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## Children Of Honduras Trust

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### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

In spite of the economic storms that rage around us, I must take this opportunity to wish you a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. For most of us, the current world problems only affect the way in which we spend our income. However, for a vast number of families around the globe, who spend most of their income on food, the current price explosion means they get to eat less! In response, I am trying very hard to get as much food into Honduras as possible to the very poor families that are the focus of our work.

In the previous newsletter, I said I would make more space to look at the problems of providing clean drinking water to the people we help. One of our supporters, Veronica, who has spent time in Honduras, penned the light hearted article below. Enjoy.



**- THEY WALKED ONE AND A HALF HOURS  
TO RECEIVE AID FROM THE CONTAINERS -**

## VERONICA'S WATER FILTER BLUES

One of the jobs I helped Cesar with was finding suitable recipients for the many water filters that Jennifer had sent to Honduras. That seems such an oxymoron - it would be better to say 'finding unsuitable recipients!' The need in Honduras is so great. Finding individuals who do not have access to clean water is, unfortunately, very easy.

For several reasons, Cesar had stopped and pointed out a community that we passed daily on our drive to Guanacaste. One reason he told me, was that he had watched a rather large snake cross the path in front of him. The short cut we took – which looked pretty harmless - was known for banditry. There was a school on the edge of this area which he wanted me to visit. Like the school in Sauce, it only had one teacher. He also knew that the people who lived there did not have access to clean water.

In order to deliver the filters, we would have to get hold of the van and do it on our way to school. Cesar taught at two schools, so we had a daily mad dash from Guanacaste to reach Sauce for the afternoon class. There would be no time to do a delivery once we left Guanacaste, so it would have to be done before school!! Remember school starts at 7.30am. We were already getting up at 5am to undertake a rather uncomfortable motorbike ride of around 55km and, I might add, never managing to get there on time. What time would we have to get up to be able to hand out the filters and tablets?

The opportunity to use the van came quicker than we had anticipated. The motorbike finally gave up the ghost and we had to borrow the van to get to school. I won't even try to explain why public transport would not be an option. Using the van was a more expensive option and not as easy to negotiate the hazardous dirt tracks we journeyed on. It did have the advantage of keeping out the wet and defying the mad dogs that lay in wait for us. It also allowed us to give lifts to fellow travellers walking on the very dusty, dirty roads.

Cesar is very down to earth and said that, once we had found a few people, the others would find us. I felt like someone from the UN handing out supplies after some natural disaster. However with Cesar, no sooner had we identified the need and handed out the filters, than we hopped back into the van and were off to the next location.



**- COLLECTING SURFACE WATER AT EL CEIBON, NORTH HONDURAS -**

I can recall seeing this man. I was trying to find out whether he had water or not. But before I could explain my mission, he was trying to find excuses why he couldn't buy whatever it was I was selling! He thought I was some kind of hawker. He couldn't believe that we were trying to give him a filter for nothing! It even took Cesar a while to persuade him. We didn't have much time to explain, other than to tell him that these were a gift from CH Trust, how to use them, how to get more tablets and how long the filter would last, before we had to move on to the next set of houses and get ourselves off to school. One of the things I find difficult to accept is that what I do in Honduras is in anyway exceptional, brave, or magnanimous. I don't feel comfortable when people here or there say things like that; so it was great to be able to do the job and move on swiftly.

That morning, we were able to help quite a few families and see and hear the difficult circumstances they were living in. There was one family who had water to their home. They would help the neighbours out when they could. The rest of the time, these families were getting water from the river, which meant a walk through the scrub to reach it, not to mention it's quality, which was highly dubious. Having walked through similar terrain and been bitten badly by the

bugs, the thought of doing this daily made me wince. Cesar told everyone to who we had given a filter that he passed this way on his motorbike every day. All they needed to do was stop him, when they needed more tablets. Then we were off again to school.

