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## Children Of Honduras Trust

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### HARVEST TIME

It is wonderful to open this newsletter with the good news that the containers have been delivered to their final destination at Valle de Angeles in Honduras. A successful conclusion to another year of work blessed by the Lord. Much of the container contents have already been distributed, providing relief and help to many poor children and families.

The following stories provide an insight into the events leading up to delivery day and some acknowledgements from the happy recipients. The first of these offers an account of Loading Day 15th March 2004

### LOADING DAY

This year Loading Day nearly did not happen! About six weeks before the day we received advice that our shipping agent had ceased trading. This gave us a sharp



- LOADING DAY, MARCH 2004 -

intake of breath. For many years we dealt directly with Harrison Line. About two years ago they were taken over by P&O who required that we worked through an agent. Having found an agent willing to represent us, we were dismayed by his loss at such short notice.

A haulier friend tried to find us an alternative shipper but was unable to obtain a quote anywhere near approaching our budget. In parallel, I also desperately tried to find a new agent. With prayer and the help of Yellow Pages I managed to assemble a list of three potential agents who came somewhere close to meeting our needs. This was eventually reduced to one. The selection was based on the fact that he was nearest by location and could let us keep the shipping containers at the Rotadata yard from Friday through to the following Monday. Finally we had a new agent and were shipping with Maersk shipping line. Everything was in place a couple of weeks before Loading Day. Then came the surprise!

It appears that in the process of seeking donations and sponsorship we had written a letter to a supplier of educational materials. Unknown to us, the company's financial director was a Christian and had already made a donation of goods to CH Trust. While reading our newsletter, he felt prompted to offer help in securing free shipping for us. We in turn had to write back to him, giving thanks for his offer but advising him that since we were already contracted it had come too late to help this year. It then transpired that he shipped with (guess who?) MAERSK! In the event he was able to negotiate with both the shipper and our new agent. Although it wasn't possible for the shipper to offer us free transport for this year we did finish up with a significant discount. Isn't the Lord amazing?!

In short, during the few days before Loading Day, the Lord acted to furnish us with a new shipper and agent able to provide all the attributes and benefits associated with our previous shipping arrangements.

Finally Loading Day dawned. The weather forecast for Saturday 13th March, our Loading Day, did not look promising. On the Friday (12th) it snowed in Derby and was accompanied by a bitterly cold wind. However, we were blessed with the best day of the weekend. It was mild with some drizzle, a few showers and, from time to time, sunny spells. There was little wind, altogether a huge and welcome contrast with the previous day.

The two 40 foot transport containers arrived on the Friday afternoon. We started work at 7.30 the next morning. To help us people arrived from different locations

around the country. Stephen travelled the furthest, arriving the night before from Winchester.

Three separate teams were assigned to unpack the three on-site storage containers holding our packed and labelled items. These were marshalled onto the yard and then fed into the two shipping containers as and when required. The fork lift was very busy, starting with a motor bike and then a used Land Rover engine. Next came two tons of buttermilk, three tons of oats and three pallets of emulsion paint.

Meanwhile Jill and her team had got the urn boiling ready for the first hot drinks of the day. The day wasn't long underway before bacon butties started to appear. Later, the catering team also delivered an excellent lunch to refuel the workforce.

Two tally people were appointed to record every item that was loaded onto the containers. This information is needed by the customs both in England and Honduras.

What went on our containers? Lots of children's clothes and shoes, some toys, stacking chairs, a few tables, tents, a cooker, two fridges, a freezer, a ton of dried spaghetti, lots of buckets of flour, 300,000 vitamins and other medicals. Also loaded were school supplies, family bags and family buckets.

By 5pm the two containers were full to overflowing. The last bags of clothes kept jumping out, only to be squeezed back in. No empty space was allowed! We pay for every inch of space, therefore we use it all.

We were tired but very satisfied by the time the container doors were shut. In conclusion we circled the two containers and asked God's protection and blessing for their journey to Honduras. They sailed on 23rd March and arrived at the port in Honduras on 14th April. They were then road hauled across the mountains to the capital Tegucigalpa.

On arrival they were unloaded by Pastors Norma and Alberto and their helpers in the Valle de Angeles. Once sorted, the different items were collected by those churches from around the country which provide our distribution network. Each box has a number and colour, identifying the distributor for which it is destined. Some participant groups in our network are small, some very large but

all are involved with different ministries to the children and their requirements vary accordingly. However, all need clothes, shoes, school supplies, food and vitamins. It is our hope that what has been sent will bring welcome relief to several thousand children whose families struggle to provide adequate nutrition and support for them.

