

What is a week like at the Hogar?

By Randy Wittig, AGC Consultant in Honduras

To truly understand what a week at the Hogar is like for us, imagine dividing yourself and time so each of your children has equal time with you. And then multiplying the unpredictable craziness of parenting by 200. But, your life is also that much more blessed!

Join me as I give you a glimpse into one week at the Hogar:

- Each morning children have to be delivered to five different schools, depending on their needs and ages. The special boys and girls have their own school. How do you successfully arrive on time to each school when there is always someone that is not ready....? Or worse, someone that is hiding because they do not want to go to school that day?
- Each afternoon the torture session starts, no play until each boy gets his homework done. Life is truly rough. Josue Fajardo, a young industrial engineer and one of our newest team members, along with Granja staff and volunteers work with each and all the boys, not only helping get their homework done correctly, but helping them understand what they are learning.
- This week, one girl had an appendicitis and had to be rushed to the hospital.
- Two days later, one of our boys broke his wrist — with the bone extruding through the skin... We rushed him to the hospital in la Paz but they did not have a doctor capable of handling this type of injury. So, he had to be sent to a private hospital in Comayagua.
- The university students have a semester break. That meant a 90-minute trip each way to pick up 12 students in Tegucigalpa. It is great to have the additional 12 sets of hands over the age of 18 as they help in different functions around the Hogar. For example, Antonio was able to help install new furniture in one of the renovated dorm rooms for the girls.
- A major rainstorm poured through the roof at Misericordia. Regretfully, the roof had been installed incorrectly years ago, resulting in leaks every time it rains and buckets of rain every time it rains hard. Two of the men started taking the whole roof off to install it correctly.
- After the storm, our electricity was out for over 12 hours! The electricity went off just before dark. Wild shouting, running around, and having fun ensued. Then we had to focus on those that are scared of the dark... Oh no! But what about homework? The saving grace is that everyone else in town was experiencing a blackout.
- Ah, but the rainstorm brought showers of blessing as it caused dozens of mature mangos to fall from the trees at Rodolfo's house. A pickup was sent to collect the mangos and deliver them to each Hogar. Mangos are addictive. The kids love mangos. There is joy in the houses.
- The boys butchered a cow at the Granja, prepared the meat for each Home and delivered it. Don't tell anyone, but the cow was old, the meat was tough, but it was enjoyed.



- A lady from Tegucigalpa requested the opportunity to visit the Home to see if she could teach crafts to the girls. It was decided that she will teach crafts each week.



- One evening, a team from a church in Maryland asked if they could play soccer against our boys... It does not go well for those that don't know that our boys do NOT lose on their court.
- Two doctors from Tegucigalpa spent an afternoon as volunteers at the Granja, giving medical check-ups to many of our boys.
- We have finally managed to get the city of Comayagua to be willing to pickup our garbage at the girls' dorm — but it requires a small incentive... the garbage men must be served lunch. It is worth it as it avoids one of our pickups having to pull the garbage trailer to the dump and unload it.

Almost every day, some teacher requests a silly item to be sent to school for a silly event. The children always wait until the night before to say: "Tomorrow I have to take ??? to school. I have to take it or it will lower my grade." — Multiply that by 200 children...!

- On Friday evenings, I host a Bible Study at the Farm. The boys eagerly await my arrival. It is hard to get out of the pickup with everyone wanting to give me a hug. Where in the world do you get that kind of recep-

tion walking into a Bible Study? I have watched as these boys are becoming men, many of whom have decided they want to be "good men." My mind races as I think, study, pray, and seek how best to train them to be "good men." Driving home, I feel the joy of being a part of something that is eternal.