Water is a big issue in Honduras. Given that I was there in the rainy season, it is still rationed even when one pays monthly for water to be pumped directly to the house! For the nearly four weeks that I was there, we had water two to three times a week! It became my obsession that when there was water in the tap, every available bucket or barrel was filled in preparation for the famine that was certain to follow. I was even prepared to miss appointments or arrive late rather than forego the opportunity to collect water. As I write this here in England and the rain continues to pour from the sky, it seems bizarre that I've been complaining about how the rain is ruining our summer. At least we have it and when I go to the tap not only will water issue but its quality is 99.9% trustworthy. Truly be thankful!

## THE BUSINESS OF WATER

Much of what we send in the containers is short term aid, which meets the immediate needs of the children. But I also have longer term aims for things that I would like to do and to achieve in Honduras. One of these is clean drinking water. We are currently attacking this problem in several different ways. The Rotary Club of Wirksworth are currently providing us with Aqua boxes, which contain filters and purifying tablets. These are doing a great job and proving very popular. However, the beneficiaries are dependent upon us continuing to send out more filters and tablets. In the long term I would like to set up systems that can be sustained in Honduras

One of the potential options is to provide them with water barrels and buckets, so that they can collect rain water (please do not buy buckets). Rain water is the best water in Honduras. Usually, they have a good rainy season. During the dry season they often have to resort to taking water out of the river. At this time of year the river level is low and contains a cocktail of unsavoury pollutants and often some dangerous bugs.

I want to help the poor people in the mountain areas to be able to filter their water by setting up a barrel with layers of sand and gravel and maybe charcoal, to filter and clean the water. This will be a vast improvement on using it untreated and, if they then add water purifying tablets which are obtainable in Honduras, they



**- A UV LIGHT PURIFYING WATER  
AT A CHILDREN'S FEEDING CENTRE IN NARANJAL -**

have safe drinking water. The people we are trying to help have no prospect of obtaining a barrel in their lifetime without our help.

We are starting to have this system of water filtration taught to the children in the small rural schools.

Another option is the installation of UV filters. In this case, I have to pay for the purchase and fitting of UV light water purification systems costing about £200. These are aimed at those ministries who provide drinking water on site for over 100 children on a regular basis. For this, they need to have an electric supply and responsible management. To sustain the system they need a new UV lamp each year and new filters. The cost of these items comes to between £60 - £75. With this system they can draw as much pure water as they want. The lamp is time expired and not dependant on usage. We have installed a couple of these units in key places and are currently evaluating their effectiveness in such applications.



### - HOMEWORK BY WIND UP LAMP -

#### LET THERE BE LIGHT – VERONICA’S VIEW ON WIND-UP LAMPS

In the last newsletter Jennifer mentioned just how useful the wind up lamps have been.

I like to think that at the heart of what I do and how I live my life, the care of the environment guides me. However as with anything else, when compared to life in Honduras, what I do can be considered a luxury i.e. being able to choose. In Honduras they don't have that luxury, the choice is either you have it or you don't!

On one of our morning visits, before school at Guanacaste, Cesar, as always, was trying to pack in several jobs on the way to and from school (don't believe men when they say they can't multi-task!) Jennifer had given him some basic first aid supplies which he was going to take to school. Earlier in the week one of the little girls had stepped on a nail, which had gone through her foot, and she was off school. We stopped at her house to check on her and leave some plasters and antiseptic wipes. I was also able to clean the wound and apply a fresh dressing. The house was so well kept but space was limited and like other homes in Guanacaste there was no electricity.

I had been impressed by a wind up lamp Jennifer had brought over from the UK and was thinking about suggesting to my husband that we buy one for our camping trips. I hadn't realised that one of these lamps had been given to the family I was visiting. There it was sitting proudly on the table!

Whilst I have been in Honduras, I have been lucky enough to stay in good accommodation with electricity and running water, even if it was intermittent, it was at least delivered via a pipe/tap. I have seen but never had to survive by candle light or fetch water from a dirty river.

It is hard to appreciate just how dark, dark is when there is no street lighting or 'light' pollution from other sources, such as nearby buildings. It gets dark at 6pm-ish and when the sun dips behind the mountains it can feel even earlier. I found my own wind up, head torch invaluable, even in areas with street lighting. These lamps and torches are invaluable in the rural areas where forays to the loo, for water, visits to other homes or just the walk back from work may be necessary after sunset.

