



Published by

## Children Of Honduras Trust

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Welcome to our readers and supporters. As always, this year has been both exciting and rewarding, with much to report and celebrate. The Lord has blessed the year's efforts greatly and we are now in the process of meeting the challenges of the next year! This issue of the newsletter puts into focus a new area of relief, which CH Trust has encountered during the course of the past two years; namely relief in the form of house construction. Although a peripheral activity to the main thrust of CH Trust's work, it has brought life changing blessing to the beneficiaries who have suffered from extreme poverty and/or injustice. Read on.

### OPERATION 'TRANSFER' BEGINS - UK LOADING DAY 2012

Loading day proved to be an excellent event in every respect. We were blessed with a fine day, which was warm and sunny after the morning fog had cleared. Loading was successfully completed in a super spirit of goodwill and cooperation,



- WE HAVE FOUND SHOES -

even though there was a noticeable reduction in the number of helpers. This was mainly due to a smaller contingent of the 'Loughborough' team of young people. We missed the contribution of a number of them because university had finished for the Easter break. However, everyone else worked extra hard to get everything completed. We were honoured to be featured by both ITV and BBC Television, in addition to local radio. We did not expect such a level of interest from them in a year not specially marked by some kind of anniversary.

### **A CHANGE OF NAME - TDG HAS NOW BECOME NORBERT DENTRESSANGLE**

We would like to thank Norbert Dentressangle for the continued use of unit 50 for the storage and packing of items for Honduras. We are also grateful for their support and cooperation on loading day and throughout the year. Without them we could not operate.

The short term use of the unit 51 (next door) for the six weeks prior to loading day was a life saver and a great answer to prayer. Up to that date unit 50 had been full to overflowing and then some! Unit 51 was used to receive and unload the vans, cars and buses as they brought in donated items from around the country. Unit 50 was thus freed to focus on processing and packing. When you have about 30 people working together, they need a lot of work space! Again, please accept a big thank you from CH Trust.

### **THE IMPORTATION PROCESS FINALLY OVERCOME!**

Our helpers at Cristocentro Church in Tegucigalpa provided the following report:

*At 8.00am Thursday, we went to the Customs Office to press the head of the customs agency to release the containers. The customs permitted us to remove the containers that day but not until 4.20pm. As the drivers did not know where the final destinations were, we had to guide them to the Cristocentro Church. Pastor Roger also had to lead them to the place where the South containers were to be unloaded.*

*We are entering the rainy season in Honduras. Apart from the rain, it was already dark. It was decided to leave unloading to the following day. Thus, at 7.30am Friday morning we reported to the Customs Office to pick up the Government agents, who must be present by law, when the containers are opened. We returned back to the church by 9.00am and telephoned the benefiting ministries to prepare to collect their things.*

## OPERATION 'TRANSFER' COMPLETED – HONDURAS UNLOADING DAY 2012

The first container was opened at 9.25am. We thanked God that Cesar had brought so many people to help with the unloading. It only took 1 hour and 40 minutes to empty it. Unloading of the second container started at about 11.25am.

Cesar goes on to tell us that, for him, Friday started at 5.00am, when he went to fetch the men from Guanacaste (15 men) and another 15 men from the Valley of Angels. At 8.00am the whole team of thirty people was assembled at the Valley of Angels petrol station. Instructions for the day's work were given and a bit about our work in England and all that we do, so that our aid can reach Honduras.

*"We arrived at Cristocentro at precisely the moment they opened the first container. Due largely to the hard work of our team of men, it took only three hours to empty the two containers. We began at 9.30am and completed at 12.30pm. After a stop for lunch, our goods were packed into 4 trucks and a car and taken to the Valley de Angeles, where my friend Wilfredo was waiting with the guard. He has made available a container and a warehouse to store all our things. This makes me so happy because we will not pay rent for storage. We ate at 8.00pm and then continued with the unloading of our things. We finished at 11.00pm and then drove the men of Guanacaste back to their homes, (three hour round trip) in the rain! They were in the back of a truck, very tired but very happy to have completed a very beautiful task."*

Cesar sends the following acknowledgement to the folks here in England.

