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Children Of Honduras Trust

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WHAT A YEAR!___

The last year seems to have been one of fevered activity and new experiences. In Derby, we have expended much energy in implementing the lessons learned from our initial year at the TDG site. We have observed substantial changes to the pattern of incoming donations and our response to them. Similarly the storage arrangements in the warehouse have been modified to help the logistics of the next Loading Day. September saw us dashing around Honduras on our hectic but very rewarding review and fact finding mission. In essence, a fantastic year for CH Trust.

Looking to the future, can I please take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support and wish you a blessed and happy Christmas time. Of course the New Year will soon be with us, another year of opportunity and experiences. Do not forget one of these will be Loading Day 2008! I hope you will enjoy the accounts of some of our experiences below. God Bless You.



- CHILDREN WAITING TO BE FED AT THE RUBBISH DUMP CHURCH -

OUR VISIT TO HONDURAS

I am delighted to report that our visit to Honduras was very successful. It was particularly memorable in that we were able to see some of the work first hand and also able to experience much more of the 'real' Honduras. We learnt much, acquired new friends and renewed our friendships with others. Thank you for the prayer cover that you provided for our visit. Not only is Honduras very poor but it is also a very dangerous and violent country. Praise God, we were kept safe and all our plans/visits worked well, yielding much valuable information with which to enhance our operations here in Derby.

The wonderful work being done, with the items that we send to Honduras for the children, really impressed us. In all, we visited 18 different churches, four state schools, a college, a university, an old people's home in the process of being built, the maternity wing of the teaching hospital in Tegucigalpa and a clinic, La Finca Orphanage, as well as many individual homes in the mountains. Even though our itinerary was exhausting, the rewards more than surpassed our expectations. We have returned with hundreds of pictures and a much better knowledge of how things are done out in the field.

RICARDO'S WORK WITH THE FEEDING CENTRES

We were able to visit several feeding centres whilst the children were actually there to eat. The first was at Naranjal, a rural village about an hour beyond Valle de Angeles. On our last visit four years ago, Ricardo explained how he had wanted to start a feeding centre for the poor village children. This vision was partly motivated by the fact that, as a child, he had lived for about five years on the streets of the capital Tegucigalpa. He has personal experience of being hungry and not knowing when he would get the next meal.

He was unable to start a feeding centre because he had no tables, chairs, bowls, beakers or cutlery. We committed to help him realise his ambition of ten years. Four years on, the feeding centre at Naranjal is fully operational and another at Pedrigal is functional in a fashion. In response, we have now received many pictures of the children being fed. However, looking at the pictures is no substitute for actually being there. It was a tremendous reward for me to be there, in person, and see about 150 children receiving a good meal.

Since the programme started we have sent in sacks of rice, oats and milk as well as tinned food and pasta for the children. On the day of our visit they had rice and



- PEDRIGAL FEEDING CENTRE (LARGE BOWL OF PASTA) -

sweetcorn, pasta and sausage pieces in sauce. Now that this feeding centre is well established, Ricardo has started to establish a similar centre at the neighbouring village of Pedrigal. This got off to a rather slow start. However, with the new Pastor and his wife, substantial progress is now being made.

Pedrigal feeding centre has two limiting factors at the moment. Firstly, the Pastor and his wife are living in a part of the dining room because there is no property to rent in the village. They are seeking to build their own house, when it is possible. The second is that they are awaiting more dining tables from England. These are already available for shipment in next year's containers. In spite of the problems they are not deterred. They feed the children in about five sittings, starting with the youngest first. The last ones to be fed are the 70 children from the local school. This is necessary because the area is very poor and all the children need a good meal. I suspect that our visit delayed the start of dinner on this day. I think the ladies were told to wait for our arrival and, in Honduran style, we were late. This meant the school children had about an hour to wait for their dinner. Some music had been put on for them to listen to in the church building. We were astonished that the children sat patiently waiting without their teacher having to ask them to sit down or be quiet. Their behaviour was exemplary. I don't believe it could happen in England.

I was delighted to see that the ladies were still cooking when we arrived at Pedrigal. They were cooking outside, over wood. They had made a square structure with bricks and rested a very large cast iron pot on the top. This was rather dangerous as the bricks started to move at one point. In the pot they were frying onions and other bits in about a pint and a half of oil. They then added three of the smallest stock cubes imaginable and some tinned tomatoes that we had sent. Another stir and then a large white bucketful of cooked pasta shapes, again from the containers. It was ready. The only problem was that the pot and contents was so heavy that the ladies could barely move it. Two men finished up with the task of lifting it onto the serving counter. Three of these large pots of pasta were produced for and greatly enjoyed by the children.