I am always on the lookout. From time to time, I have managed to buy quite a few wind-up lamps from Netto, as gifts for Honduras. The torches are great, as they allow the holder to operate hands free, especially when carrying buckets of water. The lamps are great in the home for giving general as well as specific lighting. The torches are small enough to tuck into family bags/boxes. I know any family that received a lamp would feel very blessed; it could also help the children to do homework or any other jobs in doors where lighting is required. They are less dangerous and less of a health hazard than candles and cheaper and more sustainable than batteries. A really good solution for these people.

I consider it a privilege to have been able to visit Honduras. My experience there continues to remind me that what CHTrust and its supporters do is just so amazing and truly improves the lives of those fortunate enough to have received help.

The cheapest wind up torches are found at the Eden Project in Cornwall. The one that fits on your head, from Netto stores, costs £2.50. Unfortunately, Eden and Netto are not local to Derby. Are they near you, as we can use as many wind up torches and lamps as possible?

## SCHOOLS IN HONDURAS

School in Honduras is similar to schools in the UK, in that the children wear a school uniform. After that they are very different!

School starts at 7.30am with the singing of the national anthem. It usually finishes at midday. The children have one long break. At Sauce and Guanacaste they are usually given a hot meal and a drink, drawn from CH Trust resources. The meal is often eaten out of doors and the children have to bring in their own plate/bowl and cup. They are also responsible for washing them too.

There isn't an organised playtime as we understand it. It lasts as long as it takes to serve, eat and clear up. There are very few resources for the children to play with and the yard is often a dirt area around the school building. The children are very resourceful and will find the most amazing things to substitute for toys and games.

The children study Spanish, maths and handicrafts.

The classrooms are very basic; they lack posters and many of the resources that grace our walls. When a display needs to be done, the children are asked to bring in different parts which even includes the backing paper! This never happens



- SCHOOL CHILDREN RECEIVING CLOTHES -



in the very poor schools; they simply can't afford it and even if they could, such shops are only located in the larger towns! Most schools have no specific equipment to help teach the children, such as counters, bricks, number lines etc. Similarly, school does not provide exercise books, pens, pencils, rulers etc. If children can afford them, they have to bring their own or do without.

Poor children in Honduras consider it a great privilege to go to school. I find it very sad that many parents and children in the UK fail to realise the value of the opportunities being offered to them by our education system.

### SPONSORSHIP STORIES

Below are some extracts taken from sponsorship letters written by the children. You may need to have your handkerchief handy!

#### **ELSA'S LETTER**

*"Dear friends, I am very thankful for all of the things you have sent to us. I appreciate it a lot and we are very happy because my family is very poor. My mother sometimes washes clothes to make money but she earns very little. When we go to school we are able to eat because sometimes in our house we only eat once a day. However, you have helped us so much and I am grateful with all my heart. I have 8 brothers and sisters. We have suffered a lot because my father died when I was very young. My father used to work, but they paid him very little and all my family is poor. My home is the most poor of all the houses in Sauce but in other houses they have a Dad.*

*Thanks to you and teacher Cesar, we are in school. Thank you for all of your help, we appreciate it very much.*

*Beloved friends, I'll say goodbye with a kiss and a hug,*

*May God bless you always. Thank you Elsa"*

#### **WIDOWED MOTHER OF TWIN BOYS AGED 7, BOTH RECEIVING SPONSORSHIP. SHE ALSO HAS A TEENAGE DAUGHTER**

*"I am Alexia and the mother of Luis. I am very grateful and I have been praying that God may help me with the school things and my prayers were answered. I am a widow. Many, many thanks."*

