

Dear Friends and Supporters of AGC,

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we reflect on our blessings and our responsibility to pray for those less fortunate. All God's Children (AGC) is committed to transforming the lives of orphaned and abandoned children in Honduras. As we read Johana's inspiring life story, let it remind us of God's abundant grace and encourage us to give thanks for the ways He preserves us. He is truly the source of peace that surpasses all understanding.

- Al Heerema



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AGC has the highest Charity Navigator rating.

News of the Niños

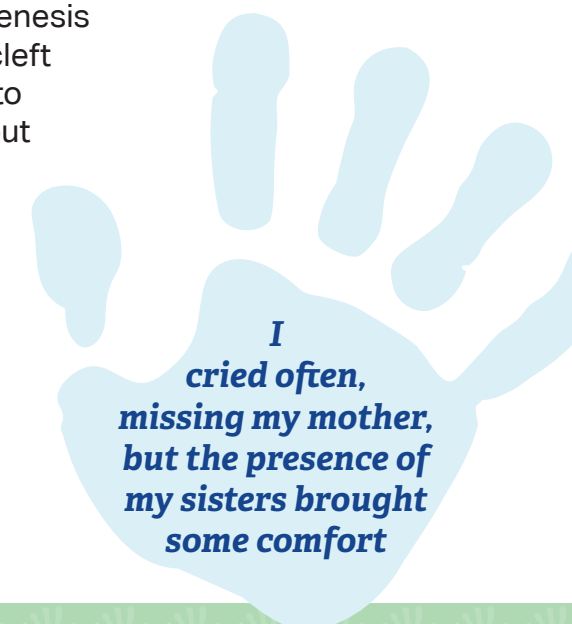
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Johana's Journey

My name is Johana Antonia Amaya, and I am 23 years old. I'd like to share a little about my family. I have two sisters: Rosa Veronica and Ana Gabriela. I'm the youngest.

Before arriving at the Hogar, my sisters and I endured a lot. My sisters endured the brunt of it. Ana, just 13, became pregnant with Genesis, my niece and sister. Our father, whom I once believed to be a good man, was the cause. I trusted him, respected him, and even felt protected by him, but everything changed when I realized what had happened and what he had done to my sisters. He also abused my mother and eventually left us, forcing her to raise us alone. I was 11 when I learned of it all, confused and heartbroken. My father had threatened my sisters to keep quiet, promising to do the same to me if they spoke up. A very difficult thing to believe.

In 2012, we arrived at the Hogar. Rosa was 15, Ana was 13, and I was overwhelmed. I cried often, missing my mother, but the presence of my sisters brought some comfort. When Ana had to leave for Buen Pastor, it felt like another abandonment. Genesis was born with a cleft lip, which added to our challenges, but she also united us. Ana named her Genesis - A reminder of new beginnings.



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ALL GOD'S CHILDREN (AGC) IS A MINISTRY OF COMPASSION TO THE ORPHANED AND DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IN HONDURAS

And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40

Johana's Journey *Continued*

Living at the Hogar and facing such profound trauma was incredibly challenging, but it also gave me the opportunity to learn important lessons about life, family, and my relationship with God. It wasn't easy, but I learned that even in the most difficult moments, it's possible to push forward. The Hogar provided me with the chance to grow, learn, and rebuild a sense of normalcy.

Through the Hogar, I learned about faith and hope in the midst of difficulty. My personal relationship with God grew stronger, offering me refuge, comfort, and hope, especially during times of chaos. Faith became my guide and a source of inner peace and strength. It helped me navigate through the challenges and make difficult decisions. I learned that healing, both emotional and spiritual, can be deeply connected to faith, and submitting my pain to God began my healing journey. Forgiveness and compassion were other valuable lessons I learned at the Hogar. I learned to forgive others and, most importantly, to forgive myself. At one point, I felt guilty about everything that had happened, but understanding forgiveness allowed me to move forward and accept that I am forgiven. I also learned that family isn't just biological. The people who cared for me and supported me at the Hogar became part of my new family. From my experiences, I understood that a true family is built on respect and protection, both emotional and physical.

There are moments in life that define you, moments that transform you and make you stronger.



For me, those moments included arriving at the Hogar, meeting wise and kind-hearted people, and starting my studies at the university. Deciding to attend university was a big step for me, I never would've been able to do it without AGC's help. This decision was driven by my desire to overcome the past and build a brighter future. I am now pursuing a bachelor's degree in marketing and advertising, and my short-term goal is to graduate and find a job in this field.

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God has played a crucial role in my life. After everything I've been through, my relationship with Him is deeply personal and transformative. He has been my source of comfort and refuge. God provides light during the darkest times, and faith offers a path to inner peace. Through my faith, I have found healing and a space to process trauma.

All God's Children (AGC) has been a new beginning for me. I used to believe that when I entered the Hogar I would never have anyone support me unconditionally again, this was especially true after I had to leave the Hogar when I turned 18. I didn't know where I would go or what I would do. I was afraid of the world and didn't think I had any hope of continuing my education. But AGC was there for me when I needed help the most, and has provided me this unconditional love.

Don't give up—the best is yet to come.

AGC and all those involved in trips to Honduras have shown me that regardless of nationality or where you come from, we all share a common purpose in helping those in need—emotionally, spiritually, and economically. Whenever the AGC groups came to visit, their smiles and kindness helped us forget the pain of the past. I am forever grateful for the support and love I received.

Despite everything I've gone through, I still feel gratitude. Sometimes, in the middle of pain, we discover reasons to be thankful, and this helps us find peace and strength. I am grateful for the people who were there for me—friends, caretakers, and professionals who helped

me heal. I am also grateful for the lessons I've learned about life, faith, and love.

To anyone who has lived through pain, I want you to know that you are incredibly strong. Healing takes time, but every day you choose to move forward is an act of bravery. What happened to you does not define you - it is only part of your story, but it is not the end.

God sees you, hears you, and walks with you, even when the world feels dark. You are never alone. Every step you take toward healing and peace is a triumph, and you deserve a life full of love, joy, and inner peace.

God sees you, hears you, and walks with you.

Allow yourself to feel, cry, and heal at your own pace. Your scars are not signs of weakness but of the resilience and strength inside you. You are loved, you are brave, and you deserve all the good things life has to offer. Don't give up - the best is yet to come. ■