During the course of our stay in Honduras, we visited three communities that have no electricity supply. We took some wind up torches with us that were a great success. Ordinary torches, which need batteries, are beyond the financial means of these families. The wind up torches are cost free to operate and can be bought at places like Wilkos, Morrisons and many other outlets. The torches start at about £4, lamps at about £10.

FULL MARKS FOR ORGANISATION AND EFFORT

The third occasion we saw children being fed was on the outskirts of the capital near the city's rubbish dump. Once again, a very poor area and in parts very dangerous. With Ricardo, we visited this newly formed church, which gave a new spin to the phrase 'outdoor evangelism'. Every meeting was outside because the 'church' building was smaller than many an English garage. We were introduced to the assembled group of people and invited onto the 'platform', a heap of gravel. After introductions and a speech, lunch was declared for the children. I looked at the long line of children and thought it must be chaos inside that small building. We climbed the embankment to see what was happening, as no children were returning our way. What we saw was the Pastor's wife controlling the front of the queue while four ladies inside the building placed rice, chicken and bread on each of five plates. When ready, five young people were let inside, who then exited by the back door to sit on the grass outside to eat their dinner. A youth guarded the back exit to stop reverse flow. It was so organised. I asked the Pastor how many children were present, expecting an estimate. He told me the exact number from his book, where he had written down every child's name in pencil (about 130).

They were doing so much with so little and doing it very well. We were very impressed. The need here is great. Many of the children are orphans living under bits of cardboard or under bushes. This new church and feeding centre is their lifeline. We wanted to help. They need chairs and tables etc but without a building this is not a possibility. With a gift of money they had started to build a feeding hall. The local Mayor has given them the piece of land they stand upon but progress is slow because the people are so poor. The most that they can offer is their labour towards the project. We left some money to progress the walls a little further. We look forward to encouraging their efforts by supplying the things they need to provide for the children more easily.



- CHILDREN BEING FED AT THE RUBBISH DUMP CHURCH -

A DAY AT VINCENTE COLLEGE__

In the last newsletter we told you about Vicente College in Tegucigalpa, where we are providing 150 children with a meal each day. There were 400 children who needed this meal but our food would only stretch to 150. We hope to double up next year, if finances allow. We thought that we had been invited to visit the college in order to see where Luis taught. Not only did we have a tour of the college, they put on a presentation for us which included the young people's music and dance groups. Our visit coincided with the week they were celebrating the country's independence. They were dressed in their national dress

and performed typical national dances with obvious enthusiasm. The quality of performance was excellent. We were sat on the front row with the president of the college. We felt like the queen on a royal tour. As a finishing touch, they had made an England flag and displayed it with the Honduran flag in the dinning room.



- STUDENTS PERFORMING TYPICAL NATIONAL DANCES -

After the presentation we were treated to fresh fruit and the local dish of fried frijoles (red beans) on tortillas (pancake made of corn flour) sprinkled with cheese. We dined with the young people who qualified for the free meal. They were having rice pudding. They like the cereal that we send, as it does not need a cook to prepare the meal. They just mix our powdered milk with water, add the cereal and, voila, an instant meal. They do not have many things in Honduras, from which a quick meal can be made.

After the official bit, we then visited the clinic, dentist and the science labs. What impressed me the most was how everything was locked away and accounted for. They are so serious about it that, if an item is broken in the science lab practical lesson, the cost of replacement is taken from the teacher's wages. Everywhere was orderly and clean. The college had been given three stocked tropical fish tanks. They sparkled in a way that I have only ever seen in an aquatic shop. I think they must clean them daily.

I am confident that whatever we send to this college, which has a lot of students from the local poor area of the capital, it will be well used and will not disappear. The system they use for keeping what they have is impressive for such a large establishment. They teach 8000 students in three shifts using several sets of teachers, doctors and dentists. I am happy to continue to support this work.

