

LATEST NEWS

In common with recent years, the last year has also proved to be exciting and turbulent. Many good things have happened, for which we thank the Lord, with the occasional not so good thing. The main highlight of the year is the ongoing build of Jenny Smith School in Pasado Grande. This school is a tribute to Jenny, who sadly passed away last year. These and other stories are featured below. Enjoy.

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR CHILDREN IN HONDURAS

CH Trust provides a Christmas meal each year for the children we feed daily in six small rural schools as well as the three feeding centres we supply.

In Honduras, Christmas occurs midway through the long school summer holiday, when those who attend school are missing their daily school meal. At this time mums of poor families are even more challenged in providing food for all their children, so the Christmas meal is very welcome.



- CHRISTMAS PARTY AT SABANETA -



- SPONSORED CHILDREN WITH NEW UNIFORMS -

My life has not been easy. I grew up in a very big family. We had very scarce resources. A big family, whether we like it or not, does limit what you have. It feels especially so, when this limits our future plans for what we want to do with our lives. Thanks to God, He has always put people with a good heart in my way. When I finished my college (senior school education) years I was very sad because I wasn't able to continue with my studies. For two long years, I looked for work until I found an opportunity through Cesar Oseguera. He talked to me about the CH Trust charity and gave me the opportunity to help in the (Guanacaste) school with a programme for young people and adults called 'education for all'. Thanks to your good will and support of this programme many young people were able to finish the third year of Secondary School. Today they are professionals. It was through your sponsorship I was able to continue my studies in university, working at school during the week and attending university classes at the weekends. It wasn't easy. It required a lot of dedication and discipline. It took me 6 years to achieve my title of Degree in Pedagogy and Education Sciences with Education Administration and Planning. This has opened up diverse career paths, as I am able to work in health centres, schools, colleges and in administration at any Educational Institution and also in Human Resources for any kind of business. Sadly, I have not been able to find myself a career in any of these. Unfortunately, here in our country, job opportunities are very few. Even so, God still blesses me. At the moment I am working, promoting an educational programme here in Valle de Angeles and in Cantaranas (a neighboring area). I supervise 35 educational centres of basic and pre basic education. The programme is called Honduran Programme of Community Education (PROHECO). This

programme is run in places where there are no Education Centres. The community have to provide a place or suggest a place where this can function. The programme pays for the teachers, so that the community does not have to pay, and ensures that the children won't go without education. Because it is only a programme, my salary is very small and doesn't cover all the basic needs.

I would also like to tell you that God has given me a beautiful family. My partner's name is Josue Chaves and we have two little princesses. The eldest is three years old and her name is Dana Lizeth. The youngest is 6 months old and her name is Ana Sofia. They are our happiness and by far the greatest blessing.

I am sure you will agree that Cecilia's story is a success story in the making. It tells of a happy family, with a mum who was given an educational opportunity through CH Trust. She has employment, which is very difficult in Honduras, and she will have great educational aspirations for her two daughters. This is what sponsorship is about, helping people in Honduras to achieve in life.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP IN CHOLOMA

Choloma is a town in the north of Honduras. Francisco writes:

As testimony, I want to tell you that 3 of the families who we supported last year with educational sponsorship did not belong to the church. Now they are full members of the church. in gratitude to God for the educational support received. They are now with their whole family worshipping God in the church.

Secondly, the Family Villa children, who we knew years ago, had stopped attending school for two reasons. Their mother suffers from a very serious disease called Elephantiasis, so they had to take care of her. The other situation was that they did not have the funds or support to buy their uniforms or their supplies to attend school. Since we began to help them with full sponsorship for two children and new shoes and rucksack for three others, they have all reactivated their classes and are now permanently in their education. Thanks to God and CHTrust.

Francisco goes on to say, 'As a church we are very grateful because we can evangelize, and we can talk about the Word of God with acts.'

A word from the editor: What I like about this, is that although Francisco is in charge of Sponsorship and also Pastor of a church, he looked beyond his congregation to help these children. It was not conditional on church attendance.