*"Dear all members of the organization CH TRUST, for me it is a great joy to be back communicating with you. Especially because the goods you have sent begins the work of blessing many families in Honduras, especially the poorest."*

## IMPORT BLUES

The import charges were once again way too expensive. This year, we managed to get the dispensa right but incurred many cost penalties due to delays associated with late presentation of various pieces of the paperwork needed to import the containers. This waste of money hurts, because it comes out of the funding for the following years containers and thus reduces what could have been spent on the needs of the children. The moral of the story? We must try to do better next year.

## A TYPICAL HOME IN THE MOUNTAINS

Many are built with wood and have a corrugated metal roof. Others are built of mud bricks and are called adobe houses. Others are made from scraps of anything that will give shelter e.g. cardboard, plastic bags, bits of wood, anything that can be scrounged. The window spaces will have a single shutter. Some have doors; others will just have a piece of curtain. Security from theft is not an issue because there is nothing to steal. Some now have an internal door from England used as an external door!

Inside the house a saucepan may be hung on the wall. Other items will also be hung on nails to keep them safe from insects. It is also an efficient way of storage when there is no furniture. Sometimes there will be one or two plastic chairs and a table. Otherwise the family will sit on the bed. A bed is usually shared with up to five people i.e. the whole family or your siblings, depending on how lucky you are. A mattress is an heirloom that can be passed down through the family. The mattresses we send out are wrapped in polythene bags supplied to us by a local bed company. The recipients keep their mattress in the bag. We wondered why, until we realized how important mattresses are to a poor family.

Cooking washing and toilet facilities, if they exist, are all outside. The lady of the house will cook on wood in a specially designed mud cooker. Wood is fed from one end and a metal plate serves as the cooker top. The pots are washed in a bowl or on a pila, if they are lucky enough to own one. This is also where you wash and clean your teeth. The “shower” where you throw water over yourself, out of the bucket, is usually behind a covered area made of branches or even in the open air! This of course supposes that the house has access to water. For many homes this is not the case. Having read this, I hope you will re-value the amenities of your own home and thank the Lord for the way he has blessed you.

## THE PLASTIC HOUSE

The house we call the plastic house has now been completed. The cost was met by a donation from one of our supporters. The older sons did much of the work in constructing the house. Expert input was needed for the roof. This is a letter written by one of her sons, as Isaura never had the opportunity to learn to read and write.

*“I am Wilmer, son of Dona Isaura. I am writing this letter because she does not know how to read or write but she wants to express to you the following.*





### **- THE FAMILY INSIDE THE NEW PLASTIC HOUSE -**

I feel so happy that after such a difficult life in great poverty, I have received the best thing in my life. A dream becomes reality, my house. Thanks be to God, you have given great happiness to me and my 12 children, with whom I spent many years begging for help from house to house. Sometimes people refused me their help and then I had to sleep in the parks or in abandoned houses until at last we managed to build a house of plastic and cardboard. I took my children and my husband there and we have lived there for more than 8 years until God and you came into my life, when I most needed it. Because I never thought I would have a lovely house with a proper roof, where I will never get wet anymore and where my children will not suffer from the cold. Thank you for giving me this gift. I feel that this house has made an incredible change to our lives. I know that many people wonder at this change, because I lived a life of almost extreme poverty and now I live a decent life. I haven't the words to say how I love you and may the Lord our God bless you."

### **MARIA'S HOUSE**

CH Trust became involved in the building of this house in order to provide a safe home for a mother, her son and two daughters considered to be at serious risk. Again, the cost has been met by a donation. Maria tells her own story as follows:

"To my dear friends in England, I send you my best wishes and a big hug from my

family. I want to tell you a bit about my past life before I had my own house.

Until recently I lived in constant worry because I had nowhere to live and moved from place to place. I worried about my children as they did not have a stable home and it was not fair to them living like that. For this reason I lived with one of my sisters for a while then with another of my sisters. Then I rented a room but I had to leave it because it was expensive and I could not pay. I went to live with my cousin who said it was only for 4 months. I had to stay for more than a year as I did not have anywhere to go and then I had to pack up my things quickly. I was still with my cousin when I received the welcome news that I would be able to build a house for my family. The joy was not just for me but also for my children. When I told them they cried but they cried with joy on their faces for they were crying with happiness at knowing that at last they would have a home to live in. You should have seen the faces of my children, they hugged each other and hugged me. They jumped up and down. They were so happy. They know that soon they will have a proper home to live in and feel sure that it will come to pass.