### A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE FROM A 'FIRST TIMER' BY NATALIE STILGOE

For as long as I remember my father, John Stilgoe, would talk about Honduras and how he helped lots of people 'load a truck.' I didn't ask many questions about it, all I knew was that it was work for an orphanage somewhere in the world and that Dad enjoyed being able to help.

I am now 19 years old and a lot more aware of the goodness of this cause. Last December (2003) Dad came in with a newsletter in his hand from the CH Trust and informed me that it held information about this years loading day. I was intrigued and so read the newsletter. I was touched by the love that Jennifer and John had for those who have been deprived of what the western world take for granted. I read about the joy they were bringing into the lives of those far away through their service, compassion and giving. I wanted to be a part of this!



**- PLENTY STILL TO LOAD AND IT ALL WENT IN -**

I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints young single adult programme and I am responsible for identifying service opportunities. This seemed like a brilliant opportunity to involve the young people in. So I began to find out as much as I could. Jenn was very friendly and offered all of the information that I needed.

So 13th March arrived and I was excited. We got up early and most of us arrived between 8 and 9am from Birmingham and Nottingham. I wasn't really sure what to expect or how many people would be there? What exactly would we need to do? Would we be able to help? I have to admit, when I first arrived I thought they had too many people already. I saw a few boxes on a blue sheet and 15 or so people near by. I was concerned that we wouldn't be needed and was gutted as I looked around as I had been looking forward to helping so much. My mind was soon put at ease when I met Jenn. She assured me there was plenty to do.

As the morning moved on, more people arrived, all smiling and ready to go. It seemed that most people here were regulars, so to speak, as they all knew exactly what needed to be done and got on with it. We were never made to feel useless or inferior though. It felt like I had entered into a community, where all were welcome who enjoyed hard work and being able to give of their time for a good cause.

The day was wet for quite a proportion of it but this never dampened our smiles. This only seemed to add to the enjoyment of the day, as people were able to work closer together. It seemed that any possible problems or difficulties only united everyone in the cause. The people there were so friendly and I was taken aback at how well organised the whole day was. Everything was labelled up clearly and those in charge knew exactly where everything was supposed to go.

The morning passed quickly and we were all surprised and excited to see the Mayor and Mayoress of Derby, together with the Deputy Ambassador from the Honduran embassy who had come to see what CH Trust was all about. I think they were also there to congratulate Jenn and her close team on many years of work and service. The food was great but it was soon back to work. I was amazed at how much there actually was to load. At the beginning of the day I had seen a storage container being unloaded which didn't seem very big or able to hold much. However when I went back to see it near the end of my time there I couldn't believe how far back it went! I had never visualised there being so many boxes and packages to send.

The end of our day came all too quickly. It had been full of laughter, throwing bags, lifting and passing heavy boxes, talking with new people, seeing sun, rain and rainbows, special guests and numbers. What I had imagined was a few people putting a few boxes into a container for people in Honduras. What I found was a lot of friendly people working as a community to load two huge containers. They were so well packed by those we passed to, that I had no doubt everything would arrive safely. I'm grateful that we were able to participate and see the wonderful work that the volunteers were involved in. I'm really looking forward to next year and I would encourage anyone reading this to consider coming down to help out. It really was worth the dirty wet clothes and the aching back! I'll be back next year, if Jenn will have me!

### AN UNEXPECTED PLEASURE.....

About two years ago Loading Day was honoured by visits from Honduran Embassy Officials based in London. This year we were also advised to expect a visit from the Deputy Ambassador, Juan Romero Nasser, together with one of our previous embassy visitors, Irma Rosa, and the Mayor of Derby, Councillor Peter Berry. They arrived on site around mid-morning and were able to observe the activities associated with container packing and enjoy chatting to various people as they did so. They were able to stay for lunch, after which they gave brief addresses to the packing team. The words of thanks offered by both the Mayor and Mr Romero were extremely generous, enough to make us blush! Apart from feeling highly honoured, we were also very grateful for their interest and support. Then came the surprises!

This year marked the 30th anniversary of sending out aid to Honduras. In recognition of this, the Ambassador presented Jennifer with an official Certificate of Recognition from the Honduran Embassy for her work in helping poor Honduran children to enjoy a better start in life and to receive the opportunities offered by improved education. The certificate was worded as follows:

“The Embassy of Honduras in the United Kingdom extends this certificate of recognition to Jennifer Cox and the Volunteers of the Children of Honduras Trust, on the thirtieth anniversary of the charity work in favour of the children of Honduras”

This was followed by the presentation of a cake, which Jennifer duly cut and was then rapidly consumed by all present. The tributes were completed by a gift of flowers. In every way it was a very memorable occasion. We were very warmed

by Mr Romero's parting remark that he would try to come next year but wearing his jeans so that he could give us a hand!

