

MUCHAS GRACIAS, BRENT !

After many years of faithfully travelling to Chicago from her home in Florida for quarterly meetings Brent Brewster has stepped down from the AGC Board of Directors. Brent's appointment to the Board in 2004 followed several years of close involvement with Hogar through leading work teams there from First United Methodist Church in Coral Springs Florida. We will greatly miss her good insight into the lives of the ninos, and the wisdom she offered in making policy decisions.

Brent's participation on the Board only begins to describe her commitment to AGC and Hogar. Brent and husband Brad were (and will remain) frequent visitors to Hogar, sometimes for extended periods of time. Their immersion into Hogar life and leadership was total. Some of their activities included English classes for the ninos, building cabinets at the granja, regular Bible studies and devotions for small groups, and the special tea parties/etiquette classes for the older girls ("because you never know when you might be at a formal dinner with the President of Honduras")

Worthy of special mention is Brent and Brad's acquisition of *Central Souvenir*, a gift shop located in the town square for the primary purpose of providing work place opportunities and socialization skills to the Hogar teens. Also noteworthy is the special sponsorship of the University students raised by them through Fig Tree Ministry, a Florida non profit founded by Brent and Brad for Hogar support.

We will greatly miss Brent and Brad's at Board meetings, but we know that Hogar will always be a regular part of their prayers and travels. Thanks guys, we'll see you down at Hogar!



9th Annual AGC Golf Outing

Please consider joining us at 10:30am for the 9th Annual A.G.C. Open to benefit All God's Children on Friday September 27, 2013. We will have a great day of golf at the beautiful Pine Meadow Golf Club in Mundelein, IL ([www.pinemeadowgc.com](http://www.pinemeadowgc.com)). The event will include a four person scramble, box lunch and an awards reception following golf. Special Offer: Included with your online registration is a 1-year subscription to Golf Digest (a \$10 value). Click here for details. Register now and remember to invite your friends to play. Just click on "Tell a Friend" and you can send them a link to this site automatically.

<http://www.golfdigestplanner.com/24145-9thAnnualAGCOpen>

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For sponsorship opportunities, the history of Hogar de Niños and more information about AGC visit our Web site: [www.agcltd.org](http://www.agcltd.org)



Summer 2013 Comayagua, Honduras

A Message From the Board

In June the AGC Board met with the Hogar Nazareth Board and senior Hogar staff. The purpose of the meetings generally was to address better means of communication between the Boards, particularly in making significant policy decisions. Much of the discussion centered on the decision to move the Buen Pastor mothers and ninos from their present home back to Casa Esperanza (the transitional home for young adults which has been underused and largely vacant). The meetings were productive and have led to much better understanding between the Boards. We are hopeful that future major decisions will be arrived at jointly between the Boards.

More significantly, in the course of these meetings Carmen announced her decision to step down as the overall Director of Hogar ministries. She expressed her desire to return to her original role as the "mommy" of the children, but without administrative or executive responsibilities. She described her difficult relationship with INFA, the Honduran agency overseeing the placement and care of orphaned and abandoned children, and cited this as a primary reason for her decision. While she made no express reference to medical issues, it is known among staff that her health has suffered in recent years. We know little more than that and respect her privacy in this area. We are thankful to know that she will continue to live at Hogar, and be a godly and loving influence in the lives of the children.

The Hogar Nazareth Board, under the capable leadership of President Elder Maldonado, is now sorting out the administrative issues for which answers must be found. Who will assume the roles which Carmen has filled for so many years and make the critical decisions? Who reports to INFA? Who decides to welcome new children into Hogar? Who makes staffing decisions? Who will be the face of Hogar to AGC supporters and work team visitors? We are certain that God will provide these answers and more, as we have witnessed in the past.

For the present, the Hogar Board has selected the Directors of the Hogar ministries to fill these roles. They are the following (you may know them by their first names only). Reports of each of these Hogar ministries also follow.

- Director of Hogar Nazareth (home for the girls) - Antonia Espinal
- Director of Granja (home for the boys) - Miguel and Miriam Carbajal
- Buen Pastor and Misericordia - Greg and Janet Brewster

Clearly we are engaged in a time of significant transition, and prayer is needed for all. Pray for wisdom for the Hogar Board, for leadership abilities and patience for all staff and those with new responsibilities in particular, for renewed energy for Carmen, and for the continued growth and well being of all of the children.