I want to tell you that with your love you have changed our life, which is so difficult normally. Because, with my house and everything else, you have solved for me the very hard life which my children have had to bear. Sometimes this has meant that I could not feed myself, or them, so that I could pay the rent for our room. Now I



**- MARIA'S FINISHED ADOBE HOUSE -**

*see my life is easier because I have my house, my own water, and a space where the children are safe. For Karin and Dayana, my twin girls, it is like something from a fairy tale. They are so happy and cannot believe this is their house. As for little Luis, he feels very strong because he is the only man in the house.*

*Now I only see my life in the present and the sad past, which I lived, will not return. Now I can only say thank you to God for the great gift that you have given me. It was the thing I longed for and I always prayed to God for this. I am very grateful to God and to all of you because you have a great and generous heart to be able to help a person who is in need. Thank you. May God bless your lives and pour his many blessings upon your families. These are the sincere wishes of myself and my children. Maria”*

Proverbs 17:17

*A friend loves at all times and a brother in difficult times.*

**A drawing by her son pictures a house with a tiny light. The caption reads:**

*“I am very happy for all you have done for us. The light is small but it shines for ever.”*

## **A NEW HOME FOR ANA**

Ana Aguilar is a single mum with two sons. Her eldest son, Axel is 14yrs of age and attending 3<sup>rd</sup> year Colegio. Her younger son Erick is 12 years old and attending 2<sup>nd</sup> year Colegio.

I (Jenn Cox) first met Ana about eight years ago at the church she attended and where she worked a few hours a week. Some years ago she managed, with her mother’s help, to build herself a house. I was impressed to observe how well she had done. More recently I received news that her mother had died. It appears that following her death, Ana’s Aunt had gone to court claiming that the house and land belonged to her. We do not know the basis for her case but Ana lost. Her Aunt then turned her and her two sons out onto the street. In consequence, Ana and her family have been sheltering in a room at the back of the church that she attends. What a sad situation!

A few weeks ago I was attending the Women’s World Day of Prayer service at church. The theme was ‘Let Justice Prevail’. Towards the end of the service the leader suggested that we each pray for a situation we knew of where justice was needed. Suddenly Ana came to mind. It became clear to me that this was an injustice which CH Trust could rectify. I believe that this was an idea directly

from God. I rang Glenda, my primary contact with Honduras, straight away and proposed that, if Ana could get a piece of land, CH Trust would find the finance for the materials to build the house, including fitting of the roof, doors and windows. Her contribution would be to organise the labour to make the mud bricks.

Ana was told of the offer and went in search of a small piece of land. There are many very small parcels of land that do not belong to anyone that are within the gifting of the mayor's department. Many are very high in the mountains, remote, with no possibility of electricity or piped water and requiring many hours walking to Colegio or work. Ana applied to the office and was amazingly given a choice piece of land near the Adventist hospital, adjacent to the village of Valle de Angeles. Many people had applied for this land but all had been refused. It seems that the gifting took into account that Ana was a single mum and in position to build immediately. It was expected that it would be about a month before she got the official paperwork. In fact, it came through in ten days. When the Lord wants something, it moves fast! She had no family to help her build, so Cesar approached the Pastor of the church to see if they could help make the 1000 bricks needed. Even though no specific funding was in place at the time, I authorised Cesar to proceed.

The church helped to clear the land, including some ground rock. The soil was not suitable to make the blocks and the rains had started early. As an alternative, building blocks were priced. We are thankful that Cesar was able to negotiate a good deal in circumstances where building trade demand is low. This made a quicker build and the rain was no longer a problem. The house is now complete and an injustice righted.

Great news! Ana's house is also funded. I said that the Lord was moving very fast with this project. Within two hours of general release of the information to our supporters, the project was fully funded by a lady who had experienced the threat of being without a home for herself and her children. She wrote, "God has blessed me so richly and has taken me from a similar place. My heart and soul were moved by her plight. Give God the Glory."

The house cost about £800 to build but nearly £1000 when including a pila to store water. We can also help with some chickens to provide food and income. I knew that the Lord would provide. CH Trust is founded on that assurance. He has never let us down in nearly forty years of service.