A few weeks later we had another surprise. One morning a letter arrived through the post with the news that Jennifer was to receive a Civic Award from Derby City Council at the forthcoming Mayor Making ceremony. The occasion took place at the Derby Assembly Rooms on 30th June. It was a very prestigious affair followed by a luncheon. The invitation was extended to a party of nine made up from family and close helpers. On this occasion awards were made to five citizens considered to have made a worthy contribution to the life of the city. The new Mayor, Councillor Ruth Skelton, presented the awards. Jennifer's presentation consisted of a glass goblet engraved with the Council's coat of arms and the words "Derby Civic Award 2003-2004 Jennifer Cox". She also received a certificate with the council's seal and a second certificate extending the award to the CH Trust helpers, i.e. YOU. So will you please congratulate yourselves on a job well done. Although Jennifer, in her role as figurehead for the Trust, was privileged to receive the award, she was also acutely aware that she did so on behalf of everyone who has contributed. Without those contributions there would not be a CH Trust. A big thank you to everyone who has made this possible.

### RUNAWAYS!!

This year, although the containers were packed on the Saturday, they were not due to be towed away until the following Monday. Even at the end little problems crop up! The containers were due to be picked up at 2.00pm. I went down to the yard early to see them off and to hand over the paperwork needed by the drivers to authorise their entry into the docks. Not a container in sight!!! It transpired that the drivers arrived without notice at 12.15pm and drove off with them without the paperwork. The shipper was livid and had to make special arrangements to get acceptable papers to the docks based on faxes of the originals that I held. I think the drivers finished up losing a couple of hours instead of gaining time as they thought. Praise the Lord, it all worked out. The containers sailed for Honduras on Tuesday 23rd March and arrived there about three weeks later. In answer to prayer they enjoyed a trouble free passage through the docks at Puerto Cortes and were delivered straight to the Valle de Angeles, thus avoiding the customs pound in Tegucigalpa. Even though we did not have any major problems at the docks this year, it was still a comfort to know that we now have approval and recognition from the Honduran government via the UK embassy. I am sure this helps to smooth the way.

## **MADE IT! THE CONTAINERS ARRIVE**

As you can imagine, ever since loading day we have eagerly awaited news about the arrival of our containers in Honduras. This is always a tense time, when we await with trepidation what new problems will arise this year with the importation of the containers. As usual, many obstacles were placed in the way of Dina and Alberto as they strove to obtain clearance from customs to import the containers and finally to take possession of them.

Initially they were told that tax would have to be paid on the two tons of buttermilk powder, the clothes and the shoes. Subsequent negotiations with the government official eventually absolved the milk from any tax. Some days later we heard of God's continued favour as the tax was also removed from the clothes and shoes. Praise God!

Alberto sent us an E-mail telling us how they received a visit from two Government Inspectors. They had to explain to them how CH Trust, Vision Cristiana and Cristo Centro worked together. Dina and Manuel from Cristo Centro also attended. Basically the officials came to inspect the clothes, shoes and the milk. They were shown goods that had been delivered along with photos and a video of other deliveries. The officials were very pleased and went away



**- PASTOR MANUEL COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR HIS CHURCH -**



very happy with the way every thing had been carried out. Thanks be to God, presumably so pleased that we received tax exemption from almost everything.

Finally on Wednesday 12th May the two 40' containers arrived in the Valle de Angeles. Twenty people started unloading between 7-8 am and completed the task by 6.30 pm. Between them, they unloaded between five and six thousand items. As they unloaded, the different items were sorted by their colour code into separate piles ready for direction to the 14 different ministries to whom we send. Afterwards they would have been very tired. We know! We ached much after loading in Derby.

During the following few days the various churches from east, north, south and centre of Honduras came to receive and collect their allocation. Christmas arrived in May! Everyone was, of course, eager to see what had been sent from England this year. What excitement and expectation there must have been. It would have been good to see!