This is not easy, as there will be many poor families attending his church. In this case, sponsorship was given on need, not want. We have some wonderful people in Honduras, working on our behalf without pay.

IN MEMORY OF JENNY SMITH

Jenny Smith, who many of you have met, played a large part in the day to day running of CH Trust. Sadly, she died in August 2018, after a short illness. Her responsibilities included recording all the financial transactions and the preparation of the accounts for us. She was also responsible for the child educational sponsorship that we ran, offering the chance of education to children from very poor families. In these ways she has helped CH Trust to function, resulting in many changed lives. Over the years she has also been instrumental in providing help to thousands as she helped sort and pack goods for the container shipments we sent out annually to Honduras until 2015.

With money raised in memory of Jenny, we sought a project that reflected her work in Honduras. Cesar proposed the building of a desperately needed school in Pasado Grande. This village is to the south of Valle de Angeles (the place where CH Trust started work 47 years ago).

A CHILD'S RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Every child deserves the opportunity to receive an education. It is hard to imagine the frustration of parents who are too poor to provide what is necessary for their children to enjoy the basic right of an education.

Over the years three adjacent villages, one of which is Pasado Grande, had approached the government to ask for a school for their children. Although sympathetic, the government required the local inhabitants to provide the money to build the school. This rural area is very poor area and unable to raise the necessary funds. Neither did they have any contacts to help them. As a result, many of the parents and their children have received no primary education and cannot read or write. Even in Honduras, this carries a social stigma as well as individual lack of self-esteem. Some local children have managed to receive an education by walking for one and a half hours to a school in another area. Unfortunately, they were told that this could not continue this year because the school is fully subscribed from its own catchment area. How the children and parents felt when they were told there would be no more lessons is hard to imagine. It was in this scenario that Cesar proposed the building of a school as a project, using the money given in memory of Jenny in a way that provided

The Christmas dinner menu tends to be similar at each location. Each school is given a budget based on the number of children. The mums who do the cooking decide what they will provide. To date, it has always included chicken. Those at Sabaneta school appear to have coated fried chicken that they buy in.

Guanacaste school usually mix their chicken with rice and vegetables. A tortilla is always part of the meal. The other special item is a piece of fruit, usually an orange or banana. They also have a juice drink sometimes made of crystals but often including fresh fruit such as oranges or water melon, depending on what is in season and a good buy. The drink is often placed in small plastic bags and frozen to make what they call a charamuscas. This drink/lollipop lasts a long time! A charamusca seems an easy item to produce until you realise that someone with a freezer capacity capable of making 100 large lollies is required. This is not an easy find in the rural areas but, somehow, they seem to manage.

EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP

A special thank you to all our sponsors for your continued support of this precious work. It is also good to be able to say thank you to those who increased the number of children that they sponsor or who have joined the scheme for the first time. This additional help is much appreciated as we have been asked to sponsor an extra 80 children, spread across three different ministries.

The worsening economic situation in Honduras has made the requests for help even greater. More parents are finding it impossible to provide the necessary items and uniform needed for their children to attend school. Apart from the normal sponsorship, CH Trust also provided a further £1000 for the purchase of individual items such as shoes, trousers, blouse or rucksack to meet individual family shortfalls. This has allowed even more children to attend school. Thank you to all who helped, it means so much for each child and mother helped in this way.

A LETTER FROM CECILIA PONCE:

I am writing to tell you how grateful I am for the support you gave me when I needed it most. I would like to tell you a little bit about my story. From the moment I attended school, Juan Ramon Molina School (we know it as Guanacaste), my wish was always to be able to continue my studies and prepare myself academically, so that I will have better opportunities in my life and likewise to help my family.

a fitting tribute to her contribution to the children of Honduras. The proposed school was to be named after Jenny Smith.