## A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The future for CH Trust will be changing course after 2015, when we send our last containers. The trust will continue to sponsor children, send money for basic foods, build houses and engage with projects initiated by specific needs in Honduras.

Following my last visit to Honduras, I have been made aware of the need to provide safe, affordable, rentable, property for single mums with children. There are a large number of single mums in Honduras. Few couples marry as we understand the term. Often they live together for a while until the female partner becomes pregnant, at which time the man disappears and wants nothing to do with his partner or child. This can happen several times as the woman tries to find love, a committed man and security for herself and her children. It rarely happens. Before long she finds herself with three or four children to feed and educate, often without help or the ability to find paid work. A cry I have heard from many Honduras mothers is that there is no work for a single mum. In truth there is little work for the majority of the people, which is why so many are very poor. It is not that they do not want to work but that there is no paid work available.

Even when a mother has sufficient funds to rent a room she still has problems. Generally, it is the men who own the property and demand rent 'in kind' as well as money from the women. This puts them and any daughters at risk.

To help address this issue, the Lord has given me the idea to buy a piece of land and build several one or two room houses with shared pila, toilet and cooking facilities. These could then be rented to 'at risk' ladies with their children. Men would not be allowed to stay in this community. Hopefully, by living in a small community, this would help to keep the women and children safe, provide extra support and offer the prospect of opening up additional opportunities for employment, since one mum can supervise several children.

It appears that land cannot be obtained from the mayor's office for this purpose. The pieces of land, gifted by the mayor, that we have built upon to date are small and become owned by the ladies, individually. If we were given some land high in the mountains by the mayor's office, it is likely that he would want a say in who rents the houses, giving to friends rather than those in need. It is proposed that should CH Trust be able to purchase a suitable plot of land, then its title will be established in the name of CH Trust UK, so that no one can sell it or alter its

purpose. I do not know if we will build semidetached houses, one room or two room houses. All of these ideas are still in the planning stage. We await the Lord's direction and leading to progress and realise this idea.

In the meantime, the trust has been able to finance the building of three individual houses. The cost of each house we have built, so far, has been subject to different circumstances influencing its price i.e. clearing the land, removing bed rock and transporting foundation materials etc. The average cost to build is approximately £1000.

At the time of writing, we have started our fourth individual house. There remain several needy families who are waiting for our help. One of the houses will be built on behalf of the family of John Hawksworth, in memory of his life. He used to pack each week with us at the unit, until his death earlier this year. The other houses still await funding.

#### HELP ON A SMALLER SCALE

You will be pleased to know that the IHER project now has its new toilet and washing facilities. They had been awaiting tiles in the container to complete the project.

#### KEEPING THE RAIN OUT

When the rainy season has started, you definitely need a good roof to keep out the tropical storm rain that falls in Honduras. This occurs during their rainy season of June, July and August.

As mentioned last year, there was a lady and her children who needed a new roof. Funding was donated to provide metal sheeting for the roof. She is now nice and dry, a big relief during the rainy season.

Another family now has a roof thanks to CH Trust. Cesar wrote this as the parents are unable to read or write.

Mr. Jose Daniel Castro lived with his wife of nine years, Yeni Dias, in a rented room in Tegucigalpa. He was employed as a security guard but by 2011 he decided he could no longer endure the suffering associated with the job. Every day, on his way to work, gang groups demanded money to allow him permission to enter their territory, in Tegucigalpa, which is highly dangerous. So he quit his job and decided to move to the village of San Francisco with his wife and

children. They found a person who was willing to sell him land cheaply. He decided to buy and started to build his house in the 2011. The rain fell but he had no money to buy the entire roof. He built the adobe walls with hope and faith in God that he would get a roof. He tried every avenue of help but to no effect.

He then heard about the building of the plastic house in the village. He spoke to Cesar, who asked him for a quote for the materials. CH Trust was able to find funding to enable him to construct the roof. The very happy family members include Mum and Dad, Daniel 8 years, David 4 years, Oma 2 years and Nicola 1 year.

We have also been able to help with another house, lived in by Lourdes Colindres, her husband and son. It is also shared with her father and sister. They all lived in one room until we were able to fund the roofing for the second part of the house. It must have made a tremendous difference to the family. They can now have more space to live in and a bit more privacy. Lourdes's husband fitted the sheet himself.