### SOME RESPONSES FROM OUR PARTNERS IN HONDURAS

Alberto and Norma (Vision Cristiana, Valle de Angeles)

Alberto writes:

*In the name of the churches and the children of Honduras we give thanks for the hope that the containers put into our lives and for the smile on many faces. The containers not only come loaded with things but also bring love from your country to the New World. Each box, bucket, chair, rucksack or tool demonstrates your love. We know that the love you share with the needy comes from the heart of Jesus. Thousands of people here in Honduras benefit from the work that you do in sending the containers. Please receive greetings and thanks from 12 churches and departments, 4000 children and many families. The pastors send a THOUSAND THANKS TO ALL.*

May God bless you abundantly.

Pastor Alberto Cruz

## Francisco and Blanca (Vision Cristiana, Chaloma near San Pedro Sula)

*Our God has blessed us with your lives. We give thanks to God for your work and effort to help and bless our churches. All the items that you send are of great blessing. All the people are very thankful to God and to you for the donations. Already oats, milk, clothes and some toys for the children have been given out. We have taken some photographs, which we will send. We are helping a community nearby to Choloma. We were able to take some things to them, which made them very happy.*



**- A POOR COMMUNITY WHO RECEIVED OUR HELP (EL CEIBON) -**

## Julio and Angela Reina Pavon (Cristo Centro, San Pedro Sula)

**Pastor Julio says:**

Thank you, thank you, in the name of Jesus for your very kind heart. The items that you have sent will cover much of our necessities, principally in clothes for childrens, shoes, food, cutlery, medicine, bikes, books and computer too; So many beautiful things! In a few days I am going to send photos of the moment when the people receive your donations.

We hope to see you soon. My church remember you so much and a last word... we love you and remember Honduras is your country, San Pedro is your city, and my house, is your house.

¡God Bless you!



**- SORTING CLOTHES FOR DISTRIBUTION IN SAN PEDRO SULA -**

Ricardo Hood (Naranjal, near Valle de Angeles)

Pastor Ricardo writes to say :

*I wish to thank you for the goods we have received. We are blessed. We will distribute the majority of goods to the community.*

*We are getting the soup kitchen organised. Just wanted to share some good news with you. The doctor who has received the othoscope has volunteered to give free consultation to the church members and villagers that attend when we have medical campaigns. Mireya has now been able to open a First Aid centre with the medicals donated. The prescription medicines have been given to the doctor for free issue to the most needy clients in the village. We will try and send some photos by internet.*

*Again many thanks, Ricardo.*

They are planning to set up ‘soup kitchens’ in two different communities, which include many very poor families. We have also received news that the old ‘parsonage’ in Naranjal is now under reconstruction. This building was originally the home of George Hood and his late wife, Dorothy.

George writes:

*Reconstruction on the inside spelt demolition! It is being redesigned with a large reception area complete with modern kitchen area to serve church activities and to provide a ‘meals on tables’ area soup kitchen for children and elderly people living alone. Furniture and supplies for this have already arrived from the UK. Modern rest rooms will be incorporated and a much needed Primary Auxiliary room for nurse Mireya. Also arrived from the UK, anti-biotic salves and loads of Band-Aids.*

NB. We first heard Ricardo talk about his vision for the soup kitchens some fifteen years ago. It is only now, with the contribution from CH Trust, that the vision can start to become reality. We thank the Lord for the provision of the equipment needed to launch this project.

George also wrote this article concerning the ‘one off’ sponsorship scheme:

*One of the problems Pastor Ricardo is very much aware of is the almost impossibility of many of our ex-kinder students to continue their education after Primary School. Remember, we are not ministering in the big cities; these are ‘campesinos’ (rural peasants). Although High School is free, there is a very expensive hidden charge. The student is required to wear shoes, the standard uniform and have in his/her possession all the necessary text books. As there is very little world demand for Honduran textbooks, this makes them extremely expensive. However, concerned love with a desire to help finds a way. These little ones (in the photograph) have been left to the care of grandma. The particular little girl (in the foreground) has done very well at school and deserves a chance to complete her education. Ricardo brought this problem before Mrs Cox (on behalf of CH Trust), an English lady with a heart for Honduran children, when she visited us last year. As a result 14 children now have their school expenses provided by UK friends. Thank you Jesus.*

We are delighted to be able to share the above news items with you. The Lord has once again blessed our efforts on His behalf to full and running over! Guess what? Now we start all over again. Praise the Lord.

## **DROWNED!**

During our holiday last September, we had the pleasure of Francisco, Blanca and Josue's company for our final week at Roatan. One morning Francisco went out in the canoe that was included with the property. He also took along his camera to take some pictures. He achieved everything successfully up to the point of getting out of the canoe on his return. In the tricky process of disembarkation his camera went over the side into the seawater!! Needless to say, even though it was in the water for only a few seconds the battery compartment became very hot and, sadly, the camera never worked again. Naturally, Francisco was devastated by his loss since he had no means to replace it.

