

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MINISTRY

It is fifty years since I began the work of CH Trust in Honduras. I would like to celebrate this milestone with an afternoon tea, including slides illustrating how the work has developed over 50 years.

There is no charge for the afternoon tea but, to mark 50 years, we would appreciate donations towards a special 'memorial' project in Honduras. We will open the doors at 2pm for a 2.30pm start. It will be held at Spondon Methodist church, Lodge Lane, Spondon, Derby DE21 7GF on Saturday 22nd April 2023. There is very limited parking in the church car park, which we would like to keep for the disabled and those with mobility problems. There is on road parking opposite and at the village hall and library on the main road through the village (about 5mins walk from the church). All are welcome but I would like to know who plans to come, so that we can get the catering right. Please phone 01332 679687 or e-mail info@chtrust.org.uk to advise me of the number of people. I look forward to seeing you on this special occasion.



- MILK POWDER FOR LENCA TODDLERS -

AT LAST, BACK TO SCHOOL__

The primary schools take children from the age of five through grades 1 to 6. Completion of 6th grade determines that the children have achieved a prescribed level of reading, writing and number ability. Many finish their education at this point. Education is expensive for parents. Many of the children we seek to help are needed to go out and find any paid work available, so that they can help to feed themselves and the family. This work is often an odd day here and there, but every bit helps the family to survive. For many children it is a big achievement to reach sixth grade, as it is something that their parents did not have the opportunity to achieve. The Colegios start at the age of about 12 years. The age may vary as the education is structured such that you move class when you have passed the end of year exams for that grade. If you missed a year of schooling, you restart your education in the next grade beyond the one last passed. You do not move with your peer group, as you would here in England. This is why you can see children of different ages in a grade class on the photos.

All schools are underfunded. They get a paid teacher but not much else. This is why we are providing mini libraries, so that children will have books to help with their reading. Schools without books seems so wrong to us in England. In addition to academic subjects, the colegios or senior schools, also, do not have sufficient funding to provide much needed lessons that will give their pupils life skills to help them earn money.

The Instituto, Jose de la Rosa is a colegio in Guaymaca. We have invested in this school by providing equipment for a domestic science room, so that cookery classes can take place. Cesar reviewed several schools that would like to have such provision. He has placed our help where he thought it would be put to the best use by the teachers



- CHILDREN LEARNING TO PREPARE FOOD -

and the colegio in general.



- THEY ARE UNPACKING THE THINGS THAT CH TRUST HAD BOUGHT WITH A SPECIAL GIFT OF MONEY -

They had several cookers in the room but only the new one works. The teacher was explaining on one video, that they had waited five years for such help so that they could hold cookery lessons. They had lots of promises and some second-hand items that did not work. These you can see around the room. They look good on a photo, but are no good for cooking or storing food.

I know these lessons will give a lot of pleasure to many girls, as well as giving them opportunity to improve their home kitchen skills. It will also show them how to use equipment found in commercial style kitchens and local restaurants. It would be nice to provide the same for another college in the future. The cost was about £2500.

VISITING THE TOLUPAN PEOPLE

The Tolupan people, who Cesar visits, live on Monta Flora (Flower Mountain). They live in homes made of bamboo and soil, roofed with palm leaves. Sixteen tribes inhabit this area who have little contact with the outside world. They have their own native language. When Cesar first visited four years ago, the people hid when they heard and saw the cars. They were hesitant and reluctant to make contact. This is because, in the past, they have been treated badly and suffered many broken promises. The first photos I received were of a very reserved unsure people. Now the videos and photos show a people laughing and joking amongst

themselves and very relaxed in the company of our team.



**- THIS IS LOCAL TRANSPORT
WITH A LOAD OF BUILDING BLOCKS IN THE CART -**

When Cesar visits, at least one person from each of the 16 tribes will come to meet him. To meet Cesar about midday, some need to start their journey on foot by 3am.