## **CLAUDIA'S LETTER**

*"My name is Claudia Garielis Ordonez and I am 11 years old. I am in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Marco Aurelio Soto School. I have 3 brothers and sisters, all of whom I love very much. My mother is 30 years old and is called Maritea, My grandmother is 74 and we live with her. I don't know my father because he abandoned us when I was 6 months old. I want to do really well at school and be able to go college and graduate- this is my dream. I understand this is difficult because my mother earns very little washing clothes. With your help, you have given me the joy of having new things, shoes, clothes, socks, pencils and exercise books. Thank you for the help you have provided me with, May God bless you always. I will say goodbye with a big hug and kiss.*

*Claudia Garielis Ordonez."*

**Claudia is sponsored by the Adventure Club at Elim Church, Kings Heath**

## **JUDITH'S LETTER**

*"Dearest Friends in England. My name is Judith Natalih Gonzales Salgado. I am 9 years old. I am in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in the school of Ema Nomeno de Coyejas in the City of El Paraiso. My mother is called Maxina Ramona Velasquez Salgado. She suffers from asthma and is very poorly. My father is called Marco Antonio Gonzalez Oliva and he works sowing maize. He only earns 60 lempiras (about £1.80) each day and many times he does not have money to buy clothes and food for us. I am very happy for the things you sent me, I really like the pen/pencil and the doll - in fact everything you sent me. I am asking God to bless you and send greetings to all. I have 4 brothers and sisters.*

*Thank you for your help.*

## **GRADUATION**

**Graduation takes place at the end of six years of primary education in Honduras. School normally starts at the age of six years and graduation is at the age of about 13 years. I say about, as the education system is very different from in England. You have to pass grade one before you can progress to grade two etc. Many children from poor families never get the opportunity to go to school because there is a lack of funding to buy the school uniform, black shoes and school supplies needed to attend school.**

Some children may attend for two years and then financial problems mean that they will miss years. This means that the classes, taught by grade, can have children of differing ages in the class. After the age of fourteen they can no longer attend ordinary school and must attend special Saturday and Sunday courses at a local college. This some do. We are supporting two young ladies in their late teens that are completing their sixth grade schooling. This is not easy as they live in Guanacaste, a rural mountain area. The college is many miles away with difficult public transport. They have to spend the night somewhere in Valle de Angeles. It is our sponsorship that is paying for the bus fare and the school supplies and text books needed by these two girls.

As you can probably begin to grasp, graduation from sixth grade is very important and often a great achievement. There is usually a celebration by the family and also at the school, no matter how poor the community. Often they start to save a little amount of money early in the year so that they can celebrate their child's achievement. There are many proud parents, many of which cannot read or write. They have often had to make sacrifices to help their children. To see them having achieved these skills is really important and a great cause for celebration.

### THE 'DUMP' CHURCH STORY

CH Trust became involved with the work of this Church through our co-worker, Ricardo Hood. As a child, Ricardo lived in the Valle de Angeles 'La Finca' orphanage. Over the last thirty years I have seen him grow into adulthood and take up the challenges of ministering to the poor people around him in the Naranjal/Pedrigal area. The Dump church came to Ricardo's attention as the result of the desperate actions of a young man who was a member of this non-denominational church. The story is brought to us by George Hood, Ricardo's adoptive father, who founded the Ministerios Betania School in Naranjal many years ago.

The story is about the way in which the Pastor of the Dump Church came to meet Pastor Ricardo, one of those inexplicable appointments arranged in eternity!

The pastor of the Dump Church is called Alberto. He is a man with great vision working in one of the destitute Aldeas (suburbs) surrounding the capital city, Tegucigalpa. His ministry there was threatened by new government legislation requiring that he registered as an approved legal identity in order to receive legal judicial authority to continue with his work. This in reality meant that he had

to be ordained by an approved Ecclesiastical body. This demanded either the engagement of lawyers and, therefore, considerable financial outlay to register in his own right or, failing this, the obligation to surrender his life's work and freedom in following the Lord to one of the greater Denominations. The scene is now set and the story can begin.

