

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

It is that time of year when we start to think about tinsel and turkey, sending Christmas cards and sorting out presents. For us in the UK, Christmas is a time we look forward to in respect of both its spiritual and secular aspects. In spite of the current economic crisis, CH Trust would like to take this opportunity to wish you, our readers and supporters, a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. The Trust is especially grateful that the current financial constraints, which impact on all of us, have not dampened your enthusiasm or support for what we do.

In contrast our 'neighbours', some in the UK and many in Honduras and other parts of the world, view Christmas as a time of increased hardship, with little cause for celebration. CH Trust is dedicated to trying to change the lives of those people in Honduras, who find themselves disadvantaged, to enable them to



- THE EXCITEMENT OF GETTING A NEW PAIR OF SHOES -

achieve a better life and give them more cause to gladly celebrate the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE DAY OF THE CHILD

The Day of the Child is probably the favourite day of the year for many children in Honduras, better than Christmas. The event is held in the first half of September. It is a day when schools, churches and groups try to give the children a day of celebration including gifts, if possible. For many poor families Christmas is just another day of survival, a day of trying to find food for the family with no means to celebrate.

The clothes, shoes, toys and other things that we send in the containers are often kept for distribution on the Day of the Child. From the goods sent in the 2012 containers, Cristocentro Church assembled a set of clothes and shoes for each child participating in their project at Fortin, a very poor area in the Capital. One boy became rather upset when he opened his bag and found clothes and a toy but thought he had not been given a pair of shoes! A toy is nice but a pair of shoes is essential, even from a child's perspective.

As I said, Christmas is a non-event for many children. One business gentleman has been helping to overturn this during the last few years. He has paid for the children to have a Christmas party at five mountain schools. The mums get together to plan and cook the food that has been provided with this funding from England. The residue of the money he donates goes to provide bags of food for poor families. This is food bought in Honduras and given to families high in the mountains who struggle to provide one meal a day for their children. The money raised by the sale of food gift cards also help provide for these families. Cesar makes a trip to the Lenca tribes with food bags at Christmas time. The Lenca children suffer very greatly from malnutrition as the land cannot support them sufficiently. It is good to know that we will put a smile on many faces with these gifts of basic food supplies.

A welcome spin off from the Christmas Parties at Sauce School was last year's contribution of oranges given by the father of one of the schoolchildren. I was pleased to hear about this because it shows that the parents appreciate what is being done for the children and that they can sometimes give help from their own resources. I think this a new concept for the communities. It is encouraging to observe that the people are starting to think about how they can help each other, even in poor rural villages. This is the way forward.



- TWO LENCA GIRLS RECEIVING DOLLS -



- RECEIVING WELLINGTON BOOTS -

THE “COLEGIO” SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

The little school in the heart of the rural mountain village of El Guanacaste has become the focal point for the whole community. With your help in the form of sponsorship, the village can now provide 7th, 8th and 9th grade education, known as “colegio”. Lessons take place in the late afternoon in the local primary school leaving the students free in the mornings to work in the fields and contribute towards their family’s income. Some of the youngsters attending Guanacaste College will be graduates straight out of the school’s 6th grade and others will be youths from the community that have never previously had this opportunity. The students study a full curriculum, including spoken and written English and, after graduation at 9th grade, can if they wish begin a two year radio course to gain a “Bachillerato” certificate, the equivalent of our “A” levels. This certificate will equip them for entry into a University. Colegio is now in its fourth year and at present we have twenty five students studying at Guanacaste College and five graduates studying for their Bachillerato.

Few young people in these remote areas have achieved more than 6th grade, equivalent to our infant and junior school, which is available in their local villages. To attend secondary school they need to travel to the nearest town which is two hours away on the bus, buy the school manuals, uniform, equipment and shoes. This, as you can imagine, is beyond the means of most subsistence farmers whose ability to provide for one child is a major challenge, let alone the whole family. To put it into context, an agricultural labourer earns about £12-£15 per week and a set of manuals for the year currently costs £30, a pair of shoes will cost about £20.