He takes 300 bags of basic foods for the families and some powdered milk to supplement the diet of the toddlers. They take small biscuits and juice to give to the children who come with their parents, to give them a boost for their return trip home. Over the last two years our team have started to take fruit trees and seeds for the people to grow. The ground is good for growing and Juan Carlos also gives some instructions on planting and nurturing the trees. These will provide food for many years to come.

It takes Cesar and the team, in two vehicles, five and a half hours to reach the Tolupan community and another five and a half hours to return home. This is not an easy trip as the mud roads are scored with deep furrows where water has washed it away. On this year's trip, the roads were especially muddy and, in parts, dangerous due to heavy rain. Often there is also a deep drop on one side of the road!

On the right are photos of our team in Honduras taking supplies to the Tolupan people on Monta Flora. As you can see there was a river that they needed to ford. Sometimes their trip gets delayed, if there has been heavy rain and the river is too high.



**- THE ROADS ARE VERY MUDDY
AND IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO GET TRACTION -**



- FORDING A RIVER -



- THE MINI LIBRARY DONATED TO THE TOLUPAN -



- THE HEN HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION -

At the entrance to the Tolupan area there is a health centre. Teachers are sent into the area on temporary attachments to teach the children. The teacher will cover all six grades, rather like our old small rural schools. This year there is an extra treat for the teacher as we have given them a mini library.

This library is our first venture into improving the education of their children. Books are so important in young lives and shows the purpose of learning to read. They discover the enjoyment that can be had with this skill if they can find books to read. We are so lucky in England.

ANOTHER HEN HOUSE BUILT__

We have been able to complete another hen house for a college at Guaymaca. This had been planned and paid for with specific money but then postponed by the Covid pandemic lock down. Following this, the first 'face to face' academic year in Honduras recommenced in 2022. The build was completed in the spring of 2022. It was then stocked with young hens, feed, vaccines and bedding. Chicken production has now started, which will lead on to preparation for consumption by the domestic science department and provision for the dining room.

We have restocked three more of our hen houses during the year. A new system of chicken production has been devised, where one hen house provides for three dining rooms and then later another of the three provides chickens for all three dining rooms. In this way chicken can be served for a prolonged period through the school term.

A NEW CLASSROOM FOR MACUELIZO__

The last few years has seen a significant increase in the number of children attending this school. At the end of 2021 we added a dining room and kitchen to the school. This has made the school even more popular as we provide food several times a week at lunch time. The stage has been reached where lessons are having to be held in the dining room. CH trust is currently engaged in the process of adding another classroom for the younger children in time for the new school year, which starts in February 2023.

It will be ready for use towards the end of February. Already there is rivalry amongst the four teachers as to who will get the new classroom. It will be decided by who has the largest number of children, which will be between 30 and 40.

A message was sent via Cesar saying :-

“Thank you to CH Trust for all the help you have given. It has changed our community. Thank you so much for changing lives and giving our children a chance to learn to read and write.”

What a testimony, what an investment into the future of these children. Well done everyone, as it can only been achieved by your gifts and prayers. You are all part of CH Trust. Cesar and his team and myself are only the channels for such blessings.



- OUR FEEDING CENTRE ON THE NORTH COAST -

SPONSORSHIP

Despite the economic difficulties currently troubling our country, we are delighted to report that your generosity has meant that the schools in Honduras supported by the CH Trust team have enjoyed a successful year. Your support has enabled all their children, even from the poorest families, to attend classes. Almost all made it through to complete their academic year. Those sponsored children who did have to re-sit a subject, still feel motivated to continue with their school studies because of the support given.

By spreading the funds across as many children as possible, the team were able to respond to any child's immediate needs for school attendance. No child had to miss school through lack of school supplies or a pair of shoes. In some cases, just providing an exercise book or pieces of paper for a child to submit their class homework part way through the year, meant that the pupil could fulfil the curriculum requirements and move up to the next grade.

We thought you might like to read the letter below, sent by one of the sponsored children, who is working very hard to access education and really values the CH Trust sponsorship which you help to provide.