One of the young members of the Dump Church desired to find work and make something of his life. There were no opportunities at home so he decided to head for the great country up north (USA), where all the streets are paved with gold! The young man hitched a ride on a freight train that travels from Tapachula to the northern border of Mexico. This is a terrifying journey fraught with danger. He travelled with maybe thirty or forty other Central Americans for several days and nights, clinging onto the jogging shunting cars. The lucky ones found a support to which to tie themselves in place. The dreaded enemy is sleep! One moment of sleep and you are likely to be under the wheels. Many attempting the journey have finished up bereft of arms and legs and in the merciful care of a Mexican hospital. Similarly in winter time, these Central American hitch hikers, not understanding the northern cold and clad in only a tee shirt, have succumbed to numbness in arms and body and often fallen to their deaths or suffered multiple amputations.

Sadly, surviving this journey is not the end of their problems. The so called *mojadas* (illegal immigrants), are daily beset by gangs of thugs, leaving them devoid of their life savings but, if they are very lucky, maybe still with their shorts. Ricardo and I decided the journey through Mexico was so risky that it is not worth it, even when fully clothed and in the comfort of our 6 wheel Ford 350. Our young man, in fact, actually made it! He also swam across the Rio Grande and finally arrived in New Orleans.

It happened that he became part of the New Orleans Church that supports the work at Naranjal. During a visit by Ricardo, the young man heard that he came from Tegucigalpa. Because he was hungry to converse in his native tongue, the young man started to talk to Ricardo about his home and his pastor. He explained something of his pastor's difficulties, who was struggling to do something for the multitude of children working daily at the garbage dump. He explained how Alberto had been able to organise the mums in his church to get together and take turns twice a week to bring in a huge pot of beans and rice, thus helping to fill the tummies of all that cared to come.

Little did the young man realise that this kind of community outreach was right up Ricardo's street, presenting some parallels to his own motivation and ministry in Naranjal. Also, he was talking to the very person that could solve his pastor's legal problems at the stroke of a pen and free of any legal fees.

Ricardo promised, on his return to Honduras, he would visit Pastor Alberto. He did and found a wonderful family, Mum and Dad Alvarado, a daughter and two sons, the youngest of which was studying for his Masters Degree in electronics at University. He also found a great little church in a building they could no longer fit into, all raised up by faith in the Lord's supply. The family soon wormed their way into our hearts, which was not too difficult. We now rejoice to see Alberto ordained into Ministerious Betania El Naranjal as a pastor by the laying on of hands by our pastorium and, also, receiving from Ricardo the right hand of fellowship. He now has all the judicial and legal rights pertaining to the same and is able to continue his ministry and work at the dump church in his own right. In the process the Lord has blessed him, not only with the support of the Naranjal churches but also with additional resources through CH Trust, which enable him to care for more children.

In recognition of the work being done by this tiny church for the children in the area, the local mayor has gifted it a piece of land on which to build a feeding centre and church. Due to their new legal status, they have been able to progress in the development of the site. This has been assisted with donations. They have now managed to build the walls of their dining area. The next phase will be the concrete ceiling. In time a second floor will be added to be used as the church.

### SELF-EMPLOYMENT FOR SOME HONDURAN PEOPLE

Ricardo is helping to establish small projects from the church to enable people to become self sufficient and earn enough money to support their families. This is so very difficult for many people in Honduras. They are prepared to work but there is no available work for them to do. In the Naranjal area the main employer is the sugar factory. The Company provides '24/7' employment for three months and then virtually nothing until the following year. The large amount of unemployment also keeps wages low.

We refer to one of his initiatives as the 'chicken projects'. These have proved to be very successful. The church finances the purchase of the chicks and the feed. When they are big enough to eat, all the chickens are killed and sold on the one

day. The profit is then split between the church and the person looking after the chickens. Everyone is very happy.

Another initiative involves sewing groups. The church also hopes to start computer classes soon. His two latest ideas are to run a plant nursery, starting from the seeds that we send and also, if possible, to set up a hairdresser.

One of the young girls from his church has trained in the capital to be a hairdresser. Since there is no such business or facility in the village she will be obliged to work in the capital. Rather than lose her to the city, Ricardo is trying, with our help, to establish a salon in the village. He has sent in a request for a sink, chair, mirror, shampoo, shears and anything else that might be needed to launch a project which he thinks will be very successful. After all, every person helped into work or business is another able to support their family with food.