MILK

Everywhere we went, the people told us how good the milk is, that we send to Honduras. The colour, texture and taste of it are far superior to anything that can be bought in the country. The reason is that our sacks of milk are produced especially for us from whole fat milk. Most dried milk is made from skimmed milk. The colour and richness of the milk is excellent, and everyone wants more. I had to explain that last year we spent £4780 on milk. Additionally, we can only buy in complete tons, at about £1600 per ton. i.e. we cannot purchase, say, an extra five bags. We managed to send three tons last year. It would be good to do the same this year, if possible.

VERONICA'S VIEW OF SCHOOL, HONDURAS STYLE

I knew that school in Honduras would be different. However, the actual experience of being at school drove home the stark differences between our two countries. My opportunity to teach in Honduras was enabled by Cesar, (Glenda's brother, now teaching in Honduras), at the school where he was working in Sauce.

Almost in a replay of my previous visit to Honduras, once again I found myself in a different place to where I had expected to be. I was expecting to spend my days at Sauce school helping out wherever I was needed. I also hoped to pass on some of my teaching experiences and explain how to use the resources I had sent out in the last container. Well I did manage to achieve this in some degree. However, I also ended up teaching, in Spanish, to the kinder children at Guanacaste!! This was so far out of my comfort zone! I'm a Year 5/6 teacher (9-11 year olds). Despite this I had a great time.

It is difficult to know where to start with a description of a school day. My day started at 5am with a bone shaking pillion ride on the back of Cesar's trial bike. This involved a journey of at least one hour, fending off the dogs that used to lie in wait for us, avoiding the huge potholes (near impossible to achieve), praying that it didn't rain and that the old, wheezing bike would get us there and back. As I write, it seems amazing how petty it all seems. At the time it seemed like a matter of life or death! School started at 7.30am. Despite our early start, we never ever made it on time.

However, whatever time we arrived, the children were always there, always waiting patiently. Children in Honduras do a lot of waiting and their patience is incredible. They will wait for hours without causing chaos. The children in Guanacaste were so patient that it never entered our minds not to turn up even when, after a really bad storm, the track we used literally washed away. I would love to be able to tell you how far we travelled each day. Sadly, the milometer on the bike didn't work. I can only guess that it was about 55km. In England, such a trip would not have been so long and uncomfortable. In Honduras, where the roads are poorly maintained, or just a dirt track with potholes the size and depth of large cooking pots, getting anywhere is hard work!

The children were a dream to teach. They were eager to learn and enthused by the different teaching methods and resources that I was able to bring to them. One day I tried out paper and paints. They all sat there holding their brushes, waiting to start. It took me a while to realise that they were not going to start. It turned out that they had never held a brush before or used paint. They did not know how to begin! Needless to say they greatly enjoyed the experience. It is sad to note that these schools have so few resources that the only thing they can do is 'chalk and talk'. Reading must also be a huge challenge, because the only reading material generally available to them is the few paragraphs of text in their workbooks.



- CHILDREN ENJOYING PAINTING AT GUANACASTE -

For the celebration of the 'Day of the Child' at Sauce, Cesar and I had packed up some goodies for the children. Piñatas, 3 cakes and a special lunch had been arranged. We were expecting more children than normal to attend not just those who usually attend school. However, the sea of children and their parents that turned up was overwhelming. We decided that there was no way that the gifts we had brought along would suffice to meet the need. These had to be left in their bags rather than disappoint some of the children.

I don't know how they did it but the mothers, in the so-called kitchen (a dirt floor, no door, no sink, no closing windows or cupboards) were able to eke out the available ingredients to cater for all present! I watched young boys, wielding machetes, cut branches and form them into sticks with which to hit the piñatas, to reveal their hidden treasure of sweets. I was amazed at how patient the children were. They waited quietly for everything. For us to organise them and set up the games. Also, for the food and the drinks to be served. I was completely overwhelmed and found myself on the verge of bursting into tears as I watched the children sit and wait patiently for the meagre slices of cake to be served. Given the vast numbers of children and mothers (they had to be fed too!), the ladies in the kitchen had to slice the cakes so thinly into what were virtually slithers. Some children only got icing and no cake! I found myself imagining how the children I teach here in England would have reacted to this situation. I found myself embarrassed in the knowledge that they would not have displayed the same level of understanding, patience and dignity.

In spite of what seemed to me to be short change for the children, they had had a great time. I began to understand that being with the children here in Honduras would require me to adopt a completely different mind set to that employed at home here in England. So it proved to be as I taught in both the Sauce and Guanacaste schools during the remainder of my stay in Honduras.