In contrast, later in the year, we purchased a digital camera. We then found ourselves with a surplus of cameras. It was no hardship to send one of them to Francisco to replace the one he had lost. It was duly sent in this year's container with a message attached which said, "Do not place in water. This camera has not yet learned to swim!" We were amused to receive his response saying, "I am super grateful with the camera. I WILL have care of not putting it in the water." Now we can look forward to seeing more photographs of the work he and Blanca do for the Chaloma ministry.

## **ANNIVERSARY OF THE 'ONE OFF' SPONSORSHIP SCHEME**

The 'One Off' £50 sponsorship scheme has proved to be very popular both here in the UK and in Honduras. It is beneficial from the donor's point of view since it does not demand any ongoing financial commitment. On the other hand, Jenny Smith has to work very hard to enable a previously sponsored child to continue with their education. The scheme is supporting children in several localities. Last year we supported children living in Danli and in Siguatepeque. Sadly, the feedback needed and requested from Danli has not been forthcoming. We do not feel that we can continue to support them in such circumstances. In contrast the feedback from Siguatepeque has been excellent. Here the children are receiving their second year of sponsorship. It is very touching to receive a child's letter telling how they have been praying to God to have the chance to go to school. Often they come from one parent families and always in circumstances where it is not possible to purchase the uniform and other equipment mandatory for school attendance. One child told us that his mother took in washing to feed her four children. They all write to say thank you for our help and a plea for it to continue.



**- RECEIVING A FOOD BUCKET AND A FAMILY BAG  
(NARANJAL) -**



**- I NOW HAVE THE EQUIPMENT TO ATTEND SCHOOL  
(NARANJAL) -**



**- SCHOOL SHIRTS PURCHASED ON BEHALF OF SPONSORS  
(SIGUATEPEQUE) -**



**- SCHOOL UNIFORM AND SUPPLIES PURCHASED USING  
ONE-OFF SPONSORSHIPS (SAN PEDRO SULA) -**

This year it has been possible to extend sponsorship to three other areas, namely, Peniel, San Pedro Sula and Naranjal. The living conditions for some of these poor families have to be seen to be believed. The people, however, live with great dignity. We have received many touching letters and photographs that I have felt privileged to read and see, especially when the help provided is only made possible by the gifting of you, the sponsors.

The sponsorship price of £50 has been arrived at as an average value, since the sum needed by an individual child will vary significantly, depending on age, clothing size, books required etc. A further powerful factor is the currency exchange rate. The lempira is tied to the US dollar, which in the last year has varied from 1.4 to 1.8 relative to the UK pound. It is administratively too complicated to track all of these variables. The guideline we follow is to ask the receiving pastor/leader to help as many children as possible with the funding allocated to them. For instance, where we have sent out funding for twelve children, it has in fact been sufficient to help maybe fourteen (and on one occasion even sixteen) children. In some cases a family may need help but not to the extent of 100% sponsorship. Individual cases, therefore, have to be assessed by the pastor administering the scheme.

For some potential donors the £50 cost is unaffordable. Consequently we have received requests to consider a 'half sponsorship' option. This, of course, will result in additional work for Jenny Smith! After consideration, she has agreed to take it on. Thus, a £25 option will be available for those who feel unable to meet the cost of the basic £50 scheme.

The question to our donors, now, is how many children will we be able to help in 2005? If you would like to contribute, then the earlier you can send in your sponsorship money the easier it is for the Pastors and their wives to shop for all the clothes and equipment required by the children being helped. This is a major task. There is no ASDA/TESCO equivalent where everything can be bought at one time. In many cases the school uniforms start by obtaining the materials which are then made up by local tailors or seamstresses. Purchasing books, stationary, rucksacks etc means a day outing to go into the city.

In short, please send your sponsorship in as soon as possible. This will all be gathered together and sent as one transaction so that we only incur one lot of bank transfer charges (£28.50). The money will have to be sent to Honduras as soon as possible and certainly before the beginning of December in order to give the



Pastors time to do their part of the task.

## SPONSORED EVENTS HELP CH TRUST FINANCES

Two people have boosted the Trust's finances by undergoing unusual sponsored events.

Jeannie Brokenshire from Weston-Super-Mare, who bought 60 pairs of children's shoes that were sent out in last year's consignment, started the ball rolling with a major fund-raising effort for the Trust.

She decided that she would have her head shaved. Last December she travelled up to Spondon for the event which took place at the Methodist Church's Christmas fair held in the village hall.

