

HAPPENINGS IN HONDURAS

FOCUS Family: Little Larissa Needs Help

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Late last year Larissa's mother, Iris, came to the Family Development Center asking if we could help little Larissa. Larissa is 6 years old and suffers from some sort of disability that affects her neurological system, probably some form of epilepsy. You can't help but fall in love with Larissa when you meet her. She has many problems but she is very loving and patient. Recently, we took Larissa and Iris to San Pedro Sula, a 6-hour drive from Trujillo, to have some exams done. The health care system in Honduras is not very user-friendly so Iris had to stand in several lines for hours before she could get an appointment for Larissa. One of the appointments was for an EEG, but they found the machine was broken. She was told "sorry, come back next week". This is not an easy thing to do when you live so far away from special pediatric medical services.

But, with a little creative thinking and problem-solving, we were able to get the necessary exam at another local clinic. God's hand was all over our trip. We were able to get her into an appointment that was cancelled by another person and also found another local clinic that had an EEG machine. In addition, we met some new people at the clinic who welcomed us to bring other children to visit them on future trips to San Pedro Sula. We are thankful now to have a solid care plan for little Larissa who probably would have suffered many more months without this evaluation and the proper medication. God is so good! Larissa is one of four new children that we would like to help but don't have enough support to provide for their needs. We are looking for a family or a church who could contribute \$35 a month to help provide vitamins, medicine, and future medical appointments for Larissa. If you can help, contact Mark Young at TrujilloHearts@yahoo.com or call 509-480-1993. *Brian Bilodeau, missionary*



**Brian holding little Larissa
in front of main entry**



Needs of LHBH

- Help needed to get the filled cargo container shipped from the U.S. to Honduras. It is ready to go. Can you help with the transportation and custom fees of \$1,200?
- A U.S. trained nurse (RN or LVN) to live and work at LHBH for a one to two year commitment.

How to help? Email Mark at TrujilloHearts@yahoo.com if you wish to help with any of these or other special needs.

Meeting of Little Hands Families



**Dr. Guadalupe, visiting
psychologist, from
Mexico speaking to
Little Hands families**

Under the direction of Yefrin Rodriguez, the Honduran director of LHBH, several meetings of families served by LH have been held. These have proven to be well-attended and very valuable in aiding families to understand their responsibilities in raising children with special needs. The family meeting held in July featured guest speaker, Dr. Maria Guadalupe, a visiting Mexican psychologist who urged the families to be more involved in the teaching and therapy that their children receive from LHBH. Over 55 people attended the session and learned much about how they need to "invest" in the lives of their children. Everyone shared lunch and played games together. The families supported one another and a fun time was had for all!

The next meeting is being planned for October when Ruth Fernandez, a special education teacher now retired and living in Trujillo, will speak on the importance of giving all children the opportunity to learn and develop into the people God wants them to be. Ruth is a wonderful role model for this behavior as she has empowered her own mentally retarded daughter, Edith, to experience life to its fullest. Ruth is also helping Roxana in the LHBH developmental preschool and has encouraged her to seek more training for working with disabled children.

IN THE DIRECTORS' CORNER BY YEFRIN AND MAYBELLINE RODRIGUEZ



My wife, Maybelline, and my son, Jack, and I all live at the Family Development Center at Manos Chicas, Corazones Grandes

First, let us thank God for the opportunity to work with the children of the King. We feel very happy to serve these children with disabilities. With our hearts full of love and happiness, every smile from a child inspires us to show more children the glory of God. They are a blessing to the *Manos Chicas, Corazones Grandes (Little Hands, Big Hearts)* ministry.

Thanks to God and many of you who support this mission so that our children receive medicine and other necessities for developing their lives. Also, we thank the many “big hearts” of people who work and labor with us when visiting Manos Chicas in Trujillo. When you visit, our children learn of the unconditional love of Jesus. We always appreciate your support and dedicated labor for our *Little Hands* children and their families.