The annual cost per student amounts to £80. The sponsorship scheme is devised as a one-off scheme, where there is no obligation to continue the following year if it is no longer appropriate. The students receive enough money to buy the mandatory four sets of manuals plus help towards the cost of their tuition. So far we only have sponsorships for three students this coming year out of a potential of thirty. In order to reduce the financial burden to individual sponsors we have decided to split the cost into £50 basic sponsorship, £20 towards the cost of the manuals and £10 from CH Trust funds. We hope this might help to make the scheme more affordable. Sadly, savings which could be achieved by passing down the manuals from student to student cannot be achieved because the government changes them each year. They are also designed to be written in.

16 year old Denia will be graduating from 9th grade this year with the help of

sponsorship from England. She is the eldest of 7 children and her Dad is an agricultural labourer. She would like to be a teacher.

THE £50 EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

At this time of year we are considering educational sponsorship for 2013. The earlier we can send donations to Honduras, December at the latest, the more time our co-workers have to source and make up the necessary fabric for the uniforms, fit the youngsters with shoes, purchase manuals and stationery, ready for February when the new school year starts. This task often falls to the Pastor's wives and, with no ASDA or Tesco's to rely on, it means a dedicated trip to the city to find suitable fabric and supplies.

Our £50 sponsorship scheme provides a child with uniform, shoes, trainers, school bag, school manual (in Spanish) and sufficient equipment to attend a state school for one year. (There is a £25 half-sponsorship option also available where CH Trust matches 2 sponsors to provide a child with a full year's education). As it was devised as a one-off scheme there is no obligation to continue the following year if this is no longer appropriate for you. If anyone would like further information there is an introductory news-sheet which we would be pleased to forward to you.

Once again the sponsorship has proved very popular and successful in Honduras; you may remember we were asked for a further 35 scholarships for the youngsters who attend schools in the rural mountain communities. The schools were delighted that sponsors were found for all 35 and the children have now graduated. All 11 ministries taking part in the sponsorship scheme have sent their sincere gratitude to all our kind and generous donors. They have all expressed the view that, without this input, many children would not have the opportunity to go to school at all. Most of these families only earn between 20-30 Lps per day (less than £1). This has to feed an entire family, where food and other essentials cost more in Honduras than here in the UK. When food security is so often threatened by lack of employment, people are forced to prioritize the immediate need to feed their family above the education of the next generation.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in circulating sponsorship information. There have been some communication difficulties with Honduras during the course of the year, which has led to the late arrival of some of the information. Unlike the large charities, we have no paid personnel in either the UK or Honduras. Everything is done by volunteers with minimal resources. Occasionally

things do go wrong.

12 year old Ady lives with his grandparents; his parents split up when he was a very young child and have chosen not to be part of his life. The family, eleven people in total, lives in a 2-roomed cement block house with little amenities. Ady works in the fields and harvests coffee when he is not in school. His earnings go towards his school books and to pay his bus fare to school. Ady has now been given sponsorship which pays for his uniform and books leaving him a little money to help his family.

If you would like to sponsor the education of a child, we would very much like to hear from you. The contact details are on the front cover of this newsletter. Please make any cheques payable to “CH Trust”. There are two options available, sponsorship for a full year, cost £50, or a half year option for £25.

A LETTER FROM PASTOR ROGER FROM PENIEL CHURCH ___

The community in which we live presents us with many problems. These include delinquency, drugs, alcoholism, prostitution and youth gangs. All of these result from the poverty in our area. But we believe that God has also raised our church as a place of refuge for the children and the youths in our community. The challenges are great, as it is the children who are most vulnerable to these influences.

In the last ten years the situation has changed because the Centro Cristiano, Peniel has come to be a blessing to many families and particularly to the children who have benefited from the support of CH Trust in England. Their healthcare has improved, thanks to the milk and food that has been donated and also their social and emotional development. The donations of clothing and shoes give them a sense of high self-esteem in their own ability and talent. The children are helped with support for their schooling. I want to let you know that many of these children are now helping their peers as leaders of youth groups. The good example of these young people who attend our church has impacted on the lives of their families. The young people of Peniel are making a difference in our community, showing that poverty is only a state of mind and that attitudes can be changed.