I do not think we can imagine what joy and difference it will make to these five people, now and for many years to come.

### SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS AT VICENTE COLLEGE

These projects rely on the enthusiasm and motivation of Luis. He is responsible for the health and welfare of the rabbits, hens and trees at Vicente during term time and during the holidays. To launch and support the early stages of these projects, we have financed the initial start up costs for the animals and trees and also the feed and fertilizer. The chicken project is now self-financing and Luis hopes that the rabbits will be by 2013. At the moment we are buying the concentrate feed. Eventually they will have sufficient production to supply the dining room for the students' dinner and also to sell, to buy more concentrate.

Luis writes:

*The Lord bless you for the assistance provided to various institutions and people in need. It helps to develop all the activities that need to be achieved, especially educational materials which are of great importance to the children. We also appreciate the assistance for developing the projects with rabbits, chickens and fruit trees.*

*In relation to the chickens, they now provide us with about 50 eggs a week. We have*

run into a problem with chicken reproduction, because a number of the chicks born in captivity are killed and eaten by other hens in fights over territory. This behavior occurs because they are locked into one enclosure. The solution to this problem requires the construction of a new site to act as a maternity ward, where each hen can sit alone. When the chicks are born the mother can take care of them away from other hens that would otherwise kill their offspring. In consequence we ask you for your further cooperation with this project, which will cost about 6000 lempiras (£230).

### **THE RABBIT PROJECT**

Luis started the project with a total of 12 rabbits, two female, one male and nine offspring.

We currently have 25 rabbits of which two are pregnant. By the end of the year we expect to have 50 rabbits. The current enclosure needs to be extended in a way which will enable separation of the males from the pregnant females and those with young. Otherwise they disturb the small growing and pregnant rabbits. This will ensure a much better level of production. Because the rabbits like to burrow and dig holes, it is necessary to make a concrete wall. This will require 8 bags of cement, 12 bags of sand and gravel. If you decide to purchase the material, the cost of this improvement is 2000 lempiras. We will provide the workforce.

I want to say that rabbits feed on leaves of cabbage and carrots. Because they consume more of these foods than we can supply, it is necessary to buy special concentrate to support their highest level of reproduction. The concentrate also supplements their diet. If the rabbits feed only on leaves, their digestion produces many gases and they also tend to suffer from more diseases and die more quickly.

### **THE TREE PROJECT**

The trees are still an expense, as they are too small to produce much fruit. However, we still need fertilizer and insecticide. In the future the trees should produce a wealth of fruit for the students to eat and to sell. Luis also hopes to plant coffee and corn this year.

The need for self sustaining food sources is very important, both now and for the future. We are currently feeding 150 of the students with the worst economic situation at home. Our support enables them to have a least one meal a day. We concentrate on the youngest first. Most of these children will not have fruit in their diet as money does not stretch further than rice, beans and tortillas.



## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Luis has another project in mind, which is to breed fish for the dining room. He hopes to give attention to this once he has the rabbit project running well. He has been able to plant another 150 trees this May with our finance.

## **PROVIDING CLEAN WATER - WATER FILTER PUMPS**

This year, we sent out 306 water filter pumps. These cost £6120 i.e. £20 each. Aquabox at Wirksworth helped to fund these with a gift of £2000 towards the cost. The pump, which works like a bicycle pump, forces dirty feed water through a membrane. Passage of the water through the membrane transforms it into clean safe drinking water. For the last four years, we trialed one of the larger community pumps in a village high in the mountains in Majada Verde. Pastor Jorge stated that the number of cases of diarrhoea have decreased since they received good drinking water.

On behalf of his church, Dr Jorge visits more than 12 communities. The church also organises medical brigades to reach remote areas where people don't have access to medical care. Dr Jorge informed us that he and his wife are running a programme in all the communities called CHE, short for Community Health and Evangelism. One of the things they do is to teach about how to prevent diseases. They asked for filters to take to these families. In the past they have distributed Aqua boxes with the chlorine tablets. These have now been phased out, in favour of the pumps, which do not use Chlorine. They wish to take the pump filters to the communities so they can continue to drink good water and avoid diseases. They cost £20 each, which is solely the cost of manufacture.

