

Progress on new ITSM land site

Preparatory activities continue for moving the Technical Institute to the new land site in the Amaratca Valley, just outside of Tegucigalpa. All permits have now been obtained, and the initial payment on the land took place on October 15, 2003. There are two more payments yet to be made in the purchase process, scheduled to be complete by June 2004. Detailed blueprints for construction are being drafted now, and when funds allow, construction can begin. We are targeting to move the Institute into temporary quarters at the new land site beginning in November 2004. We are hoping to receive help with the construction from work teams that go to El Hogar in 2004, which will be a wonderful opportunity for these work team members to directly participate in making this dream a reality for the boys of the Institute and greater Honduras.

Gary Thompson, *Project Manager*

Yes, I have decided to get involved...

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov _____ Zip _____

Email _____

We're in a period of Executive Director transition, but the needs of the boys in Honduras are as urgent as ever! Lord, open our hearts and keep us mindful during this period of transition - and always - that you have entrusted us with the stewardship of El Hogar and the boys who live there.

Amen.



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

Co-Executive Directors, Emeriti
The Rev. Barry and Kay Wyckham

Assistant Executive Director
Lazaro Juarez

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

Board of Directors

The Rev. Rob O'Neill,
President and Bishop of Colorado
Jane White, *Treasurer*
Jocelyn Rohde, *Clerk*
Bunny Frey
Liz Kinchen

The Rev. Steve Muncie
Jane Nies
Perry Nies
Paul Rank

The Rev. Mark Wastler
The Rev. Barry Wyckham
Kay Wyckham

Ex-officio

The Rt. Rev Lloyd Allen
Bishop Of Honduras

Manager of North American Operations
Liz Kinchen

Canadian Advisors
Jim Martin

El Hogar A D V E N T 2 0 0 3



Julio Cesar Almendarez proudly holds first prize trophy won by Middle School in city-wide science fair.

Middle School Program is a Success

The Middle School (Preparatoria in Spanish) was started as a pilot project in 2002 and it was located at the Agricultural School. Its purpose is to allow the boys graduating from 6th grade to grow physically and academically as well as to gain emotional maturity, independence and life skills before being asked to undertake the demanding double course of studies - academic & technical - at the Technical Institute or Agriculture school.

In 2003, the Middle School was moved to El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza, where the youngest boys live and attend school. A theme of the Middle School program is to allow the boys to explore additional responsibilities as well as to earn and experience some new privileges. At El Hogar, these 7th graders have the opportunity to be big brothers to the younger boys, including taking on helper responsibilities for the weekend staff, and serving as older role models for the younger boys. Small service projects for El Hogar and the surrounding community are also part of the curriculum: building picket fences, creating gardens, and collecting rain water from roofs for watering the plants are among the projects which the boys have done.

Continued on page 2

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.

Continued from page 1

The Middle School students learn life skills as they wash their own clothes by hand and learn to cook simple meals as well as planning and budgeting for their own field trips. They are enjoying learning music through the recent donation of a marimba, a large xylophone-type instrument with wooden keys very widely used in Honduran music. They have played at 14 events so far including the diocesan convention and at a reception for Cheryl Tieg at a major hotel. They are great ambassadors for El Hogar in Honduras and, as they are in increasing demand, they hope they can also make some money to help fund their educational excursions.

As Kay Wyckham commented: "They were little boys when they began this program last February. What a delight it is to meet the competent, young men they are today. We feel they are now ready to take on the challenges and succeed in the next step of their journey here at El Hogar. We are very proud of them and of this new program."

Sponsors are Padrinos to our boys

In North America, we have been using the term "sponsor" to describe the relationship one has with the boy they support. At El Hogar, however, the Spanish equivalent of "sponosr" - patrocinador - is not used with the boys. Instead, a different word is used: "padrino". Padrino means godparent. In the Honduran culture, where family, relationships, and social contacts are very important, the title of padrino has deep meaning. It means 'a second parent'. For this reason, the boys of El Hogar infer the love and caring that lies behind the financial support. They are indeed deeply moved that someone who lives so far away and who in most cases has not met them, still extends this Godly gift of love and kindness. These boys like to think of their sponsors as godparents. Coming, in too many cases, from family situations involving abandonment and neglect, this relationship holds tender meaning for the boys. It is the heart of the mutual ministry we share with them.

Jason & Jessica Benton, Volunteers

The Christmas Gift

In John's Gospel, we read "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." Jesus. THE reason we celebrate Christmas. And our gift-giving at this time is a reflection of the gift God first gave to us.

In Tegucigalpa, Honduras, at El Hogar, St. Mary's Technical Institute and the Agricultural School, some 200 boys depend on our gift-giving for food, shelter, education, and Christian formation. Three meals a day are a direct result of our sponsorships and unrestricted donations. We are God's hands and feet here on earth; and the boys know that, thanking God daily in their prayers for our loving assistance.

A year ago, we issued a special appeal in this newsletter, and the resulting gifts helped to erase our projected deficit. This year, charitable giving is down in the United States for a variety of factors and El Hogar's balance sheet demonstrates the same downturn.

As you shop for Christmas gifts, we ask you prayerfully to consider the needs of these children of God and give to help them - out of the abundance with which God has so graciously blessed you.



Congratulations Graduates!

Technical Institute 2003 graduates its largest class ever!

Front row L to R: Julio Cesar Ortiz, Nelson Geovany Velasquez, Kelvin Danery Rochez, Gil Esteban Rivera, Juan Dionisio Rivas, Wilson Alexander Andrade, Angel Gabriel Medina Burgos, Pedro Edwin Zavala, Ronald Omar Meza 2nd Row L to R: Gerardo Ramon Giron, Juan Carlos

Salgado, Wilmer Ramon Martinez, Jose Nelson Ponce, Javier Ernesto Morazan, Denis Omar Juarez, Jorge Alberto Lopez, Adan Castillo Rodriguez, Pablo Antonio Morales, Lazaro Juarez, Director of the Institute 3rd Row (L to R): Lenning Eduardo Alvarez, Wilfredo Martinez, Jorge Wilson Flores, Wilmer Cayetano Guity, Sihony Maudiel Mejia, Edwin Josue Vargas, Darwin Josue Sanchez, Jose Edgardo Medina, Israel Amilcar Vasquez Not shown: Ermin Antonio Izaguirre



Agriculture School 2003 Graduates

L to R: Edin Antonio Rivera, Jose Ninrod Vijil, Alvaro Luis Aceituno, Luis Rene Corea, Roni Alexis Medina, Wilson Anibal Garcia, Roberto Sanchez Cruz



Graduates from El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza

Front Row, L to R: Carlos Leonel Mejia, Rafael Mejia, Alberto David Pineda, Charly Noe Benitez, Marco Araujo. Back Row, L to R: Javier Misael Mairena, Carlos Fernandez, Walter Curry, Mario Fernando Mejia.



Middle School students entertain on the new El Hogar marimba; a gift from the Calvary Church in Cincinnati, Ohio; during the Institute Graduation.