To those who sponsor, I can tell you that we have young people who, through sponsorship, have progressed and are now at university studying for their careers. These young people serve as an inspiration to their families and those of their

generation. The staff who work at the Centro Cristiano Peniel are committed to their calling to God, to serve these children; to care for them in a way that, perhaps, many of them do not receive in their own home. We will continue to invest in our children. We know that today they are our present but they are also the future of our nation. We can see how the community is changing as juvenile delinquency is diminishing. Those who previously did not go to school are now at university. Others who used to suffer from illnesses are today healthy and socialised and one can see the happiness and peace written on their faces.

BACK IN DERBY, PACKING AND DISTRIBUTION

Much effort is expended at our centre of operations in Derby to identify each item that we send to Honduras. Each box or item has to have a number to identify its receiving ministry and also for customs declaration purposes. Each item also carries an indication determining which containers it can be loaded into on Loading Day, here in Derby. We, in England, have to decide who receives each item that we send. In this way we keep control of the operation in Honduras. To be as effective as possible demands that we strive to keep abreast of their changing needs.

We now input into thirty different receiving groups. Many of these then give to other smaller ministries. When unloading is completed in Honduras, the items are loaded into buses, trucks and lorries for transport to the various parts of the country, where the goods will be distributed. Moving goods about in Honduras is a dangerous business. Please remember to pray for our Honduran helpers as they undertake this task next May.

We will continue to send containers until 2015, so please do not stop collecting yet. We are still looking for children's clothes and footwear from birth to teenagers. They need black shoes for school, wellingtons for the rainy season and working the land. They help their parents on the land from about the age of five. We found three very happy young boys who had been given wellingtons. They work the land with their parents on the coffee crop. This surprised me as they attended a city centre church child project. All other types of footwear will help to keep their feet safe from cuts and prevent infestation by intestinal worms.

WATER FILTER PUMPS

Cesar describes these water pumps as a miracle. They provide clean water, free of cost, to the family they are given to. Many families walk for long distances to get the cleanest water available. This water is generally unsafe to drink but the best they can obtain. Sadly, there is no safe drinking water in Honduras even if it looks good. If people can afford it, they buy bleach to purify the water. For most, this is often not possible.

For those fortunate enough to have a pump, their main concern is now reduced to finding the nearest water source. The filter pumps are able to render even dirty water safe to drink, delivering it in a bright and clean condition. Surface and river water can thus be turned into safe drinking water without charge. What a blessing! This is why the people call the water filter pumps the miracles sent from England.

We sent 306 water filter pumps in the 2012 containers, which will supply clean drinking water for many children and families. As yet we have had limited feedback. News takes a long time to filter back from Honduras.



- A WATER FILTER PUMP IN ACTION -

This is a letter written by a child of a family who received a water filter pump...

Bryan writes:

Affectionate greetings and wishing you success in your daily lives. I want to tell you that I received the filter that you sent me. You cannot imagine how useful this could be. Before, we drank bad water and now with this filter we are going to drink clean water. Sometimes we used to get ill with diarrhoea and stomach problems but now we are going to drink filtered water we won't become ill. My family lives in one house. My mother is a single mother and we live with my grandparents. We are all very grateful for the help you have provided us with. We send you greetings and may God bless you.

CH TRUST SHOWED THE WAY

Cesar sent us this report about the way a CH Trust initiative has led to greater things.

Up until about two years ago there was no electricity in Guanacaste. They had lived for 60 years or more without electricity and with poor living conditions. Four years ago CH Trust blessed them with wind up lamps and hand torches, which have been of great use to the community of Guanacaste. Thanks to you and each person who donates to CH Trust for all this help. This year, Guanacaste came to the attention of European Union and the Valle de Angeles local government, who were providing solar powered lighting. The people of Guanacaste told them about the wind up lamps and the generator in the school which CH Trust had supplied. They obviously felt it was a village worth helping. They donated solar panels to each family. Now every house, the school and the Catholic Church have electricity through solar home systems. They can run five light bulbs at each house. It is difficult to imagine what a difference it will make in a village with no light pollution. Now they can have a better life. To you, CH Trust, we want to thank you for initiating development in the community of Guanacaste.