AGC Board of Directors

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

## HOGAR NAZARETH (GIRLS)

Dear sponsors,

My name is Antonia Elizabeth Espinal, I am the new Director of Hogar de Niños Nazareth (Girls Home). Due to the health issues of Mami Carmen, the Board of Hogar Nazareth has appointed me to be the new Director. I accepted for the appreciation I have for Mami Carmen because I know this is her life, caring for the children and youth. So I am joining this great labor, hoping for enlightenment from God and asking Him for wisdom to guide each one of these young girls that have been assigned to me, counting on the support of all the people who want the well being of these children and youth. Therefore I ask for your prayers because this task is not easy but with God's help we can do it.

The girls and young teens have been fine, all the ladies are attending church at night. Four days a week they visit Mami Carmen, and Sunday morning they go to church and then to their youth meetings. They are very happy living together with other young people and the exchange of experiences makes them good.

The week of June 22 to 29 we had the visit of a youth group from the state of Indiana. The group was coordinated by Dyan and Paul. All the girls were very happy to have them here, interact with other young people and making new friends. Thank you very much to Dyan and Paul's group for buying the handmade products we sell, and also for the donation of such recyclable material that you brought us.

A group of girls are recycling bottle caps, with that we elaborate different styles of purses, belts, bracelets and coin purses. By selling these products we have had recreational trips and we also bought a new sewing machine.

The bakery project has been self sustained, because sales have been pretty bad. There is production on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and we sell on Thursday. But we are always learning. There is no profit but the girls are learning to make bread, this is one of our major goals, that the girls and the youth can pursue a career and a craft profession because everything helps in life.

The Maranatha School girls are already done; they are all honor students for their high grades. Taking advantage of their vacation time we had some workshops with them, and Professor Antonia Felipa and Teresa accompanied them in the process. Also Keylin Pamela Lopez and Keyla Lucely Lazo Chavarria, finished their Kindergarten they were given an Honors Diploma too for his high grades of 96% and 97%.

## HOGAR NAZARETH (BOYS) – THE FARM

Dear sponsors and friends:

We hope that the Almighty pours many successes and blessings on each of you, may God always give you health and wellness.

The purpose of this note is to thank you in a special way for your actions with each of the children and youth of this home, hoping that will reward you in every moment of your life. Thanks for the support given to this home especially with children Arlin, Fernando, Leonardo and Nelson. We, as the new directors of this program are very grateful, first to God for the opportunity given to us to carry out this labor in the service of the children and young people that are here. At the same time appreciate the positive changes that are showing everyone them.

In this home we continue with the maintenance of some dependencies such as the carpentry shop, forge shop and breeding animals including: cows, pigs, chickens and horses. In this home we are also trying to maintain good order and presentation of the center, doing cleaning work in each of the rooms and landscaping.

In a separated location from other young people and children, within the home, we have a group of four older young men with special needs living there accompanied by a teacher. They have been assigned with daily fieldwork in order to keep their minds occupied and free from bad thoughts. The rest of the boys also do field work such as the cultivation of basic grains such as corn, cassava and some fruits. These activities are conducted in the morning after breakfast, according to their class schedule.

The employees that work in this institution strive for the smooth operation of the center, getting involved in the daily activities and tutoring each of the children. After they receive their respective tutoring, they are given an hour of recreation in the TV room accompanied by one of the educators.

We, Miguel and Miriam, are grateful to God for the opportunity He has given us to serve the children and youth of this center, hoping that He will continue giving us patience and strength to move forward with this work. At the same time we kindly thank the North American friends and sponsors who have come to share with each of the boys in this home.

Special greetings to Grandpa Jerry and his family from the children, youth and educators and directors of Hogar Nazareth, The Farm.

Best regards,

Miguel Carbajal y Miriam Rodriguez Directors of Hogar Nazareth, The Farm (Boys)

## The Jones family:

What does traveling abroad mean? It is discovering a new world of culture, landscapes and people that help you create a new perspective of life. Right now I am living with the Jones Family (Mike, Margaret, Kerry, Megan, Lindsey, and my new friend Casey the dog). This family, their relatives and friends have opened the doors of their hearts to me to be a part of their lives. I cannot express how grateful I am for my new family, which helps me not only financially but also morally and spiritually. At first I was a little nervous because I had grown up in a place with only men and I had to learn to live with a family that has four amazing women. It is also a new experience for them to have a young man in their house. Thank God I got to meet them. Every day I learn new words, expressions and much more, thanks to the time that everyone in the family spends with me. Most mornings Mike and I have a devotional time with the Bible. He reads in Spanish and I read in English. We are learning the language and the Bible at the same time. I have been enjoying many activities with each person in the family including Casey. I am very excited to experience the value of a true Christian family; this is a gift that cannot be bought even with all the money in the world. Just thank you!