From: Norman Daniel Castillo Lopez

Date: December 2022

Dear friends in England, it is a pleasure to be able to write to you. I hope that God fills your life and the lives of your family with abundant blessings.

I am happy to tell you, that thanks to God, I passed all my subjects in college. It was rather difficult for me because I had to travel into the city every day and find someone to give me a lift. Sometimes I arrived very late because I could not find any transport to get me there. It is the same when I have to go home and I get back late. All this makes it difficult to complete the work required. I live with my sister and her family, because my mum died a long time ago and my dad abandoned me. I have had difficult times because of this, but I pray to God that He will guide me along the right path. Your support has been a great blessing in my life. Also, in the lives of other children in the school and in the village. I am attending church and have joined the youth group, which is also a blessing in my life.

Many thanks for the help you have given me. I hope that the Lord Jesus Christ pours His many blessings on your family and keeps you and protects you always.

Most students must walk for as much as two hours to get to a bus to take them into the city. They then have the problem of the bus fare. This is another expense that they cannot always meet. In spite of the difficulties, they work very hard to get an education and appreciate all the help they can get.

I have just received some wonderful news about Delmi, who has received specific sponsorship now for over six years. This has enabled her to attend university in Tegucigalpa, many miles away. During this time, she has helped in the Guanacaste school. She has just graduated as a teacher and has been given a teaching post in the Guanacaste school. At one point there was only her and another volunteer keeping the school open and teaching the children. A paid job as a teacher is very difficult to obtain in Honduras. It has been a long hard road to get to this point but her tenacity has paid off. Without our sponsorship she could not have achieved the required level of education and qualification. Well done Delmi! She is the second person from Guanacaste to qualify and find a job in education. Another

young lady will soon qualify with our support. This could not have happened before Cesar moved to Guanacaste school and CH Trust became involved. Yes, we are changing lives in a big way. I hope I will have more information to share about them in the next newsletter.

ENABLING EMBROIDERY IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

As an extension of last years sewing classroom provision, we bought items to be used in embroidery and craft lessons.



- BUYING SEWING SUPPLIES -

The photo above is where Cesar was buying sewing supplies for the craft classes, in the colegios and primary schools. This is a picture of Lourdes, Cesar's sister, who collates the Honduras receipts and bank statements.

The items were shared out between the senior schools and primary schools where it would be used to the best advantage.

Embroidery is a skill that is very useful in Honduras, as embroidered items can be sold locally. An embroidered tea towel can be a present. It is also a great lesson to have as a break from the academic subjects, in which all do not excel.

Before CH Trust help, these lessons could not be given, as the teachers did not have cloth, hoops or silks for the students. The schools are given few resources by the Government. If only we were still able to send containers!



- STUDENTS LEARNING EMBROIDERY -

CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTIES

The Christmas dinner parties, which take place in the schools, are a big favourite with the children. The photos below show the parties which took place during December 2022 and the start of January.

This looks a nice spread. Chicken, rice with vegetables and salad. These children will not have salad at home. It is too expensive.



The party is not restricted to those who are of primary school age. It is open to all children in the area.

That looks to be a nice piece of chicken. The chicken in Honduras tastes wonderful.



Each school or centre is given the same budget per child but the ladies in the kitchens choose how the chicken is cooked. Some cook it with vegetables in a stew type meal, others cook the chicken and serve it with potato salad and green salad. Those with other contacts will have the chicken coated and deep fried. Whatever the choice, it will be a good meal. Rice and tortilla are standard in the Valle area schools. All have a fruit drink and usually a piece of fruit.

When all the schools have had their parties, over 1000 children in 12 communities will have enjoyed a CH Trust dinner. Another 500 will be fed through the feeding centres. Your money has helped feed some of these children with a delicious meal, with all the excitement of a party with friends. The parties take place in the middle of the long school holidays when a good meal will be a necessity, rather than a luxury, for many of the children in these hard times.

YEAR OF THE TREE

I think 2022 could be called our year of the fruit tree. We have purchased and distributed over 1000 trees. Some in schools and colleges, some to families and others to the Lenca and Tolupan people. At about £2 each they are a good long term investment into the future food supply and economy of the people. Most trees will start to bear fruit two years from planting and some varieties after just one year.