SCHOOLS

We took the opportunity to visit four state schools. All were located in rural areas of Honduras. Two of them were high up in the mountains, serving remote and largely self-subsisting communities. Getting to them was an experience in itself, even in a four-wheel drive truck. On occasion we still had to get out and walk the final leg. These small village schools seem to have been forgotten by the authorities. This year we supplied one of the schools (at Guanacasta) with tables and chairs for the children in kinder class. Previously they had to sit on the floor. While visiting Sauce school we discovered that 'los servicios' consisted of three

small toilet bowls, which emptied into a sort of piped sewage disposal system. The bowls were located in wood/hardboard enclosures with no connected water supply and had to be cleared with a bowl of water drawn from a 'pillar' near by. As you can imagine this didn't happen very often. We thought it a shame that they didn't have flushing toilets since there was an adjacent elevated concrete water storage tank with a good supply of water. We asked for a quote to replace the hardboard cubicles with concrete building blocks, to provide three flushing toilets, two washbasins and to reseal the water tank, which was leaking badly. The quote also included an increase in the depth of the tank by extending the height of its sides and the provision of a lid. The lid is important to prevent access to the water by mosquitoes for breeding, thus limiting the spread of dengue fever. The quote came to approximately £350 of which we already had a gift of £250, which could be offset against this project.

In order to minimise cost, we will be sending the toilets and washbasins in next year's containers. The building and plumbing work has already started and will be completed in May, when they receive the toilets and sinks. We felt this money to be well spent, providing a long-term improvement for all the children that attend now and in future years.



- KINDER CLASS NOW HAS OUR TABLES AND CHAIRS -

MATERNITY HOSPITAL

During the last two years, the ladies at Cristo Centro church have been making up bags of baby needs from the items that we send to their church. They distribute these to the mums in the maternity wards at the Hospital Escuela. This is the large teaching hospital in Tegucigalpa. Although treatment is free, no one attends this hospital if they can afford to go anywhere else. The care is very basic and resources very limited. As a result the patients are usually very poor. They generally find themselves admitted as a result of complications with their pregnancy. Usually the business of pregnancy is confined to home. Some would have had to travel many miles to get there. Some had stories of great sadness and distress. Because they have nothing at home, the mums also arrive with nothing for the new baby.

The bags of baby needs given to these poor mums contain some clothes, a blanket, soap, talc and a vaseline type cream. The last three items are subject to availability from what we manage to send from England. The bags are identified with blue ribbons for a boy and pink for a girl. There are also some bags specifically for premature babies.



- NEW MUMS IN THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL -

It was a privilege to receive an invitation to join them for their third visit to the hospital this year. Two of the ladies had taken time off work to come with us that morning. We visited only a few of the small maternity rooms, which each held eight ladies. The Cristo Centro ladies took about 40 'baby' bags into the hospital, which soon disappeared. As the bags are distributed to each mum, if they wish, a prayer of blessing is offered for their life and their baby. Both the bags and the prayers were enthusiastically received everywhere we went.

As we went around the wards, I noticed that the beds only had a sheet over the mattress. They had no top sheet or blanket. I was told that if you wanted these 'luxuries' they had to be brought from home. I only saw one mum with a cover. The others would not have bedding to bring from home. The poverty of such people is great but we are helping.

I confess that I would like to have been a fly on the wall. After we left the room, I am sure the ladies would have discussed who we were and why we had taken them presents for their babies.

We were given a large amount of medical supplies, which were distributed among several clinics and hospitals.

This is a letter of thanks that we received from Pastor Roger who was responsible for distributing much of the medical supplies.

THANK YOU FROM HOSPITAL ESCUELA – TEGUCIGALPA

A letter dated 7th Aug 2007 – translation by JAD 23rd Oct 2007

This letter was received in appreciation of goods donated by CH Trust.

Dear Pastor Rivera,

We recently received from your institution a donation consisting of hospital materials to be used in the Emergency and Intensive Care and Neo Natal departments where, by their very nature, they care for patients in a critical state of health.

We would like to tell you that this donation will be very useful in improving care for our children. Without any doubt, it will contribute to reducing the mortality rate in our critical patients in that it helps us to carry out our work.