With the help of local hairdresser Diane Fletcher her crowning glory of hair was shaved off in the full gaze of fair-goers and cameras. With kind sponsorship from friends at her local church, St Paul's CE in Weston, and support from people in and around Spondon she reached her target, raising £1,001. Some of the money was covenanted by taxpayers under the gift aid scheme. The government refund of 28p in the pound is likely to add at least another £150.

"I am thrilled to have reached the target," said Jeannie. "Losing my hair was a small sacrifice to pay to help the charity's efforts.

"My hair is growing again, but thousands of children in Honduras who face long-term poverty benefit from the Trust's good work. I am so pleased that I was able to help the Trust give the youngsters a better start in life."

Matt Munday , from Darley Abbey, followed up Jeannie's success with a fell run in the Lake District. This took place in June, involving running up and down 42 peaks in little over 24 hours. A tremendous feat of endurance! He had heard about the charity through his local church, Derby City Church, which supports the Trust. We congratulate him on successfully completing the course. Sadly, despite being a fitness fanatic, Matt was ill for a short while with exhaustion. We are pleased to know that he is now fully recovered. We stand amazed at the stamina he demonstrated during his brave effort, which required him to run continuously through day and night up and down steep inclines. Matt raised a staggering £2,302 for CH Trust through sponsorship.

Our grateful thanks go to both Jeannie and Matt for their challenges and sacrifices and to their supporters for raising money to help the trust.

### WHAT ABOUT THE SHEKELS? \_\_

First, a big thank you to everyone who has given to this ministry during the past year. For the first time since Hurricane Mitch, in 1998, the CH Trust account is 'in the black' without the requirement for a cash injection from my personal finances to balance the books. This year we have been blessed by a number of gifts varying from £10 up to thousands of pounds. We are very grateful for all of them from the smallest to the largest. We are also very grateful to those who have expressed a desire to offer financial support annually. The more funding that can be promised in this way the better since it improves the stability of the Trust and its confidence in planning for the future.

### HOW DID WE USE THEM? \_\_

You will remember from previous newsletters that we had to face up to the possibility that only one container could be sent for 2004. As a result of your increased giving we were in fact able to send two 40 foot Highcube containers and also send the full (2 tons) allocation of powdered milk instead of the one ton we were contemplating. One ton was paid out of general funds. The other was funded by a couple who felt prompted by the Lord to make a long term investment into the health and lives of the children. The additional ton has meant each distribution outlet has been able to receive several sacks, enabling distribution in proportion to the number of children being served. The total number of sacks amounted to 80.

This year, one of the usual beneficiaries for the milk did not need an allocation. The ministry of David Domingues, which serves a very large number of children, received milk from a source in the USA. This has freed the demand on this valuable resource to enable it to be shared among the new, smaller establishments distributed around the country, which we now support.

As an additional help to David, and as proposed in the previous newsletter, we purchased three, instead of two tons of oats. This is a basic food that poorer people cannot usually afford but are happy to receive and know how to prepare and cook it. David uses a lot of oats for consumption by those attending the annual summer and Easter camps. Oats are also on the menu at six day care centres located around Suyapa. Outside of the Domingues ministry, oats have

also been provided for the children's soup kitchen at Naranjal and many needy families.

This year, for whatever reason, in response to our request we did not receive enough in the way of pasta and cheap flour to meet the need. However, we did receive the finance to purchase the shortfall. On your behalf we purchased 2000x500g packets of spaghetti, 600x3lb bags of plain flour, 32 bags of rice and 32 drums of oil. This seemed a huge amount when faced with packing it into buckets but only a small amount per family when shared among so many. In compensation, it felt good to see the buckets stack up in the containers, knowing how much they are needed in Honduras. Thank you for helping to make this possible.

The other principal commodities that we needed to send were worming tablets and multivitamins. The multivitamins caused us problems this year. Our supplier failed to advise that they could not service our order until about two weeks before Loading Day! Where were we to obtain 300,000 tablets in a few days at an affordable price? This problem also arose at a very busy time of last minute packing, finalisation of shipping arrangements and other distractions. In the end we were able to obtain the quantity of multivitamins required but at twice the cost (£1000 instead of £500). This hurt but we could not face the prospect of missing out on a whole years input of these valuable supplements into so many young lives. We obviously hope to do better this next year in terms of their cost!

By way of a gift from the manufacturer we were very pleased to be able to send out three pallets of emulsion paint.