JENNY SMITH SCHOOL GETS THE GO AHEAD

The money given in memory of Jenny was released to start what has now turned out to be a much bigger on-going project, rather than that originally envisaged. The initial proposal started as a one classroom school. However, the local Mayor and council decided to offer a much bigger site, with the request to build two large classrooms, rather than one modest one. The site was difficult in that it was located on a severely sloped hillside. The extra cost involved was recognized, with need for additional fund raising. However, the opportunity offered by the new proposal was deemed to be achievable and not to be missed. The school was started in December after official permission was granted. The land given to build the school had been sought-after by many businesses and church organizations, but the local people objected as they wanted a school for their community, and they won.

Thus, the school we started to build in memory of Jenny Smith has taken on a life of its own. We have had to build rather more quickly than we expected to allow the children to start school in the first week of the new school year in a safe environment. (the first week of February). Members of the village have helped by providing some of the unskilled labour.

The build itself has been challenging due to the steep angle of the land requiring substantial foundations and retaining walls to keep the construction secure on the mountainside, especially when the annual storm rains arrive. The playground is also split level, in sympathy with the slope of the land, with a five-foot retaining wall dividing the two areas.

I am delighted to announce that it has been possible to get the classrooms finished so that the children could start the new school year. However, if you look closely at the photograph you can see building supplies stacked behind them as the construction continues. There is still a lot to do.

To enable school to start they had to complete the two toilets, a wash pila and a plastic water tank to supply the toilets. The bigger challenge was building a large septic tank, as there is no mains sewage system in the area. There is still much to do but the children do have a school, albeit still an ongoing building site. Here they will receive a basic education which is accessible to every child in the area.



**- THIS IS THE STEEP SITE WE WERE GIVEN
TO BUILD UPON -**



- THE TOILETS, TWO CLASSROOMS AND SEPTIC TANK ARE NOW BUILT -



- CLASSES WITH BUILDING SUPPLIES STORED AT THE BACK -



- GRADES FOUR, FIVE AND SIX -



- THE CHILDREN WITH THEIR SPONSORED RUCKSACKS AND UNIFORMS -

the 'Education for All' project. A university Educational sponsorship for some young person could be an answer.

By way of example, there are two young ladies at Guanacaste school who are being helped with university sponsorship.

Iris is helping with grades 2-3 and Marbeli in the kinder at Guanacaste school.

These two young women have finished the equivalent of A level studies (bachillerato) with a specialism in education. They help at Guanacaste school from Monday to Friday and study for their degrees in education on Saturdays and Sundays, with a view to becoming fully qualified teachers.

Both of them are former sponsored children.

MACUELIZO SCHOOL KINDER PROJECT

A bit of feedback. Here is the latest picture of the kinder classroom we built at El Macuelizo



- EL MACUELIZO CLASSROOM WITH MURAL BY JORGE -

The mural on the wall was painted by Jorge, who has just been appointed to the post of head teacher at Guanacaste school. If you have a computer, you can get better look at it on our web site (www.chtrust.org.uk) and look for newsletters and you can see this in colour. Black and white does not do it justice.

We still need to raise funds to deliver outstanding features such as, perimeter walls, gates and a number of other school needs including flattening a section of land for the school vegetable garden, a kinder classroom, kitchen and library.

The official name of the school, which can never be changed, is: Centro de Educacion Basica Gubernamental Proheco ‘Jenny Smith’

The school is now operational, with 41 children and two teachers. As it is a very poor area, we offered educational sponsorship to those children who need it. This provides the uniform and all the other items needed for school, an otherwise new and unplanned expense for many of these families. Sponsorship is a one-off payment of £60 per child, this covers the whole school year.

Cecilia, featured earlier, has also been involved with the Jenny Smith School. She will have been instrumental in getting the teachers for this community, where they had no school. With help from CH Trust, the community has been gifted a school building, but it is of little value without any teaching staff. How help comes full circle!

Updates will follow as this project develops.