Recently, our country has experienced an earthquake and political turmoil, both of which have brought international media attention to Honduras. But through it all, this ministry known as *Manos Chicas* keeps on serving needy children and their families as an expression of God’s love.

May the Lord continue to bless you!

Your fellow servants in Christ,

The Rodriguez Family (Maybelline Rivera, Jack and Yefrin Rodriguez)

FUNDACION APPROVED AS HONDURAN NGO

In order for the *Little Hands* mission to operate successfully in Honduras it needed to become what is called in the world of non-profit relief agencies....an NGO, non-governmental organization. Several years ago we began to seek this designation when a Honduran board of directors was formed creating the *Fundacion Manos Chicas* (Little Hands Foundation). Local Christians dedicated to the cause of *Little Hands* agreed to serve on the board and organizational articles and bylaws were created. The *Fundacion* is led by Emilson Paz, administrator at Trujillo Christian School and Jenny Ruiz, principal at Jerico Primary School as president and vice president, respectively. Seven others serve as active board members.

After establishing the organization, papers were filed with the Honduran government for designation as an NGO. This NGO status grants us considerable benefits as a “local charity instead of an international agency” doing business in Honduras, stated Mark Young, Executive Director. We appreciate the commitment and dedication of these board members to seek the appropriate legal means of receiving this designation. In December the *Fundacion* was granted approval as an NGO and appropriate banking and accounting changes were implemented in March. In August the board met to authorize the transfer of all the physical assets of *Little Hands* under control of the board thereby legitimizing the *Fundacion*. The ultimate organizational goal is to have *Little Hands* in Trujillo overseen by this local *Fundacion* board.

At present, Young said, “We are conducting a year-long assessment and evaluation that will lead to a new 10-year plan to take us from 2011 to 2020.” The recommendations of this plan will guide the growth and development of the mission into the future. With Yefrin Rodriguez as our Honduran director and the *Fundacion* board as our leaders, our desire is for *Little Hands* to continue serving children and families as a family development ministry committed to stopping the cycle of poverty. At the same time, statistics show that 80% of the people who come to Christ do so before the age of 18; therefore, we want this mission to help influence others to accept Jesus as their Lord and then live as Christians to influence others.

FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We have many faithful supporters who give monthly. These donors are called *Ministry Partners* because they are clearly “partners” in helping needy children. Without these people, this mission would not exist. With them, we continue to reach out to touch lives for Jesus.

In addition, we have other contributors we wish to acknowledge, who give to specific causes or to the *Little Hands* Work Fund which is used to help children beyond our budgetary constraints. We gratefully thank the following people: Howell Church of Christ, Howell, MI; Middle Georgia Christian School, Macon, GA; Tieton Medical Supply, Yakima, WA; Christian Worship Center, Zillah, WA; Westside Church of Christ, Beaverton, OR; Herb & Pat Butler, Union Gap, WA; Jessica Sneed, Keller, TX; Jim & Ruth Shuff, Ernie & Marcella Peterson, Belva Meanor, Billy & Kim Fetzer, Mary Layman, Mel & Jackie Russell, Senior Adult Bible Class of Summit View Church of Christ, Yakima, WA; John & Kathy Sand, Geraldine Cameron, Maxine Hoff, Ellensburg, WA; Becky Rockey, Camarillo, CA; Lola & Wade Shook, Forest Grove, OR; Joel Heard, Macon, GA; Chad & Tera Baver, Wade & Gail Hansen, Dillon, MT; Lois Robinson, Riverside, CA; Evelyn & Randy Arnold, Cashmere, WA; Bob & Dottie Gilliam, Little Rock, AR; Terri McDonald, Tigard, OR; Brad & Dana Carpenter, Granger, WA; Kevin & Pam Clark, Jim Berry, Patricia Berry, Kim Tackett, Zillah, WA; Laurie & Tyler Hammermeister, Selah, WA; Maxi McAfee, Simi Valley, CA, and other anonymous donors. Thanks to each of you, children in Honduras are being shown the love of another!



