sell these on as recycle, much for distribution to more temperate climates. We have now raised just over £3314 since February. Thank you to all who have helped with their contributions.

All cheques made payable to CH Trust please.

## WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS

### **PACKING WEEK**

There is a lot of pressure on all those who work every day at the unit throughout Packing Week. Often the goods arrive faster than we can process them. Please pray for good health and strength, mentally and physically, for all those helping during this week and the following weeks approaching loading day.

### **LOADING DAY**

Loading day comes at the end of several weeks of very tiring work, both at the unit and behind the scenes. In addition to the packing, there is the organising of the paperwork and dealing with the import and export problems.

Please pray for strength, health and patience for all the team. Organising 150 people is not easy. We also need wisdom and protection for everyone on Loading Day.

## DATES FOR 2012

Receiving week **February 11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> excluding Sunday**

Loading Day **Saturday 24th March**



**- TWO GIRLS AT THE DAYCARE CENTRE -**