THE UNEXPECTED LONG REACH OF CH TRUST

I often return home to find items left for me to send to Honduras. Often I do not know who has given them but I always know where they are going. We give to thirty different destinations in Honduras and these, in turn, give to others. I have just received photos of some of our medical supplies sat in the centre of a dugout canoe in Mosquitia! This is a vast coastal area with few roads. The region is largely accessed by plane and then locally by canoe. The Miskito Indians only get limited help because of the difficult accessibility of this region. Lovita, who

was brought up in the La Finca Orphanage, is now a qualified doctor. For many professionals in Honduras it is difficult to obtain paid work. She therefore takes any contract work that is available. She thus found herself taking her knowledge and medicines to these remote people. Her supplies included medicines that we had bought and dressings. She said that the people were extremely grateful for her visit and the medical aid that she was able to provide. It is nice to know that CH Trust played a part in this visit.

COLLEGE RELIEF

During our visit to Honduras we went to the IHER educational project in Valle de Angeles. They only had two toilets and had to pay to use them. Since the college building is located in an urban environment other toilet options were not easy, especially for the girls. We paid for the materials to build a pila and three toilets. The pupils and friends provided the labour. The toilets, sink and tiles were sent in this year's containers. The photos show the finished project, of which they are rightfully proud. There are now 350 very happy students who can use the toilet and washing facilities free of charge. This is important as these pupils are some of the poorest, who have to work very hard to access education.



- THE FINISHED TOILET FACILITIES -

They are now asking if we can pay for a 2500 litre water tank. Water is only available twice a week in the Valle de Angeles. Thus without a storage tank they only access water twice a week. It is proposed that the boys will build the supporting base and install all the pipe work to the school services. The tank would allow them to have water all week. The cost is £250.

TOILETS AND SINKS

We have many requests for toilets and sinks, as these are very expensive items in Honduras. We therefore pass on to you the on-going request for second hand toilets and sinks. Any taps, u-bends and piping will also be appreciated. Stainless steel kitchen sinks also continue to be very popular. We often get given stainless steel sinks and ceramic sinks but no taps. Have you any spare taps you can donate?

MOSQUITO NETS

As a result of our visit to Honduras last year we decided to purchase family mosquito nets at £5. We had seen mosquito nets at a family home we visited. Those we bought were sent into several areas of Honduras. Some had to have their use explained to them. The government through the clinics is running educational classes about mosquitoes. Knowledge is no good if you do not have money to buy a net. At first the mums were not sure about the nets but now they are asking for more as their children are no longer getting bitten. Many of us know that insect bites are not good for us, even without the threat of malaria or dengue fever, which you can catch in Honduras.

The nets are long and tuck under the mattress or cardboard in many cases. This keeps the cockroaches and scorpions that come out at night from getting to the children. The nets are large enough to protect a large bed with six occupants. Alternatively, they may push two singles together.

A ROOF IN TIME

A potential project concerns a couple who live in Guanacaste village. Their house is not complete, as it has only a small portion of roof. The roof is crucial in protecting homes built with mud bricks. Otherwise the bricks soon start to disintegrate as the rain soaks into them. They need eight zinc treated roofing sheets and two pounds of roofing nails. They will fit the sheets to the roof themselves. The cost of the material required is £100.

HELPING TO HOUSE FAMILIES

Maria now has her sister, with her two small boys, living with her in the new home CH Trust helped to build for her. Her sister was in an abusive relationship and had no other place to live. With Maria's three children that makes two adults and five children living in our first home.

The plastic house is home to mum, dad and 10 children. The next three homes currently being built will be occupied by young mothers, Julia, Nery and Veronica, with two or three children each. They wrote letters to tell us why they desperately needed a home.

As I read their letters requesting help with the building of a house the same problems become apparent. Renting is very difficult and expensive. In order to keep safe, the need to pay the rent often means that mum and even the children will have to go without food. The pressure of this situation is unimaginable. Can mum get work? What if she is sick? What will she do if she is forced to find other accommodation?

Many of the letters state that there is no work for single mums. There is little work for anyone in Honduras from professional people to labourers. This is why poverty is such a large problem.

Even with all these problems, all of the women we have helped have managed to put their children into school. This requires the purchase of black shoes, uniform and school supplies for each child. Many of these ladies are to be admired and deserve to be helped.

