

Best-Laid Plans
By Kelly Mackenzie

Having the opportunity to visit Honduras is always one of the highlights of my year. I love getting the chance to step outside of my normal life and to reconnect with some of the children I have gotten to know over the years. However, leaving the Hogar to come back home has always been difficult. Of course, leaving people that I have grown to know and love can be heart-breaking, but it was even more challenging to leave without knowing what might happen to them. I hated the uncertainty of the future for the children in the orphanage and always left with so many questions about what God's plan could be for their lives and how he could possibly accomplish it when they face so many obstacles. At times, it felt like there was no direction for them.

As a college senior, I have spent a lot of time recently thinking about the future. I've worried about where I'll be next year, what I'll be doing, and how to best follow God's plan for my life. When I arrived in Honduras, I tried to focus on enjoying my time with the kids, but these thoughts were still in the back of my mind, especially as I worried about their futures along with my own.

Proverbs 16:9 says "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." God put this verse on my heart during this past trip to Honduras. He reminded me that I can make all the plans I want for after graduation, I can plan my course with as much detail as possible, but ultimately it is the Lord who establishes my steps and holds my future in his hands. And not just my future, but the future of every child that lives at the Hogar, of every tía that works there, of every single person that has ever passed through those gates. Even if I think the problems in Honduras are overwhelming and sometimes I even wonder if it is possible for God's plans to be accomplished there, God has not given up on Honduras. He is more powerful than any obstacle these children will face, and he has promised to be with them and guide them.

God reminded me of this in a powerful way when I first met Randy and Mercedes Wittig. They have brought incredible leadership and guidance to the orphanage and I have so much hope for their future in Honduras. Even as I was wondering how God could possibly accomplish his plans in a place with so many challenges, he was still faithful and was orchestrating everything to bring Randy and Mercedes to be his servants in Honduras. I am so grateful for them and for how I have already seen God working through them. And I am so grateful that, despite my best-laid plans, God is the one establishing my steps.

All God's Children

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News of the Niños

Spring 2016

Comayagua, Honduras

Dear Sponsors, Friends and Members of the Board,

We send our respectful greeting from the Hogar Nazareth and desire that God would bless you abundantly.

This is Easter week here, so the boys, girls and youth are on vacation from school. They have been involved in several spiritual events in the chapel of the Granja where they have participated together by age groups with everyone from the different projects. They really enjoy the time they share together.

The Wittigs are doing a great job and we feel very supported by them. It has been a great blessing having them here.

At the Granja (The Farm) we have two new boys, Eduar Reyes that is 12 years old and Selvin Midence that is 7 years old. Both of them are adapting well.

The production projects at the Granja are doing better. The first sale from the production of fish has occurred. A small group of 50 hens are now producing eggs that are being eaten by the children. It would also appear that the raising of hogs to fatten and reproduce is being very productive. Also two of the cows will be giving birth to calves.

The roof over the soccer court is advancing quickly and will soon be ready for the boys, girls and youth to enjoy soccer matches.

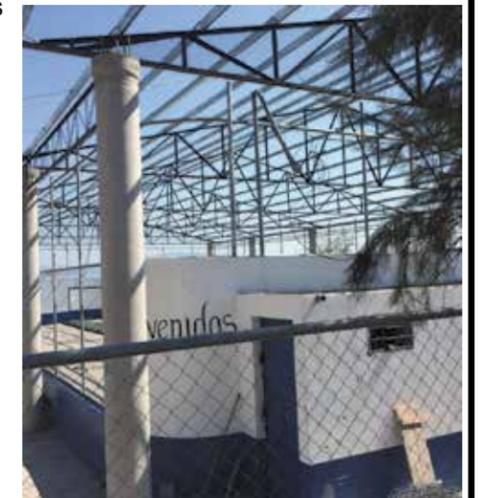
Also the metal working shop and the mechanic shop have been reopened and the boys are very enthusiastic about working in these shops.

In the Hogar for girls, the bakery has reopened even though the sales have not been very good. The girls of the Hogar, two girls from Casa Misericordia and some from Buen Pastor are learning how to make bread. This will be useful for them in the future.

Also at the Hogar for girls, thanks to the hard and diligent work of one of the groups, the water problem has been solved, now all the dorms have water 24 hours a day. Thank you very much for your hard work.

All the girls at Buen Pastor are doing well with their babies. We have a new girl with her baby that is 4 months old.

We thank you for all of your help, May God bless you,
Carmen and all the children



"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me." Mark 9:37

The radical beauty of the body of Christ serving in teams to accomplish His purposes.

By Randy Wittig

On January 18th Paul Lagestee & Jan Kamp, leading a Serve Team arrived at the Hogar where over 100 residents live that have been struggling with a lack of water. The water problem had developed slowly over a number of years, resulting in a lack of water in all locations of the Hogar and Casa Misericordia.



The problem actually was a number of problems, each of which needed to be solved: 1. Leaks throughout the system resulted in the loss of large quantities of water. 2. Sediment had slowly filled pipes reducing the flow. 3. The pump was put in many years ago when the quantity of residents was small and no longer had the capacity to provide for all the residence.

Their team hit the ground running with the aim of solving the loss of water- leaks everywhere- and doing it in one short week. This was the first vital task! What good is it to have more water, if there are leaks everywhere and it would just increase the water flowing out through holes. Each bathroom was checked, toilets, showers, faucets. Parts bought and bad parts replaced. Men on their knees, fixing toilets, sinks, showers... Bathroom after bathroom was worked on and problems solved. This is no small problem as many of the original installations were poorly made and the quality of the materials substandard. Creativity and ingenuity solved problems.

As a result, at the end of the week, finally all the bathrooms now had some water during crucial hours. This was a giant step forward.

Then, on Feb. 1, a small but hard working team, led by Bob Leorop and Clarence Klaassens, hit the ground running for the next two major jobs. The group had one significant aim, increase the quantity and flow of water through the whole system.

This required a number of significant changes: 1. Changing the major feed pipes that were over 1/2 filled with sediment buildup over the years. Over 240 ft. of new pipe was run, through walls, rooms, and open spaces to replace the old system that had been added on to as the Hogar had grown. 2. Installing a new pump and initial pipes coming out of the well.



3. Completely redesigning and replacing all the pipes and rebuilding filters, valves, etc. in the distribution center in the bottom of the water tower.

With unbelievable hard work, complex problems that were discovered and solved, long hours (even working to 9:00PM on one night), they left with the mission accomplished - Abundant Water for all!!

Saturday morning, when the team was leaving, the main water tank was full, for the first time in many years, with water flowing to all rooms. Unbelievable! The girls profusely thanked the men and women of the team Friday night for the gift of water, abundant water. One of the young men, came up to me and said: "Wow, what an example to us of hard work, sacrifice and service to others, we need to become like them. Wow".

The teams met the material needs, but most significantly they contributed to the disciple forming process of modeling deep commitment to Christ

Mission Accomplished of providing temporal water.

Mission in Progress of discipling men and women for Christ and His service to others.



Water tower