



Left to right: Bathhouse and laundry facility, floor and wall structures for workshop, Constructing workshop walls

Progress at Amaratoca

The construction of the new Technical school at the Amaratoca site is progressing at a steady pace. Since the spring, the temporary dorms have been constructed on the porch of the main house, the bathhouse facility has been built, and the first double workshop is more than half-way complete. These are the minimum requirements needed to allow the move of the Institute to take place this winter, and with God's grace the move will take place on schedule. Of the fourteen work teams that went to El Hogar between February and September this year, seven of them worked at Amaratoca, lending many hands to the Honduran construction crew that is hard at work every day. Construction of the permanent buildings will continue as funds allow; these additional buildings include all of the permanent dorms, all of the classrooms, the dining hall, the chapel and the second double workshop building. The dream is slowly becoming a reality for the very excited boys and staff of the Technical Institute. We extend our deepest thanks to those who have generously contributed to this large effort thus far!



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70 Church Street
Winchester, MA 01890



The Home of Love and Hope
The Episcopal Agricultural School and Farm
St. Mary's Technical Institute

El Hogar Projects
Apartado Postal 764
Tegucigalpa, DC, Honduras

Executive Director
The Rev. Richard Kunz

Director,
St. Mary's Technical Institute
Sub-Executive Director
Lazaro Juarez

Director Agricultural School and Farm
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Director El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza
Claudia de Castro

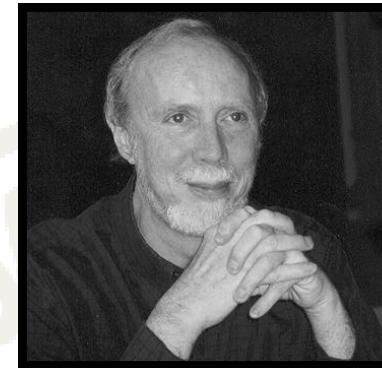
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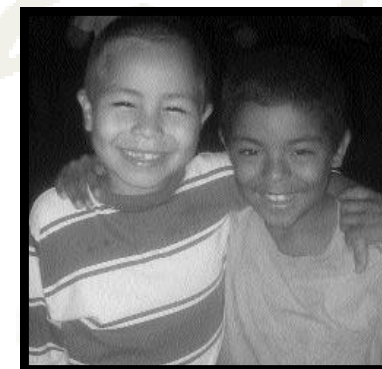
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First Impressions

from Rev. Rich Kunz

There is nothing bland about Honduras. Like much of Central America, it is a place of contrasts. It is a country of both striking natural beauty and shocking environmental degradation. Most of the people come across as warm and gentle, yet many neighborhoods are unsafe at night. There is a sense of industry everywhere, but poverty is rampant.



This sense of contrast is brought to my attention every time I walk through the front gate of El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza. The street outside is noisy and hectic with traffic. What passes for the sidewalk is a small dirt path next to the sewer. But inside the gates, there is a contented babble of children's voices. Things are well ordered and gentle. It is like being inside an oasis.

The contrast becomes even greater in comparison to some of the neighborhoods and homes the children come from. Barrios with rutted dirt roads, tiny shelters made of cast-off materials, and an undercurrent of violence from gangs form the backdrop of their lives.

If El Hogar did nothing more than rescue boys from such situations it would be worth all that you have invested in it over the years. Certainly the boys at all three centers are given healthy food, a safe place to sleep, an education, and basic life skills. But the vision of the staff here is more expansive. This is not a rescue operation. It is a transforming community.

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El Hogar's Mission

The purpose of El Hogar is to provide a loving home and education in a Christian environment for abandoned, orphaned and hopelessly poor boys, enabling them to fulfill their ultimate potential as productive human beings in Honduras.

El Hogar's 25th Anniversary Celebration

The anticipation was high, the marimba band in place, the tents erected to protect from the hot sun, the tables decorated in Honduran colors, the P.A. system tested and functioning, the festivities began!



The 25th anniversary celebration was led by El Hogar Projects teacher, Heyser Erube Valenzuela. Father Geraldo, from St. Mary's Episcopal Church, led the assembed gathering of 275 people in a prayer of invocation filled with thanksgiving to God for this joyous milestone.

Attending the celebrations, held at the new Amaratoca site of the Technial Institute, amidst the construction, were all the students, teachers and staff of El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza, the Agricultural School and Farm and St. Mary's Technical Institute. It was one of those rare occasions when all the boys get together. Present also was a work team from Kingsway Lambton United Church, in Toronto, Canada.

Pride in the accomplishment of our 25 year history was evident and palpable. Lazaro Juarez, the sub-Director of El Hogar Projects and its first employee, spoke eloquently of El

Hogar's beginning, its early struggles and its present challenges and dreams. With sincerity and obvious gratitude he lauded the visions and the early efforts of Connie de Beausset, the Millars and other founders of El Hogar Projects. Each Executive Director was named and affirmed for their unique contribution to the success of El Hogar. At the conclusion of his appreciated remarks the band played and El Hogar



boys, both current students and some alumni who came for the occasion, entertained with singing and guitar playing. The atmosphere was suffused with celebratory joy.

With assistance from the Director of El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza, Claudia de Castro, former Executive Directors David Winsor and Margo Mingay presented gifts and plaques of

recognition to our three 25 year employees - Lazaro Juarez, Don Julio and Dona Tona. David Winsor spoke passionately of his own 24-year involvement with El Hogar and how it has profoundly influenced his life. He envisioned the future and applauded the continued service of the current directors, teachers and staff.

Following the recogniton service, a special lunch was served to everyone there. The boys of the middle school played more beautiful and festive music on their marimba, drums and guitars, and people danced with joy. A feeling of accomplishment for 25 years filled each one with gratitude, joy, and hope for the future.



First Impressions

Continued from page one

Within this environment of love and responsibility and grace and attention to one another, these boys are being shaped into men of compassion and hope and competence. They are being steeped in God's love. The boys leave here having

been changed forever by their participation in a community brought together by God's wild imagination and generosity.

I am thankful for your participation, through prayer, visits, financial support, gifts, and other ways, in this remarkable community. And I am humbled to be able to be a part of it myself as the new Executive Director.

Yes, I have decided to get involved...

- Use my gift where it is most needed.
- A full sponsorship (\$1500/yr or \$125/mo)
- A food and housing sponsorship (\$900/yr or \$75/mo)
- An educational sponsorship (\$600/yr or \$50/mo)

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