## What I miss most about Honduras & my goals:

I miss my family, friends, and sharing with all my brothers and sister in the orphanage their emotions, joys and their experiences. Every time I hear that a group is going to Honduras I do not hesitate to take paper and pencil to write letters. I try to write to everyone I can so I put five names on each letter that I write. I also enjoy receiving letters back from my siblings and friends.

My goals for now are to graduate from this English program and to see if God allows me to continue in college here in the U.S. I want to become a role model for my other brothers and sisters and to show them that nothing is impossible if you truly believe and trust in God because nothing is impossible for him. My best friend once told me, "Francisco, success is the ability to go from fail-

ure to failure without losing your enthusiasm." It helps me to believe in myself and reminds me that despite the difficulties I have had in life, I should never give up.

## What I like about the U.S.A.:

One of the most common questions that people ask me is, "What do you like most about the U.S.?" It's easy for me to say the buildings, the food and everything else but the reality is that this experience someday will be over. Many of my fellow residents of Latin American countries here in my school have come to the conclusion that what we are really interested in personal relationships. I have discovered that what I like about America is to see the friendship, love and mercy through all the people who are involved with my Honduras orphanage. I enjoy visiting churches where many of the orphanage sponsors and others that are interested ask me about the kids. It fills me with great joy to talk about Honduras to those who care and can help. I believe that giving is how we receive and that good works come from the heart. Many people in Honduras have gone through hardships in life but God never abandons those in need.

## Acknowledgement:

I want to thank all the people who are involved with the organization of ALL GOD'S CHILDREN on behalf of all the kids from the orphanage. I would like to thank my godparents, Bern and Jan Slinkman and their family, that have been always there for everything I need. Also thanks to Allen & Gert Heerema, Pamela and Paul DeBoer, Brent and Brad Brewster, Jerry and Carol Wierenga, Terry Toth and his family, Candice Gibson and her family, Paul and Dyan Lagestee, the Douglas family, the Mulders family, Becky DeVries, Scott Kuiken and his family and many others that are a great support to me during my stay here.



**BUEN PASTOR**

Dear sponsors and friends of Buen Pastor,

The reason of this letter is to wish you are in good health with all your family. After my short greeting I pass to the following. All the girls of the Good Shepherd and their children send many greetings to all the sponsors and friends who help us move forward in our studies. Thanks for all the support you give us. We give thanks for your contributions. God will give your double because you are planting in fertile soil. Thank you friends and sponsors, may God bless you today and always.

Friends and sponsors, at this time Janet and Greg are in the U.S. and left us responsible for the girls. Thank God they and their children are very good. I will tell you a little bit of each of the girls and their children.

Yoli is studying nursing and is a good student and doing very well. The next year she goes to nursing practice. Alexandra is in pre-kindergarten and is very intelligent. Thanks for your love and support in their studies to move forward.

Dania is in ninth grade and is doing very well in her classes. Dania is very healthy. Thanks sponsors and friends for keeping an eye out for us.

Nancy is in ninth grade, she is very good at school. Melany is a little parrot because talks a lot. Thank you friends and sponsors.

Paola is in eighth grade and doing well in her classes. Isaias is a very quiet child.

Mercedes is in seventh grade, is making an effort to keep going. Fernanda is a very humble girl and very quiet. Thank you.

Ingrid is in high school and is doing very well in school. Cristofer is a very quiet boy and very cheerful.

Gloria and Javier:  
Gloria is in school at Escuela Jerry, in first grade. Javier is in kindergarten at "My Little Giant" (Education Center Name)

Yessenia and Carolina:  
Yessenia is in eighth grade and is doing very well. Carolina is 20 months old and is a very quiet girl.

Abigail and Kelin:  
Abi is in eighth grade and she is a good student. Keylin is 13 months old and is already starting to take baby steps.

Ana Elsy and Jency:  
Ana E is in first grade and she is very good with math. Jency is 10 months old and is a very good eating girl.