For this reason we would like to thank you especially for the fact that our department was chosen to receive such important aid. At the same time, to tell you of our vocation to serve and of our wish to continue to receive from you any material or equipment possible, with a view to solving the problems of our children.

I would like to take the opportunity to reiterate our regards etc.

Dr Jorge H Melendez
Paediatrics

A VISION REALISED

Josie, who founded the La Finca Orphanage in Valle de Angeles with Avril in 1969, began by having the children living with them in a large house. Later, Avril moved on, leaving Josie to continue with the help of her husband, Roque. As the numbers grew to over 150, dormitories and a dinning room had to be built to cope with the large number of children. These were rapidly built in the wake of Hurricane Fifi in 1974. At that time, nearly 100 children in need of shelter suddenly appeared.

It was, however, Josie's vision that the children should live in individual homes as family groups rather than all together. She was never able to establish this before she retired, due to lack of money and personnel.

Alonso and Michelle, who have run La Finca for the last five years, are now in the process of realising Josie's vision. A building programme is underway to provide five homes, each able to accommodate 14 children. The picture shows the first home built but not yet furnished. Two more houses should be completed during the Christmas season, which is their dry season. It is also the time when the older boys are on holiday from college and free to help Angel with the building. The last two houses will hopefully be built 2008/9. The finance for the last four houses has come from a development fund administered by a well known International bank in Honduras.

As they still do not have the personnel to run them with house parents, each house will be occupied by 14 girls of mixed ages. The older girls will take responsibility for the house and its younger members. This system cannot work for the boys without resident adults being in control. Therefore, the current plan is to upgrade and refurbish their existing dormitories in the near future.

The houses have yet to be furnished. Judging from the way the Lord is blessing this project, I am sure that it will not take too long.



- THE NEW HOUSES AT LA FINCA ORPHANGE -

WATER

Honduras has a big problem with water. Many have an intermittent water supply and some have no supply at all. Many drink untreated river water and from other sources. Some of the water we saw being used was grey. The colour of the water is perhaps the least of its dangers. Progress is being made, but all too slowly. We visited a newly built water purification plant at Naranjal. This was financed jointly by the government and the local community. Each family has to pay for their water. We were pleased to hear that if the family was so poor that they could not afford to pay, they supported the project with their labour two days a year. If a family was going through a bad financial period, the church often helped. In this way, all received water. This was not the case at the village of Sauce. This had a private water supply for those who had bought into the project. However, those who had not, or could not afford to pay, had no water supply. The well is padlocked.

Our input into the water problem is our white buckets, which have lids, and the Aquaboxes supplied by the Wirksworth Rotary club. You will remember that they supplied us with over 200 Aquaboxes this last year. These are a great success

in Honduras. We saw blue Aquaboxes everywhere we went. In colleges, schools, clinics, homes, churches. Even with 200 boxes there is not enough to meet the great need. So, Honduras at its best, has been creative and used our white buckets with fitting lids to make smaller individual water purifying units. They fitted the spare taps and filters into buckets, to give out to additional users, along with the appropriate supply of sterilising tablets. Now we have many very happy and much healthier families in many areas of Honduras. Our 200 Aquaboxes have turned into nearly 2,500 clean water units. The complete Aquaboxes are being used for corporate users i.e. schools, or for large families with many children, or where several families can access one Aquabox.

We met a lady called Santa who was given an Aquabox. She was so excited about it. She supplies three other friends with clean water and is very popular.

The pupils at Vincente College drink much more, now that they have Aquaboxes, because the water tastes good. We visited a home in the mountains and the water was very grey and cloudy. I would not have liked to wash anything in it let alone drink the water. The doctor who was with us had it analysed. It turned out to be as bad as it looked. This family now has safe drinking water because of the Aquabox. One day, when we went out with Ricardo, he was taking filter buckets to an area near the rubbish dump. He had been waiting for the buckets to be emptied of pasta before they were free to be used for water. They were greeted with great enthusiasm and he is asked for more on a regular basis. We can only imagine what difference clean water can make. The incidence of sickness and diarrhoea has dropped dramatically. We are making a big difference to their quality of life.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

This is a summary of the large expenditure items:

Milk £4800

Oats £1040

Rice £1000

Medicals £6404

UK transport, shipping, import and Honduras transport £8788

This is for three of the four containers. Wirksworth Rotary Club financed the fourth.

This year (2008) we will have to finance the fourth container.