Brenda shares a special moment with Brendita (her name-sake) on a recent home visit

SHARING FROM THE HEART: RONALDO LEAVES A LEGACY

BY MARK YOUNG

Many of us lost a dear friend, brother, and fellow sojourner of life when Ron Stump passed away on March 12. Ron served the Lord his entire life, and even in the last several years during his illness, his life was a testimony to me. Now we are the beneficiaries of his legacy. Ron served as the minister and an elder at the Westside Church in Beaverton, Oregon, for nearly two decades. It was during that time that Westside became the sponsoring church for the *Little Hands, Big Hearts* mission. After Westside took on the oversight of this mission, Ron wanted to know about it firsthand, so he was among the first to visit Trujillo in 2002. Ron's wise advice and counsel was always from the heart and most thoughtful of how it would be taken cross-culturally. Ron and his lovely wife, Kay, and their daughter, Naomi, have served as special people to this ministry because they caught the vision early on of how this simple mission to disabled children could transform lives for Christ. To all of us Ron was a big man. To the Honduran children and the people in Honduras he was a GIANT...but a gentle giant at that, one filled with compassion and understanding.

Donna Urban, early visitor and longtime supporter of LHBH said, "I think Ron bonded with Dago, Mario, and Emilson as men who worked hard for their families and as leaders in the church. That was the focus of Ron's entire life." From the Honduran perspective, Dagoberto Rodriguez, Trujillo church leader and host of Ron and Kay on numerous occasions said, "When he was here, we knew that both physical and spiritual work would be done. We were always glad to see Ronaldo." Maybelline Rivera, LH office manager, said, "Ronaldo always carried the spirit of Christ in his stories and his activities. We loved him and will miss him!"



Ron Stump left us a legacy of love

RONALDO SCHOLARSHIP TO AID STUDENTS

RON STUMP WILL BE MISSED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM, BUT HIS INDOMITABLE SPIRIT WILL LIVE ON BECAUSE HIS LIFE WAS A PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF GOD'S LOVE TO MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN TRUJILLO. THOSE OF US WHO KNEW HIM ARE BENEFICIARIES OF HIS LOVING LEGACY. KAY HAS REQUESTED THAT IF FRIENDS WISH TO REMEMBER RON AND HIS LOVE FOR HONDURAS, THEY MAY CONTRIBUTE IN HIS MEMORY TO THE "RONALDO SCHOLARSHIP" TO HELP PAY SCHOOL EXPENSES FOR DESERVING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN TRUJILLO. THOSE WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE MAY MAKE A CHECK PAYABLE TO THE "LHBH FOUNDATION" WITH "RONALDO SCHOLARSHIP" IN THE MEMO SECTION AND SEND TO : LHBH FOUNDATION, 4001 SUMMITVIEW AVENUE, SUITE 5-153, YAKIMA, WA 98908-2953.

ALL GIFTS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED

WANTED: ALL-STARS TO GO TO HONDURAS IN OCTOBER



One of the earlier "all star" teams representing four states and five churches

Have you always wanted to go to Honduras but something kept you home? Does your faith enable you to step out of your "comfort zone" to allow God to provide you a life-changing experience? Would you like to gain a worldview by joining a dozen other Christians who desire to live out the second greatest commandment "to love your neighbor as yourself"? **Come join the all-star mission team** of people from around North America who will go to Trujillo on October 1-13. The 13-day all-inclusive trip cost is \$1,200 for airfare, two nights hotel lodging, all meals and lodging in Honduras, transportation, and work project fee.

Here's what two previous "all stars" said about their trips. Bruce Bawcom of Aloha, OR, said, "My trip was eye-opening and spiritually challenging. The people of Trujillo have such different trials to endure." Cherrie Picatti of Yakima, WA said "It was so memorable to see the joy of the Honduran Christians." "All-star" missionaries are first-timers to Honduras who nevertheless contribute greatly to the team's success. One of the joys of being a Christian is having the opportunity to share a mission experience with a new brother or sister in the Lord. Each October we take an "all-star" group, and this tradition has proven to be very worthwhile to both participants and the *Little Hands* mission.