FUND RAISING FOR THE JENNY SMITH SCHOOL

As part of the ongoing fund-raising activity, Robin, Jenny’s husband, family and friends have been busy. His niece raised £577 in her half marathon run. This is being used to connect electricity to the school and fit lights and sockets. At the time of writing these supplies had only just been bought. The good news is that the government will pay the bill for the electricity used in the school. Other events are being arranged during the summer to raise funds to progress the school.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

We hope to start the ‘Education for All’ programme at the Jenny Smith School as soon as Cesar manages to catch his breath. There are older children and adults in the three surrounding villages who have never learnt to read or write. They have never had the opportunity. They are not allowed to attend primary school after a certain age, which is understandable. Cesar hopes to get the required manuals free, possibly from Cecilia’s department. If not too old, some of the older children may be able to attend grades 4, 5,6. Here they can learn the basics in the afternoon classes. We still need to find a teacher and support staff for

SABANETA SCHOOL

This year Sabaneta school had beetroot and cucumber with their Christmas dinner that they had grown in their own school garden



- CUCUMBER AND BEETROOT FROM THE SCHOOL GARDEN -

The seed project was extremely successful. Cesar bought and distributed the seeds early and the crops did well with the early rains. The growing of the vegetables is very competitive between the schools. Sabaneta won the prize from the 18 schools taking part. They have already planted seeds this year with money collected from the sale of the extra harvest last year.



- SABANETA SCHOOL GARDEN -

The head teacher wrote to us saying how happy and grateful everyone is with the help that we give the school with the midday meal and the seeds. She says that the children and the community learn about good nutrition and how to cultivate and add value to our land. We are helping to provide adult education within the community by those who know and help with the cultivation. These little seeds are providing so much. The parents are very happy because it is very difficult for these low income families to buy vegetables. Their children are eating them at school and they can buy the excess harvest.

This school, called Los Angeles has already set seeds that they had left over from last year. They have made raised beds out of blocks. The lower beds are formed with empty coca cola bottles filled with soil. The vehicle tyres will also take plants. The boys are working on the framing they used last year to grow climbing vegetables.



- LOS ANGELES SCHOOL PLANTING EARLY THIS YEAR -

I am thrilled to see the schools starting to help themselves and find ways of improving this project. A little help can go a long way. The schools seed project made national television last year, with the head teacher of Sabaneta being interviewed. Cesar has to be congratulated for all his hard work.

THE NEED FOR TREES

On each visit to the Lencas, Cesar tries to take some fruit trees for distribution.

He takes citrus, mangos, avocado and other fruits. We have now given out 200 trees. The Lencas will sell much of the produce and eat that which is not saleable. One way or another, the trees will bring benefit to the Lenca diet.

Sadly, the Lenca people have had another bad year. Drought has affected large parts of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. The rains came and the crops started to grow but then lack of rain caused them to fail and not grow to harvest. They will have made sure that the trees received water.

Trees were also bought for some families on the north coast at La Ceiba. The church at La Ceiba was started by Jeronimo and his wife some years ago. He was brought up in the Valle de Angeles Orphanage with his two sisters. We have known Jeronimo indirectly for most of his life. His church is in an economically poor area and they are always looking for ways to earn money. They hope that the trees will provide an additional income source as they mature.



- MORE LENCA FAMILIES ARE GIVEN CHICKENS -

THE DAY OF THE CHILD

The Day of the Child, in Honduras, is a very special day. In some ways it is similar to Christmas in our schools. Christmas occurs during the long school holiday, so no celebrations take place at school. Celebrations, however, do take place on the Day of the Child. This is a day when trips/outings are organized, or small gifts are given. As you can imagine these are very modest affairs in poor areas.

Cesar wanted to take pinatas and food bags to the Tolupan. Without this contribution, these children would never experience a Child's Day celebration. We paid for the pinatas, food and fuel.

Each age group had a pinata. Extra sweets and lollies were available so that all the children could enjoy some. Tradition dictates that the child seeking to hit the pinata with a stick should be blindfolded. However, the experience was so new to the Tolupan children that it was decided not to blind fold them in order to ensure success.

