

Amarateca Progress

Construction has continued over the fall and early winter to complete the first workshop building, and begin the foundation for the second workshop building. In addition, a bathhouse for the workshops has been built. Designs are underway for the kitchen/dining hall/classroom facility, which will begin once funds have been raised. In the meantime, the Technical School is moving this winter and when classes resume in February, the boys of ITSM will be living and studying at Amarateca, in temporary conditions. God bless the hard work and generous giving that has

made this move possible! Grant us continued blessing as we continue to build the facilities necessary for these young men, your children, to learn and thrive. Amen.

Rev. Kunz on the move!

This Spring, Rich plans to be in: The Pacific Northwest, California, Oregon, Arizona, Illinois, and Louisiana. If any church or group would like to invite Rich to speak, please contact Liz Kinchen at elhogar@3crowns.org or 781-729-7600

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)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov _____ Zip _____

Email _____



El Hogar Ministries, Inc.
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
Balbino Andino

Director El Hogar de
Amor y Esperanza
Claudia de Castro

El Hogar Ministries, Inc.

70 Church Street
Winchester, MA 01890
781-729-7600
elhogar@3crowns.org
www.elhogar.org

Board of Directors

The Rt. Rev. Rob O'Neill,
President and Bishop of Colorado
Jane White, Treasurer
The Rev. Richard Kunz
Jocelyn Rohde, Clerk
The Rt. Rev Lloyd Allen,
Bishop of Honduras
Bunny Frey
The Rev. Steve Muncie
Jane Nies
Perry Nies
Paul Rank
The Rev. Mark Wastler

Executive Director in
North America
Liz Kinchen

Canadian Advisors
Margo Mingay

El Hogar

W I N T E R 2 0 0 5

God's Beloved Children

By Rev. Rich Kunz



I stopped in Claudia's office one afternoon, and found her with one of our boys, who was sobbing his heart out. It was shortly before Christmas, which is a hard time for many of the boys. With its emphasis on family gatherings, the holiday season can make us all more conscious of what is missing in our lives. This particular boy had good reason to cry.

He was remembering that his father had killed his mother, and realizing he had nowhere to go on Christmas.

Claudia and I prayed with him, and then Claudia took him in her arms and began to say, "You are God's beloved child. You are his unique creation, and no one else is like you, and He loves you. And you are part of the El Hogar family, and we also love you, and will be here for you."

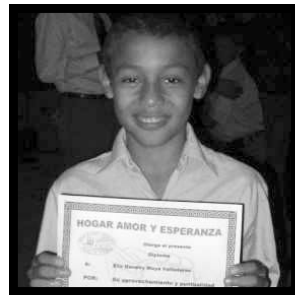
This kind of ministry to heart and spirit is central to El Hogar. "Of love and hope" is not just a phrase we tack onto our name to make it sound less institutional. Love and hope

Continued on page three

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.

Graduation News



November, of course, brings graduation. The graduation ceremonies themselves are elaborate events. Each site has a graduation that suits its own unique personality. Speeches are made, and each student is introduced and personal words are said. Diplomas are handed out. Visiting dignitaries take part. Special music is presented. Everything is decorated. There is, in addition, a Eucharist for the graduates before the graduation ceremony. Proud families attend. Nothing is rushed!

Afterward, each place has a party. At the Agricultural School, tables were set on the porches in front of the living quarters, and lots of good food was served. The Technical Institute graduation was special, because it will be the last at Santa Maria, as the Institute is moving. There was, again, a feast, but the boys had transformed one of the workshops into a dance hall, full of special lighting effects. At El Hogar, tables were set outside, and there was a buffet offered inside the dining room. A group played music, and many people danced. Altogether, the graduation experience was lovely.



ITSM Graduates:

Angel Guzman, Elmer Uven Rivera, Luis Enrique González, Roger Omar García, Jose Luis Ortiz, Limny Joel Velasquez, Marco Tulio Medina, Nahun Misael Vasquez, Jobsan Mejia, Sergio Israel Murillo, Noel Bautista, Nacin Efrain Martinez, Juan Ramón Valdivia, Ely Xavier Guerra, Noe Bermudez, Denis Cristino Ordoñez, Dany Roman Ponce, Marlon Javier Torres, Marvin Omar Martinez, and Santos Rene Rodriguez.



Agricultural School Graduates: Dixon Ricardo Portillo Martinez, Elmer Alexis Santos Hernandez, Jose Nehemias Argueta Martinez, Jairo David Díaz Midence, Lesvin Fabricio Rodriguez Arguijo, Neptalí Antonio Cruz Romero, and Ramón Antonio Velasquez Cardona.



For the names of our **Middle School and Six Grade graduates**, please see our website: www.elhogar.org



St. Peter's lends a helping hand

A work team from St. Peter's in Weston, MA traveled to El Hogar last July, including Rev. Carol Flett, former rector of St. Peter's. The group from St. Peter's was delighted to



spend time getting to know the two boys they sponsor, whom they had previously only known through photographs. They enjoyed some extended conversation with Ivan Ramos, a student at the Farm school. Carol describes their time together:

"Ivan was especially happy to meet us. He is

very charming, outgoing, cute, affectionate and eager to learn. He has a vision for his life and the motivation to accomplish it. He is one of their brightest students and told us that he wants to go to college. He had learned to read and speak a little English by reading one book over and over again. Thus, he was eager to visit with us and practice his English. We all talked with him about many things, including his interest in music and rock bands. It is a lovely malapropism that he addresses us as "his good parents". We plan to return next year with a larger mission team and will look forward to seeing the progress of both Rigoberto and Ivan."

One of the blessings of being part of a work team is that one-on-one visits with sponsored boys can bring their relationship to life - for both the sponsor and the boy - and each can see the face of Christ in the other.



Another of God's beloved children

God's Beloved Children

Continued from page one

are the essence of what we try to bring to these children, so many of whom are carrying heavy burdens. They need to hear the message that they are special, and precious, and beloved.

In this country of Honduras, where many are living precarious lives, and where the quest for dignity, affection, beauty, and even basic physical needs, extracts such a high price, El Hogar Projects continues to open up resources for those who have none. It continues to bind the boys and their beleaguered or broken families into an extended family of God's love.

Just a few days afterward, this same boy went out with the others to get an ice cream cone and ride the Kobb's Christmas train. I watched him, with a huge smile on his face, climb aboard with the other boys, caught up in the moment, and very much part of the El Hogar family. Yes, he will always have this sorrow in his past, but he also has a source of love and hope to feed him in his dark moments.

Please pray for him, and for all the boys and staff, as they seek to live lives of love and hope.