**- CARING FOR THE SCHOOL CHICKENS -**

**LEGLESS!**

I never cease to wonder how the Lord works to meet a need. Some time ago I received this E-mail from Ricardo.

*“Have a Shoe Shine man, 52 Years old, who has had his left leg amputated and needs a prosthesis. He weighs 146 pounds and is 1.67 metres in height. The left*

leg is amputated at mid thigh. He needs a prosthesis of the type that hooks on the hip and is complete with foot. He said that he doesn't mind if it is used and a bit large as they can get it adjusted here. Can you help?"

I thought to myself, what can I do with this?! I know nothing of such matters and really don't know what can be done. But then we have a faithful supporter who knows all about false legs from personal experience. Joy was soon onto the case and in touch with her contacts. She recently sent me the following E-mail.

*"Just to let you know, I now have an artificial leg in my possession for the shoe shine man who wants one. Toby Carlsson, who is the Director of PACE at Cheadle, Manchester, where I now go for my leg privately, very kindly put one together today from items no longer needed. So we pray it might be of some use to him. The length can be adjusted and he can wear cotton stump socks (I'll try to get hold of some) to fill it a bit if necessary, as we have no idea of the size of his stump! We just pray for a miracle that it will be o.k. with some adjustments! It has a material Tess belt to go round his waist to hold it on. I will also send a spare one I have, which has been washed, and is the same size as the one PACE have provided."*

As you can see, a miracle is in progress for the Shoe Shine man. I just thank the Lord that I can be incidental in bringing relief to this unfortunate man.

### **FAMILY BAG FEEDBACK**

There are a number of folk working away in the background that, each year, help provide that very popular item we know as the family bag. This year I have managed to obtain some photos relating to their distribution.

Some of last year's family bags were distributed through two mountain area schools as well as to individual families in various regions of Honduras. At Guanacaste they were given out as school graduation prizes. A child only graduates at the end of the school year if they pass the exams for the grade they have been studying. If they do not pass the exams they drop a year to remain at the same level for the whole of the following year in order to retake the exams. You can imagine this is very depressing for the child involved. After all, children in Honduras are no different in their reactions to those here in the UK. I am glad that we do not have this American based system in England.

At first sight, it may seem unfair to reward only those who graduate. That is until you realise that the staff and pupils have worked so hard that every

child graduated this year, a first! In this poor rural community, it is considered important to reward the children as an encouragement to work hard. Family bags provide a great incentive in this context.

To the folks who made the family bags, or sent items for them, please accept a special thank you. They constitute another strand towards improving the children's quality of life and their prospects for the future. With your help CH Trust is enabled to give help, hope and a smile to many children in Honduras.



**- RECEIVING A FAMILY BAG AS A GRADUATION PRIZE -**

### **CALENDARS**

I apologise for failing to tell you about the 2009 A4 Calendars in the last newsletter. We have Calendars to sell with an A5 coloured photo from Honduras for each month. Every penny of the £5 purchase price is used to buy rice to send to Honduras. A Christian couple produce them free as a fund raiser for us. In the past this has paid for the tons of rice. This year, unfortunately, it will not cover the full cost due to increased prices but remains a tremendous help.

If you would like a 2009 Calendar, please write to the address at the front of the booklet. The cost for postage is 42p for one, 66p for two, 90p for 3 or 4.



## **\_BATTLING WITH RAGING PRICE ESCALATION!\_**

We generally manage to balance the books each year and thus my spending on items to send is substantially matched by the money I receive. This year is likely to be different, in as much that I need to send more food than I think our funding can pay for. The reason is twofold. The price of fuel and the price of food have both increased by a large percentage this year. These are our two major expenses. In addition to the shipping costs, we also have to pay for road hauling the containers both in England and Honduras. The total cost will be in the region of £15,000 plus for the four 40 foot containers.