The team going in October will serve as a medical brigade since a physician and nurse will be among the workers. Others going will assist in the four rural health clinics hoping to serve 400-500 patients. Over \$800 worth of medicine and medical supplies have been donated to assist in making the clinics effective for those most in need of medical attention.

If you feel the Lord is "calling you" to go to Honduras, you may email Mark Young at TrujilloHearts@yahoo.com or get more information at www.littlehandsbighearts.net. You need to have a valid U.S. passport, current vaccinations, and a willingness to give your heart to God. We take care of all of the trip details and arrangements from your home airport to Trujillo and back. We've been making this trip for 15 years and can assure you that if you come with the right attitude, your experience will be transformational in your spiritual relationship with the Lord, with your Honduran brethren, and with your fellow travelers. If you have questions, you may call Mark at (509) 480-1993.

Little Hands, Big Hearts
Manos Chicas, Corazones Grandes is an
outreach of the Summit View Church of Christ,
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**Keep up to date on news by reading the Bilodeau
blog at www.bilodeaufamily.blogspot.com**

Dedicated to empowering the indigenous church and to sharing the Good New of Jesus with “special “ children and their families in Honduras



*They don't care how much you
know...until they know how
much you care!*

Praise and Prayer

This ministry believes praise and prayer are the “cement” of its foundation. Please join us as we praise the Lord for His great blessings and place these petitions before Him.

*Praise God for the 8 churches and 34 individuals and families who support this mission as monthly *ministry partners*. Without them *LHBH* would not be able to share the love of Jesus with needy children.*

Pray for these “*little hands*” children who need healing and love: Jenny (teenager with a tumor behind her optic nerve), Samuel and Reybin (asthma and cerebral palsy), Alexandra (tumors all over her body), Larissa (see front page story), Justin (new child with cleft palate), Heidi (new child with cancerous tumors in her head), Josué (developmental delays), and Selena (a new child with a hole in her heart).

Praise the Lord for the children at Middle Georgia Christian School in Macon, GA for collecting pennies to help *LHBH*. Because they cared, many children in Trujillo saw the love of Jesus demonstrated.

Pray for the successful transfer of the property deed and registration of the two vehicles into the name of the *Fundacion*. All assets of *LHBH* will legally belong to the new NGO in Honduras.

Praise God for those who supported the production and distribution of the new *Little Hands, Big Hearts* video. If you would like a copy of this DVD, please send a request to TrujilloHearts@yahoo.com.

Pray for the political situation in Honduras, that it may be resolved without further demonstrations and bloodshed. Pray that democracy can win out over socialism for the benefit of the Honduran people.

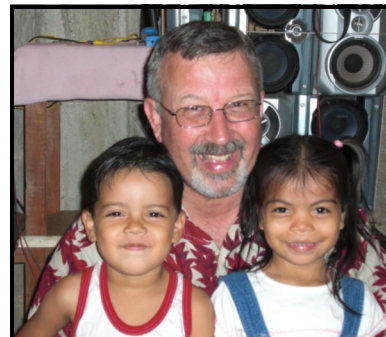
NEW WEBSITE

More people today get their information online over the web so *LHBH* has updated and modified its website — www.littlehandsbighearts.net. Please take a moment to go to the remodeled website and notice all of the new features. There is even a picture album link that show hundreds of photos taken by visiting groups over the years.

Two of the new key features are the testimonials and the “needs” list. Both of these were created in response to people wanting to know what visitors thought about *LHBH* and what needs the ministry had at any given time.

You'll also want to check out the links to other mission projects and mission books and journals available to heighten your awareness of the mission activity in Honduras.

Finally, it is easy and secure for you to make a donation to support *Little Hands, Big Hearts* by hitting the “Make A Donation” button on the home page. You can be assured that information given is never given or sold to any other individual or organization. With *LHBH* you are SAFE!!!



Mark holds Markito and Edy while visiting in their home