### LEGAL EAGLE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Christian Notary Public. Each year, as his contribution to our work, he notarises our export and other documents free of charge.

We are very grateful to all contributing their time and skills to make the ministry work. Similarly, the task would not be possible without our stalwart packers who cheerfully brave the cold and wet right through the year as well as through the February Packing Week and on Loading Day. It is the combined effort of the whole team that delivers the containers with their contents to Honduras. For my own part, I have the privilege to front the hard work of so many people. Without them CH Trust would not exist, nor the help received by thousands of children in

Honduras.

### WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

It is very difficult to express thanks to everyone who helps. There are so many of you and sometimes a well deserved acknowledgement slips through the net. You may have noticed that we don't declare the names of companies or individuals giving donations. This is deliberate for two main reasons. Firstly, firms who do donate could find themselves faced with unwelcome additional requests arising from our declaration. Secondly, if some person's generosity is mentioned and maybe some one else gets overlooked it can cause unintended and unnecessary offence. Please accept my sincere apology if you have not received the acknowledgement or thanks to which you feel you are entitled. I have to admit that keeping up with this issue and dealing with paperwork is the least efficient side of my ministry. I do try my best but rely on the maxim - "better a late response than never". If you feel that you have been overlooked or forgotten then please get in touch. It is my desire that everyone contributing to the ministry should feel valued for the contribution they make to the Lord's work. The Lord always recognises your contribution even if I sometimes fail to record it.

### WHAT ARE THEY NEEDING NEXT YEAR?

In some respects it is too early to say as they are still processing the items they received in May.

The on going need is, of course, for **children's clothes, shoes and food**. The food we have sent will already have been eaten and the children will have worn out or grown out of their clothes and shoes by next May.

Honduras is a hot country but in the mountain areas the temperature drops at night. We would still say it is hot but it is the drop in temperature that the locals feel. They therefore have need of jumpers or better still, **sweat shirts**, that launder better. Several ministries have also requested **blankets** this year.

### TOYS SITUATION

Due to an enormous response and the closing of several local playgroups we sent a lot of the kinder type toys this year and also have some left to send next year. We are therefore looking for few of these this year. **Toys that can be given to individual children** are still wanted. **MacDonalds type toys are good**. All toys need to be of a small size as space is at a premium in both Honduran houses and

on the containers. Soft toys, less than twelve inches tall, can be sent but larger soft toys are not appropriate. Cars are always a favourite with boys. Locally we have some ladies who are making dolls clothes but have currently run out of **bare babies and Sindy dolls to dress**.

**Family bags** are proving to be very popular. These contain a **towel, soaps, toothbrushes, tooth paste, sewing kit, petroleum jelly and a small toy**. If you are interested in filling such bags please get in touch for a complete list.

**Food buckets** comprise **basic foods** such as **pasta, rice, oil, sugar, oats and plain flour** (the flour can only be purchased in the New Year since it is very short dated). In the case of perishables a **good date after arrival in Honduras** is needed, not just good at the time when we send. (i.e. June 05 minimum)

A **special plea** from George Hood, a man from Derby, who has ministered in Honduras for more than 35 years. He would love copies of the following two books if anyone feels pleased to donate them. I believe they went out of print many years ago.

They are:- **Tibetan Journey by George N Patterson**

**When Iron Gates Yield by Geoffrey T Bull**

**Rucksacks** for school are an ongoing need. Each child requires a rucksack to carry their books, pencils, etc. to school each day. The state schools do not provide such things.

There is a sewing group in Honduras looking for **materials** for dressmaking and making into sheets and curtains. Also cutting out scissors.

In Derby we put together about 400 family bags with the things you give. We have helpers to make the cloth bags but we are struggling to obtain suitable **tape/cord** for the pull fastening.

One thing we could use here in Derby is an **urn**, to provide the tea, coffee and cuppa soups that keep the team working through the cold packing months.

**Blankets, towels and sheets** are always needed. **Hospital Mattresses**.

We have been asked for **umbrellas**. The rainy season brings torrential rainstorms when children and adults get soaked walking to and from school and work. It is

too hot for macs and they often have one, two or more hours to walk.

**Tilly lamps/storm lamps and torches** are also needed. The village of Aluberon has no electricity. This is typical of many other villages around the country.

**Toothpaste and brushes** are always on the request list. **Soap, shampoo**

**Petroleum jelly, hand cream or body lotion.** Family funds do not run to such luxuries but a bit of cream on sore skin can be just the thing.