I do not need to tell you how much food has increased in price. The rice has cost us £1,700 this year compared with £1,000 last year, even though we bought it before the largest price increases. We also need to buy 4 tons of oats and 3 tons of milk. The 4 tons of oats cost us £1,379 last year but the price has now increased substantially. I dare not think what the milk will cost as fresh milk has greatly increased in price.

Powdered milk is the most expensive item of food that we send but it is also the most nutritious and the most sought after by all the pastors in Honduras. We have been told that the children visibly flourish on it.



**- WARMING THE ENGLISH MILK AND OATS DRINK -**



**- THESE CORNFLAKES AND MILK TASTE GOOD -**

Everywhere we went on our visit to Honduras, the people told us how good it is. 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 to them that we spent £4,780 on milk last year. Because it is so expensive, they could not realistically expect to receive more. Additionally, we can only buy in complete tons, at about £1,600 per ton. i.e. we cannot purchase, say, an extra five bags.

As more and more Honduran children are being affected by the severe increase in food prices, which means less food to eat at home, it does not seem like the time to be cutting back on this expensive item. We managed to send three tons last year. It would be good to do the same this year, if possible. One couple pays to purchase one ton each year but that still leaves two tons to finance.

Our drive to send more food this year has been greatly helped by the Harvest Festival collections that have been given to us. Thank you to all who have given food to Honduras. We also told you in the last newsletter about buying a food parcel to give to a poor family over the Christmas school holidays and also a meal for the people of Guanacaste village. At the time of writing, this is progressing

well. I also know that there are more people who intend participating in the scheme. I will give you more news in the New Year via our web site. Thank you for those who have taken part in these two projects.

The medical bill is more stable but high. We purchase antibiotics, creams, multivitamin tablets, worming tablet, pain killers etc. All these items are bought at fantastically low prices compared with the shops but the quantity we need, as every child needs vitamins and worming tablets, results in a very large bill.

On a smaller scale, we buy black school shoes at about £4 per pair and large sheets of sugar paper. These are used by every school and church, again expensive in large quantities, also PVA glue.

This year we bought two heavy duty six burner stoves with oven, which run on bottled gas. One of them was sent to meet a specific request from the orphanage. We were asked if we could obtain a replacement for the second hand one we provided about ten years ago, which had all but given up. Since the orphanage is blessed with about 100 children to feed 365 days a year, we considered it a priority. Also, the older girls have learnt to bake cookies with the oven, which the children love to eat!



**- THIS NEW LARGER COOKER IS WONDERFUL -**

The other stove has been allocated to the feeding centre at Naranjal, where they cook for 130 children, three days a week, on a four burner domestic stove. This elderly appliance can only accommodate one large saucepan of the sort needed to cook for this number of children. They have already appreciated the extra capacity and will soon be baking in the oven, a new experience for them.

Both recipients are highly delighted with their new stoves and the ladies who use them are overjoyed. Many of you can equate to the need of a reliable cooker for everyday use. Together, the stoves cost us another £2,500.

Finally looking to the future forthcoming challenges, I am praying that the Lord will meet the financial needs required to cover both the already present additional costs and those we anticipate meeting later on. I will be acting in faith, because substantial funds will have to be committed before a large portion of our annual income will have come in.

## **WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS**

### **PACKING WEEK**

There is a lot of pressure on all those who work every day at the unit throughout Packing 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 the following weeks approaching 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. In addition to the packing, there is the organising of the paperwork and dealing with the import and export problems.

Please pray for strength, health and patience for all the team. Organising 150 people is not easy. We also need wisdom and protection for everyone on Loading Day. Items such as the provision of a forklift driver and truck need extra prayer, as those who helped originally are no longer available. One of the main problems is that the fork lift driver and vehicle has to have its own insurance cover. This is usually available through the company owning the fork lift. Obtaining specific separate independent insurance for the day appears to be difficult and expensive.

As always, we ask you to pray for something appreciated by all, a warm dry day!

## WISH LIST

### **FOOD**

Pasta, Rice, oil (very expensive in Honduras but it has lots of calories), sugar, dried milk, flour (must have date after Sept 2009), oats, tinned tomatoes, meat balls in sauce, beans, tuna, spaghetti, cereal. We would prefer two tins of a cheaper make to one tin of a branded product.