A BENEFICIAL INTERNET SEARCH ENGINE__

Would you be interested in trying out a search engine, which has the advantage of benefiting CH Trust funds?

Everyclick.com is a search engine, like Google or Yahoo, which lets you search the web and benefit the charity of your choice. Would any of our readers like to support C H Trust in this way? There's no charge to you or to the charity you support.

All you need to do is to go to www.everyclick.com and select Children of Honduras Trust, as the charity that you would like to support. There is an option to make Everyclick your homepage and/or your default search engine. Once registered, you then search the web as normal.

Everyclick allocates 50% of its gross revenue to charity each month. Each charity, that has at least one active supporter, receives a proportion of that revenue. Basically the more our supporters use Everyclick, the larger our share of the revenue.

Thanks to our present 15 supporters, we have raised £28 in less than 2 months. That is the equivalent of over 5 sacks of rice, 4 sacks of oats or over 100 bottles of antibiotics. Can we improve on this in the next 2 months?

WANTS LIST__

POSTERS AND PICTURES

We have been asked for posters and pictures to put on the walls of the classroom. The teachers have no access or funding for these. I mentioned the fact that they would be in English. I was told that they stick Spanish over the text.

DUPLICATOR

The schools in Honduras could use the old duplicators that we used to use in schools and offices. Are any still out there, looking for a good home?

Gardening Tools are now being sought, not only by the people, but also by schools. We are now supplying seeds so that they can learn to grow food for themselves.

RUCKSACKS AND WRITING PAPER

Everyone is still very keen to receive all school supplies. The top two items on this list are rucksacks and paper to write on (either exercise books or reporter pads). These two items are expensive for the poorer people to provide for their children.

Shoes are still the most requested item. These are expensive in Honduras. I was also told that the shoes from England are always soft where as Honduran shoes are hard. You probably remember we were given over a thousand pairs of new black shoes last year. There were only two different styles, one for girls and one for boys. We saw these everywhere as we travelled in Honduras as we had shared them between the various churches. It felt good to see them being worn. The second hand shoes we sent were also very welcome but harder to identify.

WALKING BOOTS AND WELLINGTONS

We were asked if we ever get walking boots or wellingtons for the mountain areas because shoes do not cope with the deep mud that the rains make. For this special item we will take all children's sizes and up to size 10 adults. (We do not take adult clothes.)

Children's clothes are still the largest category of goods that we send and we want this to continue. However, no hats, gloves, coats or lined boots. It is a hot country.

Towels, sheets and blankets are still needed.

TARPAULINS

The plastic type tarpaulins would be very useful as roofing and walls in so many areas.

TOYS

Small toys are still needed for Christmas presents. We supply a lot of children. Not large soft toys as they take too much room. We are into quantity. Skipping ropes are very popular with the girls, as well as French knitting. Cars and marbles are good for boys. The favourites, with the older boys, are **footballs**, which are always in short supply.

FOOD TO SEND

My first priority is to feed the children at the feeding centres, schools, college and then the churches.

Wanted:

Milk, dried or evaporated

Oats, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes, sausages, meatballs, tuna, ham, stock cubes.

Cereal. Breakfast cereal is wanted, to put with the milk we send, to provide a quick nutritious snack for children. This is needed where there are no facilities to provide a cooked meal. Again we are looking for quantity not quality. Stores own brands are often the cheapest. Weetabix type, cornflakes and rice crispies.

Juice to dilute and drinking chocolate make a good treat. With the chocolate buy for quantity rather than named brands.

Electric fans, either free standing or ceiling would be appreciated.

Camping stoves that work from bottled gas. A large gas water heater or heavy duty ring cookers also from bottled gas.

We have been asked for:-

An **overlocking machine** for sewing.

A **router** for woodwork, an **angle grinder and chain saw**.

Stretchers

MEDICAL LABORATORY

Microscope

Dental equipment, lamp, suction equipment. Chair, basic instruments, amalgam mixer.

WHEELCHAIRS

GENERATOR

Towards the start of the rainy season it is usual to have severe electricity shortages, as the dam becomes dry. A generator to keep basic lighting etc would be welcomed by nearly every establishment. For those who have no electrical supply at all it is even more valuable. They also appreciate storm lamps.