Each of the twenty schools we support in the Valle mountain area has a filter pump for their school. Clean water should be a right rather than a luxury. We plan to send filters again next year. Information about the pumps can be found on the following web sites.

<http://www.aquafilter.org.uk>      <http://www.aquabox.org>

## **OPPORTUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION**

### **PRIMARY EDUCATION**

We continue to help children into education through the school sponsorship scheme. This provides educational access for the poor. Sometimes a child will do one or two years of education and then miss the following year. This is because

their parents do not have sufficient money to register their child and provide the uniform and educational items needed, such as exercise books, pens, geometry sets etc. Sometimes a child has to miss a year or more because of the need to allow another sibling the opportunity to attend school. Graduation from 6<sup>th</sup> grade is very important in Honduras. This proves that you have acquired the basics skills of reading, writing and simple arithmetic. Many parents, who have never had an education, work very hard to provide this opportunity for their children. However, without help, they find it is not always possible.

## **SECONDARY EDUCATION**

The rural schools are now allowed to teach up to 9<sup>th</sup> grade but, of course, without the necessary resources. We have also helped the IHER project, a trust that provides 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade education at weekends for students that have to work during the week. Similarly for students who find it too far, or too expensive for them to travel each day to the city colleges. There are so many obstacles for many of the students who wish to be educated.

## **SCIENCE EQUIPMENT FOR SENIOR SCHOOL AND COLLEGE**

This year we were asked for microscopes, scales, beakers, test tubes etc. We managed to get some excellent quality microscopes which were recommended by a local science teacher. These cost about £50 each. These were sent to Vicente College and other schools teaching 13 -16 years.

## **PRIZE GIVING**

This is something we take for granted in our UK schools. Not so in the poor mountain schools of Honduras. To help change this situation, someone has provided the finance to give a New Testament, in Spanish, to each child who graduates sixth grade in the mountain schools. This will probably be the only book in the home of those children.

## **DEGREE DAY GOWNS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

I was offered some degree day gowns, which prompted me to enquire if they were needed in Honduras. The answer was a definite yes. Unlike in England, they wear a gown at their graduation ceremony for each level completed. By the time you have completed a three year degree course, you will have attended three graduation ceremonies requiring a gown! The young people also wear them, when they graduate from sixth grade at around 13 years. The gowns cost around £32 to hire; this in a third world country! Those we have sent will be loaned out to those who need them for the day. Additional gowns to loan out on graduation days would therefore be much appreciated.

## FEEDING THE HUNGRY

We managed to get a record amount of pasta to the children this year. On our last visit to Honduras, we found pasta a very popular food. It can be eaten as it is, or with a sauce made from tinned tomatoes. During the last shipping year the prices have been good. We managed to buy at least a ton of pasta at 20p, even at 9p for several weeks, from the local supermarkets.

This will mainly be used in the feeding centres, day centres, schools and college. It will also supplement supplies at the Orphanage and help poor families in need. Other foods were oats and full cream dried milk bought by the ton. We also received mixed items of food from school and from church harvest festivals.

Food will continue to be a big item in the coming year as too many children go to bed hungry. Please see the list at end of newsletter for the food items most needed. At present there are some good buys at the Supermarkets e.g. pasta is on offer at about 30p from Asda, Tesco and Morrisons. The straight spaghetti is 24p.

We received a photo of people from the mountain tribes being given several containers of pasta. The message that came with the pictures was that these people were acting as representatives for their community. It seems that the whole community works together to help feed each other. To do this, they organise themselves into groups to purchase, swop and cook food so that everyone gets fed.

## FAMILY IN CRISIS BOXES

This is a fairly new venture for CH Trust and one we feel will be of great benefit to those that receive this additional help. We have been given details of 50 families identified by our co-workers in Honduras as struggling to provide their children with sufficient food, clothes and the educational opportunities which we take so much for granted here in the UK. The families range from single, often very young, mums; homeless families, families where the sole provider can only find work for a few odd days; children left with elderly grandparents, or parents struggling to cope with ill health. Many areas in Honduras have social problems relating to lack of employment. The people survive with few possibilities of finding work, as much of it is seasonal or part time, and there is no government help for those that cannot earn sufficient to keep their families. At the packing unit, we have been packing a gift box containing everyday items of clothing, shoes and toiletries for every member of these families and a bucket of basic food

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items. The gifts travel on our containers in March and are then distributed to the families in June or July.