- LEARNING TO PLANT A TREE -

WATER SUPPLIES FOR TWO COMMUNITIES

In the last newsletter I told you about collecting water from a natural water spring in the Valle mountains. We fitted a large water tank which holds 20,000 litres of water. This has made such a difference to so many families. The availability of clean water from a spring, without the need to collect additional water from a river or stream, is a great relief. Usually, river supplies will have already been used and polluted by other people and animals. Clean water is so much better for their health, especially the younger children.

A second 20000 litre tank has also been fitted in Leona. We only just got this in place before the end of 2022. This will provide water for the barrios of Leona, Altos de la Leona and La Pozona. Clean water and plenty of it for years to come. What a gift, what a blessing!

The men generally like building projects as the construction interests them. I think it is the women who really value a good clean supply of water. The new tanks are a great blessing for many families, since most will only receive water once every 15 days and, in some cases, once a month.



- MANOUVERING THE WATER TANK -

A BIG THANK YOU

Dear supporters, I would like to thank you for allowing us to make 2022 a good year for Honduras. Your gifts have provided food, together with seeds and fruit trees, to expand the food available to the families and school kitchens. Special gifts have built houses for families, hen houses for schools and colleges, as well as water tanks to provide clean and easy access to water. Schools have been gifted supplies to equip cooking and sewing classes. The children have been given the essentials to attend school. The list could go on! All of this would not be possible without the donations given by you very generous people. A big thank you, for your gifts and prayers. I know that together, we have achieved more than I have written or will ever know.

AMAZON SMILE

Sadly, by the time you read this, Amazon Smile will no longer be offered by Amazon. I would like to thank everyone who put the word smile before their Amazon orders and gained us a small but valued amount of commission.

DONATION FORM

Please complete the form below and return with your donation. Please make cheques payable to “CH Trust”. Address on the front cover.

I would like to:

- ☐ Donate to the General Fund
- ☐ Sponsor _____ (Number of children) with a full/half sponsorship for the next academic year

I have enclosed £ _____

GIFT CARDS

I have kept the gift cards at £5 even though, as you have read, this amount does not cover the cost of a complete food bag. We are however getting two and a half trees for five pounds. The card entitled ‘invest in a child’ will be used to buy essential items needed for a child to access education. A ‘Christmas dinner/ party’ card will pay for food for three children. We have a new card, which will provide money to buy food for the four feeding centres that we supply.

CARD LIST

Food for a family in need	Invest in a Child (education)
Fruit Trees	Children’s Christmas/Party Dinner
Seeds	Food for a feeding centre

ADMIN

GIFT AID

The Inland Revenue has a scheme called Gift Aid where, if you are a UK taxpayer, CH Trust can claim back 25% on top of the value of your donations/giving. If that’s you, it would be great if you would complete the Gift Aid details on the back page of this newsletter. We will do the rest. Please remember to tell us if you drop out of paying tax.

BANK DETAILS

To (Bank) Name: HSBC	Sort Code: 40-19-37
Account No: 61589865	Account Name: CH TRUST



- CHILDREN ENJOYING A CHRISTMAS PARTY -

EMAIL DELIVERY PROBLEMS

We've been experiencing some problems with emails not being delivered. If you've not received an email from us recently and you usually do, please get in touch, the email may have got lost in the post. Please see our website for more tips on making sure you receive our emails. <http://chtrust.org.uk/email>

GIFT AID FORM

If you are able and willing to grant to us Gift Aid, please complete the authorisation form below and send it with your donation.

I would like Gift Aid to be authorised for:-
(please tick all boxes you wish to apply).

Today	<input type="checkbox"/>
Back dated for the last four years	<input type="checkbox"/>
For the future	<input type="checkbox"/>

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax each tax year.
I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1

Signature

Date

Address

Postcode

Please notify the charity if you decide to cancel this declaration or change your name or address or no longer pay sufficient tax.