### **TINNED BEANS AND SPAGHETTI**

We have found that the children like our tins of spaghetti, beans and meatballs (stores own is good). They mix well with the pasta that the children like to eat. The cooks like to prepare them, as it is easier and quicker to cook than rice. The sauce is the real bonus.

They also like the tinned or bottled sausages, as these slice up and add to the pasta. They like sweet corn to mix with the rice.

### **SUGAR**

The families use a lot of sugar in their coffee, which is the main drink apart from water. They get their calories from the sugar as we used to do 50 years ago. Do you remember when the sugar bowl was the size of a mixing bowl? We will send out any sugar we are given. It is also used in the feeding programmes.

### **SCHOOLS**

There is so little in their classrooms that it is difficult to know where to start with a wish list. Obviously they need basic items, like posters, sugar paper, marker pens, white board pens, blackboards, white boards, white board pens, chalk, paper, exercise books and jotters. They also need equipment for the more specialised lessons.

For science, test tubes, beakers, magnets, prisms, lenses, laboratory weighing machines for chemicals;

Microscopes, prepared microscope slides, basic electronics material, etc.

Craft resources such as artist paint brushes, embroidery silks, large hole needles and other sewing needs etc

Footballs make for great playtimes!

Modest resources such as these can facilitate exciting lessons for children only used to chalk and talk.

Black and white boards are still being requested by the schools.

Recorders are an item asked for by many schools. They have recorder groups but lack enough recorders for the children.

Cesar, the head teacher of Guanacaste School, is looking for a guitar. He teaches the children to sing and play the recorder but it would be much better if he had a guitar. He played one many years ago at the Orphanage but he did not own the instrument. Can we find him one?

#### **ITEMS STILL MUCH IN DEMAND**

**Umbrellas** are used against the rain and the strong sunshine enjoyed most days.

**Torches** - The wind-up ones are a great success in Guanacaste and other mountain areas that have no electrical supply and no funding for batteries. I also sent three wind-up lanterns, which they are thrilled with and want to thank us personally for sending them. I think this is another much needed item for next year. They cost about £10. If you send one to us, please check first that it works. The quality of these devices varies and needs to be checked before sending to Honduras.

If you would like to provide a wind up lantern for a family but cannot find one, just send £10 to us at CH Trust and we will do a bulk buy. If you want to send a card, letter or photo to the family please include this with your lamp or donation.

‘**Tilly**’ type paraffin pressure lamps would also be excellent for this area. However the dual fuel type, that can be used with Coleman fuel, are not suitable as they clog over time when used without this special fuel, which is not available in Honduras. We hope to buy some in Honduras that are specifically suited to their needs.

Children’s **shoes** are still a priority. Black is needed for school, any colour for ordinary wear, ‘**wellies**’ and walking type boots for the hills or working in the fields during the rainy season.

The wellingtons have proved very popular in the mountain areas where they

work the land. The constant rain during the rainy season creates deep mud, which has to be negotiated when walking to school and for general living. The mud destroys precious shoes. Can we provide more wellingtons? The small children also like to play in the puddles!

**Children's clothes** are still a large part of our shipment. You might have thought about all those new pants and socks that we ask for each year. I have now got lots of pictures of children holding up their new underwear! If there is not room in this newsletter for one of these pictures, look on the web site [www.chtrust.org.uk](http://www.chtrust.org.uk) where I have posted a new selection of photos.

### PACKING WEEK

7-14th February 2009 (excluding Sunday). Please note, any goods brought in after 16th February cannot be processed and will be rolled over for the following year.

### LOADING DAY

Saturday 14th March 2009

**NB** nothing will be loaded on this day that has not been previously logged into the computer.



**- OUR FIRST SIGHT OF A COMPUTER AS IT WORKS ON BATTERIES -**



**- I FETCH WATER TO SELL FROM THE RIVER -**



**- I WALK MILES WITHOUT SHOES -**