One family to receive a ‘gift pack’ on the 2012 containers is the Velasquez Salgado family. Hector is a dedicated family man and works, when he can, as an agricultural labourer. His wife Gloria has epilepsy and learning difficulties. She cannot speak and needs constant supervision from her mother. The couple has six children ranging in age from 2 years to 12 years old. One son of 9 years also has epilepsy and learning difficulties and is unable to attend school. The government has given the family a small adobe block house but it is far up in the mountains away from the schools and Gloria’s mother. In order to stop the government from giving the house to another family, Hector lives there with the two youngest children who are not yet school age and works during the day. Gloria and the four older children live with her mother in a small plank house in a far off town. This allows the older children to attend school and Gloria and her disabled son to be cared for. Apart from the struggle to provide food, this family is also trying to cope with a split in location in order to hang on to what they have.

To support the families in crisis project, we are looking for metal cutlery, towels, plastic washing lines, plastic plates and beakers, soap, toothpaste, brushes and combs, children’s pants and socks, torches, and basic food items such as pasta, rice, sugar, dried milk powder, family size tins of tomatoes and stock cubes.



**- FAMILY IN CRISIS UNPACK THEIR BOX -**



The things that we are given or purchase to help these unfortunate families mean so much to those who receive them. A 30p bag of pasta, when you have no food for the children, is an unbelievable gift. For all those who helped to make this possible please accept a big thank you. We will never know how much we have helped those in need and those who are desperate.

The next priorities, after food, are clothes and shoes.

### THE KING'S NEW CLOTHES

Many children only get clothes and shoes because we send them. We have not received as many children's clothes this last year as previously but still have a growing number of children in Honduras who need our help. Do you know someone with children who could donate their outgrown shoes and clothes?

We have also received requests for teenage clothes. Feedback from Honduras tells us that, although we send out clothes for the babies and younger children, there is little for the teenagers. Can we remedy this situation?

Checked school dresses - As the summer ends (did it ever start this year?) these school dresses get reduced in price in the large supermarkets. Any dresses we receive, both new and outgrown, are sorted into like colours. These are then sent in batches to the rural schools so that they can continue to be used as school uniform.

Recently, we have been doing better with lost property and outgrown school uniform, from schools around the country. This week we have been given 40 bags of new and used school uniform from a school which is changing to an academy.

### KEEPING FEET CLEAN

We are looking for any inexpensive footwear. The pound shops may have some. Towards the end of the season, they can be found at good prices.

This year there are a lot of soft plastic sandals, as well as the crocs in the shops. These are excellent in the shower (bucket and chuck it) because few homes have facilities with tiled floors. They can also cope with the mud in the rainy season and can be washed afterwards. I am hoping for some bargains at the end of the summer season.

Tesco's have been selling off black plimsolls at £2 per pair. These are usually found in a basket or a cardboard box on the floor. They seem to be available up to size 6. We are happy to receive any we can get, all sizes. They will keep feet safe from hookworm and other nasty infections.

## **A NEED FOR BUILDING TOOLS**

Now that we are involved in building houses in Honduras, we have been asked for help in providing a large variety of tools. In the process of building the houses, young men are being trained in a range of building and plastering type skills. To do this they need the relevant tools, as used by the already skilled people.

### **LIST OF TOOLS NEEDED FOR OUR BUILDING PROJECTS**

- Wheel barrow
- Spades, shovels and Picks
- Spirit Levels
- Electric circular saws and jigsaws
- Screws
- Nails
- Adjustable spanners
- Electric welder
- Garden secateurs
- Compressor for paint spraying
- Cement mixer
- Trowels, floats
- Hammers (lump and claw)
- Hand saws
- Door hinges, bolts and locks
- Plumbing wrench
- Tarpaulin
- Garden hose
- Rakes
- Metal cutters (shears, angle grinders)

## **CAMP BEDS AND MATTRESSES**

We were offered over 100 camp beds and mattresses from Macclesfield that were destined for land fill. These were brand new and had been found behind a locked door when the council moved to new premises. The beds had originally been procured during the cold war period of our country's history. The beds consisted of a wooden frame with legs that dropped down. The mattresses were about five inches thick and filled with a strange substance that some of our packers remembered seeing soon after the war. These beds will be ideal for the poor mountain homes, where the bed has to be propped against the wall to allow room to move during the day.