The parents were given bags of food as malnutrition is a great problem with these people. It was a great visit welcomed by all. Those bags of food will be a great blessing.



- THE TOLUPAN CHILDREN ENJOYING A PINATA -

BAGS OF BASIC FOODS

We gave out over 2000 basic bags of food during November and December. As school finishes for the long summer holidays we give out food bags via five schools as well as to the Lencas and Tolupan people.





- SO MANY CHILDREN ON THE DAY OF THE CHILD -

DO NOT TAKE WATER FOR GRANTED

One of the photos I received, showing progress of the building work on our school, detailed a tanker of water being delivered to our building site. This reminded me of the situation in Honduras and how much we take our water supplies for granted.

The keen gardeners among us often feel disappointed if banned from using hose pipes, when the country has not received sufficient rain. When farmers crops fail, we compensate by importing from abroad. In this way water shortage is not usually a great hardship.

Honduras and many other countries have a very different experience when there is a water shortage. Honduras relies on water to create electricity, so the first impact is power cuts. These can last for seven to twelve hours a day and occur on a regular basis. They are usually scheduled to affect different areas throughout the week. When visiting Honduras, I experienced these power outages. A secondary impact was the failure of the domestic water supply, as many systems rely on pumps to get the water through to the taps. The situation is compounded by the sale of electricity to neighbouring countries, which earns dollars for the government. Electrical power generation is mostly by hydro stations, which consume large amounts of water from the dammed supply. The receiving countries, also experiencing drought, add to the high demand for the Honduran produced electricity. In such circumstances, the reservoir levels can fall dangerously low from time to time, resulting in closure of the dams and cessation of power generation.

In the context of our building construction, substantial amounts of water are needed to mix the large amounts of concrete used. This required that we buy water from a tanker belonging to the water board. This cost about £40 per delivery, a large amount of money in Honduras. The delivery costs are particularly high because we are working in the mountains. The vehicles are usually old and require oil as well as large quantities of fuel when visiting the filling station. These are problems we do not have in England. If the rains are late starting, people have to collect water from the river with all of its extra dangers. Those that are better off can buy bottled water to drink and to protect small children. However, many are not in that happy situation and are forced to drink contaminated water.

MyDONATE

As many who have used this site will know, it is closing at the end of June. We have chosen wonderful.org as our donation site as we get all of the donation plus Gift Aid where applicable. To donate via wonderful.org go to **www.wonderful.org** and search for “CH Trust” under “Charities” in “Make a donation”.

AMAZON SMILE

Amazon will make a contribution to your nominated charities each time you make a purchase through the Smile program. CH Trust is now one the charities you can support via Smile. For more details see: **smile.amazon.co.uk** and if you decide you would like to participate, search for “Ch Trust” as the charity you wish to support.

The smile.amazon.co.uk site looks and works exactly the same as the www.amazon.co.uk site. However, it is easy to forget to use the smile site and miss out on the donation you intended to make.



- CHILDREN ENJOYING THEIR CHRISTMAS MEAL -

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 £ _____

STANDING ORDER FORM

| | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Standing Order | |  |
| I wish to support CH Trust for | <input type="text" value="£"/> | |
| Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> | Annually <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Starting on <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> and thereafter until further notice | | |
| To the Manager Bank/Building Society | | |
| _____ | | |
| Address: _____ | | |
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| _____ Postcode: _____ | | |
| Your account details | | |
| Name of Account Holder(s): _____ | | |
| Your Account No. | <input type="text"/> | |
| Sort Code | <input type="text"/> | |
| Signature(s): _____ Date: _____ | | |
| To (Bank) Name: HSBC | Sort Code: 40-19-37 | |
| Account No: 61589865 | Account Name: CH TRUST | |



**- CESAR & MELISSA'S
NEW BABY ROBERTO -**



**- RECEIVING TREES
TO PLANT -**

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
- Back dated for the last four years
- For the future

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.