- One of girls locked herself in the bathroom and would not answer. Not a sound came from inside. Is she okay? Someone had to come to get the door open. Only to find she was crying about a problem at school and she was afraid it would get her kicked out of school — it did not.
- The US soldiers arrived from the Base to play with the girls and grill some hamburgers. The girls always beat the soldiers in soccer. One of the female soldiers is a pilot who flies Black Hawk helicopters. The girls find that fascinating!
- Saturday morning there is Awana (games and Bible study for children) at the Granja. Almost all the boys participated willingly. Many are memorizing Scripture for the first time and enjoying it.
- Saturday evening Mercedes leads a Bible study with the younger girls at the Hogar. The attention span of the girls is not long, but they all seem to enjoy it.



Most of all, the beautiful thing about having 200 children is that on any given day, I may get a dozen hugs, or a letter from one of the kids, saying: "I

love you," or "Thanks for all you do." I sleep with joy. It is wonderful to have 200 kids (well, usually). Every week another child arrives. It is worth it all!



Annual Golf Open

Join us for our Annual Golf Open on Friday, September 21, 2018 to benefit All God's Children.

For more details and to register, visit:
AllGodsChildrenHonduras.org/Events



What happens when our children “grow up” or don’t?

Orphanages world-wide struggle with the stage of “transition” into adulthood. Many families also struggle with the transitional phase with one or more of their children. At some point, we ask ourselves: “Do we push them out of the nest like an eagle parent?” Eagles really don’t push their young out of the nest — that is a legend. Even though this analogy is used in motivational speeches, the truth is that there is a “process.” A process where children prepare or are helped to prepare to leave in a thoughtful manner. Some children are ready to go right

after high school, when they turn age 18, or right after college. But some children are perfectly happy staying right where they are and never want to leave....

After much prayer and thought, wrestling with

the complexity of the boys and girls which we have in our care, at Hogar Nazareth, All God’s Children Honduras has begun a new “process” for our normal/typically developing (if there is such a thing) boys and girls.

In May, we hosted a ceremony/meeting in Honduras where the young adults, ages 18 and above were presented a certificate, stating they are now legally adults with new rights and responsibilities. We included the youth ages 15–17 to encourage them to start thinking about their future.

Our speakers included Allen Heerema, DINAF (Honduran Child Protective Services), and Randy Wittig. Mr. Allen — “Daddy” for many of them — spoke, representing the U.S. Board and, sharing the powerful story of how he grew up. The Regional Director of DINAF stated how important this transition is and that, to her knowl-

edge, Hogar Nazareth is the only Home in Honduras that has a well thought out plan to help the older children in their transition. Randy Wittig spoke, explaining the importance of taking advantage of this opportunity to prepare for the future.

The new transitional program provides several important opportunities and changes at age 18:

- If they choose to leave the Hogar, receive help to live on their own and find work, housing, etc., in the transition.
- Modest, temporary financial assistance until they can become self-supporting.
- Choice to study an academic or vocational career with a scholarship that must be maintained with good grades, annual academic advancement, and good behavior.
- They must contribute work for the benefit of the Hogar in gratitude for their scholarship.
- Young adults unwilling to study, work and/or displaying habits of poor behavior will be asked to leave.

These new options seek to reduce some of the difficulties that have occurred in a few cases in the past such as becoming professional students to avoid entering the workforce and some girls viewing pregnancy as a way to maintain sponsor support.

Our aim is to reduce the mindset of dependency and underachievement and encourage independence and a strong work ethic combined with our assistance in the transition.

We hope to help the youth not only learn to walk, but to run on their own. All God’s Children Honduras has a lot to learn in this process. We would appreciate any insights or thoughts that you believe may helpful, and especially prayer for these young adults. Together we can help them walk, run and soar as eagles.

Hogar Nazareth is the only Home in Honduras that has a well thought out plan to help the older children in their transition.

Sponsors Needed for Over 30 New Children

AGC received 38 new children in 2017 and **we are on-track to receive approximately 75 new children by the end of 2018!** Most children arrive with only the clothing on their backs, needing a school uniform and books, medical and dental care, a bed, and compassionate counseling to overcome their traumatic past. **Each child needs the love and care that sponsors provide through letters, photos, and visits.**

Will you sponsor a child today? Visit allgodschildrenhonduras.org/sponsorship

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