## **TAKEN OVER BY IBC'S!**

This year we were given four IBC's (international bulk containers). These are very large liquid containers that can be used for water storage. IBC's have largely taken over from our beloved blue barrels, which are now nearly extinct. In spite of their scarcity, our supplier still managed to find a few for us for which we

were very grateful. Anything that can store water in Honduras is greatly prized. Similarly, we can no longer get the food buckets with lids, that bakeries used to use. We have however been given a quantity of 25L ionised water containers and buckets with lids that have contained single use quantities of tarmac. These help compensate to some extent for the loss. The buckets allow us to safely transport bottles of liquid, which would otherwise be vulnerable in transit. They can be used again in Honduras to collect rain water and store water.

### GAZEBOS AND TARPAULINS

We are still looking for gazebos and tarpaulins to guard against the strong rays and heat of the sun. Lorry curtains would also do the same task.

### MAJOR FOOD NEEDS

With all food needs, quantity is preferred rather than quality. If you have nothing to eat the brand name is not important. It is better to feed two children rather than one. Anything with a sauce e.g. meatballs, tinned spaghetti etc mix well with pasta.

- Pasta and Spaghetti
- Tinned sausages and baked beans
- Dried soups
- Rice pudding
- Plain flour
- Sugar
- Drinking Chocolate
- Tinned tomatoes, meatballs and tuna
- Tinned vegetables and soups
- Rice and Oats
- Powdered milk
- Cooking oil
- Cereals

### 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.

### BEAUTY PRODUCTS

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.

### 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 seven 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?

### CLOTHES FOR SCHOOL

Jeans are now used as school uniform by many of the rural schools. 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! Second hand are also good.

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 Underclothes are very much valued, especially for the older girls. They have also asked for bras for the older girls.

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, 30cm 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.
- Footballs 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.

- 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.

## **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?

## **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 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.

## **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 raised £3898.40 during 2011. Thank you to all who have helped with their contributions.

## **THE BASICS**

It is becoming more difficult to write the newsletter, as there is so much happening in Honduras. However, the basics still have to be covered, otherwise people think we have changed focus or no longer want the basics. To write much about the food, clothes, shoes and educational supplies would make the newsletter very repetitive. If you need more information please view our web site <http://www.chtrust.org.uk> where you can read past newsletters. Also our photo gallery shows all the photos in colour.

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## GIFT CARDS OPTIONS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE PRESENT

The cards feature a large format photo on the front and will cover the cost of various options as listed:

- £5 buys a bag of food for a needy family at Christmas
- £5 buys a family size mosquito net
- £5 buys two trees and some fertilizer for a school
- £5 provides two manuals for a college student (four per year are needed)
- £7 provides a wind up lamp for a family without electricity
- £10 provides both a windup lamp and torch
- £15 provides two chickens and a cockerel for a family
- £20 buys an aqua filter pump for a family providing clean drinking water



- CHICKENS AND GIFTS FROM ENGLAND -

## CALENDARS

2013 Calendars are again on sale at £5. Postage is an extra £1.10 for one and £1.40 for two or three.

The calendars feature a different large colour photo each month. Every penny raised from the calendar goes to buy food to feed children through the schools and feeding centres.

All cheques made payable to CH Trust please.



## RECEIVING WEEK

In the past, Receiving Week was set to coincide with Derbyshire schools February half term. This was because I was teaching. Now that this does not apply, we would appreciate any goods that can be bought in during the year or weeks prior to receiving week to be delivered on a Tuesday. Delivery on any other day, except during Packing Week in February, only increases the pressure on me as I need to arrange to meet them. This I wish to avoid, as there are many other important things I need to arrange in order to export and import the containers. Your co-operation would be appreciated.

Your Prayers for our team and the work are always appreciated.

## DATES FOR 2013

Receiving week **February 16<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> excluding Sunday**

Loading Day **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**



- A LENCA COMMUNITY RECEIVING FOOD AND CLOTHES -