- WE GAVE BANANAS TO THE CHILDREN -



- THE CHILDREN AT PEDRIGAL LIKE OUR PASTA -

ITEMS FOR TEACHING LABORATORY

Microscope

Mounted slides

ITEMS FOR PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY LABORATORIES

Basically anything to do with secondary school physics and chemistry experiments e.g.

Stand alone voltmeters and ammeters, with knurled type screw terminals.

Single strand insulated or lacquered copper wire, terminal strips, toggle switches, 12V bulb holders and bulbs. School demonstration electric motor armatures.

Electronic components i.e. transistors, thyristors, resistors, potentiometers, capacitors, wheatstone bridges, etc.

Bar magnets, iron filings, galvanometers, soft iron cores, inductance coils, etc.

School demonstration weights, pulleys and levers etc.

School Demonstration Optics, light sources, lenses, prisms, filters etc.

Precision physical balances

Test tubes, beakers, measuring vessels, thistle funnels, corks and flasks, stands, titration equipment, filter funnels and papers, litmus and PH testers etc.

Bottled gas stoves (ie Camping Gas type, NOT THE GAS because WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SHIP IT), centrifuge, ground glass containers for acids, alkalis etc.

Chicken feeders and water dispensers. Chicken wire. (Needed for school project.)

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The state school uniform colour is dark blue sweatshirts, jumpers and skirts and dark grey or black trousers. They also wear white shirts, short or long sleeve, like our children. Any of these items would be very welcome and also the black shoes. If we can provide any of these items, new or second hand, we allow more children to access primary education. Without uniform they cannot go to school. Many parents never went to school and as a result cannot read or write. It would be good to improve this situation with the coming generation of children. We can help to do this.

RUCKSACKS

Every Pastor asks for rucksacks, as each child going to school has to carry their books, school supplies and a drink with them. Many children walk a considerable distance to school and a rucksack is a necessity. We are happy to receive new and used rucksacks.

We had a good response to our new **socks and pants** appeal. Children throughout the country will enjoy wearing these. They will, however, be ready for another pair this next year!

Thin reflective coats, vests, strips and material are required as it goes dark at 6.00pm and the children must travel on the roads in the pitch black. Reflective clothing will add greatly to the children's safety.

Rags and shoes that are no longer fit to wear are required as we can use them to raise money toward our expenses.

October 1981 Ford Combi/Tourneo 80-150 short wheel base Mini bus maintenance manual.

HOSPITAL NEEDS

We are still interested in all items medical and nursing that we can send to the clinic and hospitals. The sort of things needed are listed below:

- All dressings
- Syringes
- Gloves - examination and sterile
- Milk ensure or similar
- Microscope
- Nebulisers
- Otoscopes
- Ophthalmoscopes
- Sphymomanomete
- Wheelchairs
- Stretchers

These are all on our current wish list but all items will be found a good home.

MONEY

Yes, we collect money as well. I am sometimes asked how the work is financed. We have no church or organisation that underwrites our work. The Lord is our sole guarantor. All cheques for donations and Sponsorship should be made payable to C H Trust.

ITEMS NOT WANTED

This year we do **NOT** want adult clothes, computers and monitors or toilets and sinks, bikes, furniture, (large toys like kitchens), large cuddly toys (larger than 12 inches). We have sent sufficient over the last two years to meet the current need.

PRAYER

PACKING WEEK

There is a lot of pressure on all those who work everyday during that week. Often the goods arrive faster than we can process them. Please pray for good health and strength, mentally and physically for all those helping during this week and those following as we approach loading day.

LOADING DAY

Loading day comes at the end of several weeks of very tiring work both at the unit and behind the scenes organising the paperwork, the import and the export problems.

Please pray for strength, health and patience for all the team. Organising 140 people is not easy. We need wisdom and protection for everyone on this day. Items such as a forklift driver and truck need prayer as things have changed since last year. Those who helped previously are no longer available.

And, of course, a warm dry day would be appreciated by all!



- IT'S EASIER TO SKIP WITHOUT SHOES -



- A HOUSE WITH A NOVEL STAIRCASE MADE OF TYRES -

PACKING WEEK

9-16th February 2008 (excluding Sunday). Please note, any goods brought in after 16th February cannot be processed and will have to be rolled over for the following year.

LOADING DAY

Saturday 8th March 2008.

NB **nothing** will be loaded on this day that has not been received by the 16th February. This includes sponsorship buckets.



- THANK YOU FOR MY DINNER CH TRUST -