Ana is in fourth grade, her idea is to study so she can move forward. Genesis is 5 months old. She is a darling.

Yeni is in fourth grade and her goal is to graduate to move on with her daughter Lea, who turned one year old today. Thank you friends and sponsors.

With no more to say, the girls of the Good Shepherd say goodbye and pray that the Divine Creator pours many blessings upon you all.

Thanks for your support  
The girls of the **Good Shepherd**  
Tia Lety, Tia Gloria

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**MISERICORDIA**  
We greet you affectionately wishing you lots of success on your daily lives, praying that God will pour out many blessings upon you and your family.

We over here are well, thank God, only a little sad because Greg and Janet are not with us, they are on vacation in The United States.

We, Aunt Dahlia and Aunt Evelyn are with the young women, caring for them and educating them, and everything is fine. The girls are in good health, only Anna has been ill, but is already much better, very happy, very happy. The rest of the girls are in school, they go to church, the doctor and the psychologist. Also we want to say that we have a new girl named Roxana.

We say goodbye to you, always remembering you with love and gratefulness for sharing those moments with us.

May God bless you today and always.  
"Christ died for all of us and we no longer live, but Christ lives in us."

Sincerely,  
Tia Evelyn, Tia Dalia, y Chicas Proyecto Misericordia

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**UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

Elvia Marina Reyes, Geny Meliza Blanco & Vivian Lorena Robledo have successfully completed their classes. July 15 they begin a new semester, for now they have two weeks vacation. Jeny Jonely Vasquez went to study at the University of Tegucigalpa. Zwithalim Jazielle Michel did not enter this semester until the next one.

My Studies in the US *By Juan Francisco Sanchez*

It is an honor and a privilege for me to share a little about my personal life and everything wonderful that my Heavenly Father has done recently. My name is Juan Francisco Sánchez and I'm 22 years old. When I was three days old I was admitted to the orphanage "HOGAR DE NIÑOS JESUS DE NAZARETH" which I consider my home. We all are one big family there. Growing up in this large family, where moral and Christian values were instilled in me from a very young age, helped me to value myself as a person, to value my neighbor as myself and especially to work hard to be a good example for my brothers and sisters in Honduras. I know that God has done great things in my life and my only goal is to fulfill the plan he has for me.

**Chicago and Dominican University:**

Four months ago I came to Chicago, a charming city, which is organized, safe, and full of culture and kind people. It has been very interesting for me to experience for my first time the snow in Chicago, Indiana and Michigan. It was hard to walk every morning to school in the cold weather. The winter clothes were very uncomfortable at first because I have never worn these heavy clothes before. As most of you know the weather in Honduras is really hot.

In March I started an English program at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. The program is called ELS (English as a Second Language). This school has a very friendly environment that provides the help and the support needed to increase my knowledge of the language. The teachers and classes are very dynamic and I have the constant support necessary to increase my knowledge of English. Students not only learn the language but also enjoy learning. The school currently has about 300 students from around the world, definitely an unforgettable experience in one of the most cultured, surprising and multicultural cities. This program consists of 12 levels (one month for each level) of Intensive English. School hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and two hours of homework at the end of the day. Because I learned a lot of English from the Americans who visited Honduras, I advanced to level seven and now I'm starting at level ten. I am very proud to be part of this program that has all the necessary materials and instruction for me to do well.

**A normal day at school:**

The day starts with two hours of English grammar, an hour of development of new vocabulary and an hour on the computer where I can interact with English speakers. After this, I have an hour for lunch where I share cultural experiences with my friends and classmates. After lunch I have reading and writing classes. Finally, I have two hours of homework. The school also offers daily activities which help me to integrate with other students, to immerse myself in the culture and to practice the language. For each section I have a midterm which is two hours and a final exam which is three hours, where teachers evaluate the four key aspects of English: listening, grammar, reading and writing.

**Experience with other international students:**

It's incredible to learn from people around the globe with different perspectives on life. I'm learning from these new people not only their culture but also their language. The good thing about all this is that despite the diversity of language we communicate in English. This is great!!

One of the good things that I experienced with my partners from Saudi Arabia was a special dinner in their apartment. I had their typical food called "Kapsa" where we all sat on the floor and ate without utensils. Another friend of mine from Taiwan experienced a birthday party for the first time. As soon as we knew it was her birthday, the students started singing "happy birthday to you" in many different languages at the same time. It was really an emotional experience for her.