**New pants and socks** are always greatly appreciated.

**Exercise books, pencils, pens, rubbers, pencils sharpeners, wax crayons, pencil crayons,** are needed by all school children. Older children also need a **protractor and compass. Pencil cases.**

The schools ask for **masking tape and sugar paper.**

**Colouring books** are a great favourite but they are becoming scarce in England.

Large clean **plastic or metal barrels/drums** are greatly prized for storage of bagged food, clothes or water for washing. They must have fitting lids for transport purposes. Please ring before bringing them to Derby.

Basic foods are a necessity. **Rice, oats, oil, sugar, pasta, plain flour** (do not buy before the New Year, please check the dates. The date needs to be after June 05). **Tuna. Fruit squash.**

As usual **children's clothes**, from **baby** to **teenage** years. Don't forget the Honduran people are not as tall as we are. They do not have six feet tall teenagers.

**All Children's shoes.** Shoes are very expensive in Honduras. To attend school children must have a pair of **Black shoes**, and **white tennis shoes** for P.E.

**Bikes.** At the moment we have a backlog of bikes that we are trying to send out to Honduras. As a result we are **not** looking for any more this year.

**Canned food.** We have been asked for the following: beans, spaghetti, hot dogs,

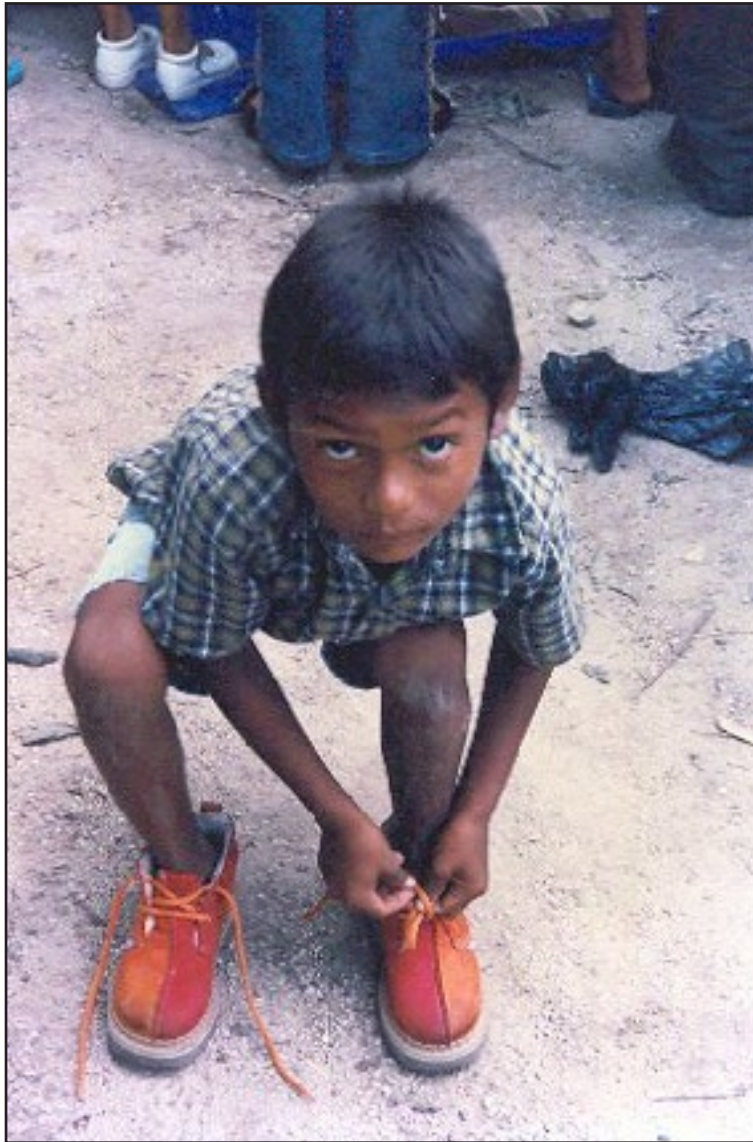
tuna, rice pudding, fruit salad. (quantity is needed rather than quality).

**Stacking chairs**, preferably metal framed with plastic seats are needed for both adults and children. **Stacking tables** suitable for children.



- CHILDREN PATIENTLY WAITING WHILE ADULTS SORT THE CLOTHES SENT FROM ENGLAND -





- MY FIRST PAIR OF SHOES -

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Packing Week**

Packing week is when we receive goods for packing and processing in preparation for loading day. This year packing week is 12th-19th February 2005.

**Loading Day**

Loading day is when the containers are loaded with the items packed during packing week. Loading day is 12th March 2005.