VERONICA'S REQUEST FOR HELP

I am a single mother and I have 3 children. I struggle so hard bringing them up and I have no one to support me. I do not have any permanent work so I do cleaning and wash clothes for other people to give my children what they need. I rent a small house where we live. I can scarcely get by. I have a small piece of land but it is impossible for me to build a house where my children can have a decent roof over their heads. The owner of the house has told me already that she will only rent the house to me for this year because then she is going to use it. I have nowhere to go to live with my children because as I said I have no one. With the little they give me for the cleaning and washing, I pay for the food and milk for my children. I am in a desperate situation and this is why I am appealing to your goodwill. I hope that God will inspire you to look upon me in my need that you might help me to build a small

house where I can have a safe place for my children and myself.

DOUBLE TROUBLE FOR JULISSA

Hello. My name is Julissa. I am 24 years old and I have a little girl of 4 years old. I am a single mother. I grew up in the Girl's House (at La Finca Orphanage). I went there when I was very small at 6 years old. When I was 14 years old I left there and went to live with my mother. Then I had many problems at home because my stepfather tried to abuse me. I told my mum but she did not believe me and I had to leave home and go to look for a job so that I could rent a room and find work. I had to clean a house and wash clothes to get some money to pay the rent but I had nowhere to sleep or cook. I studied at night because I was working in the day but everything was difficult for me. I had the bad luck to find my first boyfriend at college. I believed that I was going to settle down but it was the reverse. This man did the worst things. He used to hit me and drink and take drugs so I had to leave again and go back to renting another room with my child who at this time was only 15 days old. It was so difficult because I had no one to help me and I had to support my daughter on my own. The rent I pay is very expensive as there is nothing cheap nowadays. I have to pay for care for my daughter. Because of this huge mistake that happened, I am taking care not to have more children so I do not cause them to suffer. I try to do my best for my daughter although it is difficult for me not being able to care for her myself. As I work I cannot look after her and my sister looks after her for me and I pay her.

I want to ask if you can do me the favour of helping me to build a little house however small so I do not have to rent, which is so hard for me. I ask if you might be able to help me. I have a small piece of land that I bought from my mother and I haven't built on it because I do not have the money. The money I earn is not enough because it just pays for my rent and a little left over for food for my daughter.
Julissa Mancía Reyes

Now I want to tell you that, two weeks ago, Alonso from the Orphanage decided to ask my sisters Julia and Sarai to leave, which is very difficult for me now to support my daughter and them as I do not have a house to live in. I find it so hard renting each month and I have to pay 2000 lempiras (£71) and sometimes I do not have it because I cannot manage to feed my daughter, my sisters and myself. I thank you for any support you could give me as a blessing in our lives.
Julissssa Mancía, daughter Joselin Adriana Mancía, sisters Julia and Sarai.

THE HOUSES THAT WE BUILT

Four houses have now been completed. Another three should be completed by Christmas. As you can imagine we have a waiting list of needy families who would love to have a house.

A better understanding has been gained about the cost of these buildings. The current building price of a home with one large room (7 metres by 3.5 metres) is £750. This includes labour charges for building the foundations, walls, fitting the roof and making the doors and window shutters. The house then needs to be connected to the local water supply, if there is one. Where the beneficiary can provide labour from family or friends it releases more money to buy the materials.

When the house is complete it is necessary to build a pila, to store water and to act as a wash area for the family, pots and clothes. The other desirable facility is a lean-to or covered area where a clay oven can be built for cooking. It is not an oven as we know it but a means of cooking over wood. The top is covered by a metal plate for use as a hotplate. We are hoping to build them with a chimney to take the smoke away from where the lady is cooking.

The relevant costs are:-

Pila £150 - Cooking area £150 - Clay oven £75

Finally, to make the buildings complete, a septic tank is needed. Most of the buildings cannot be connected to the village sewage system as they are too far up the mountain. There are three main expenses when building the septic tanks, the blocks, the ingredients for concrete and the labour bill. The total cost is currently £515. All the prices quoted are to build at this moment in time. The labour charges stay constant but the supplies increase with the world markets. We have been able to provide second hand toilets and sinks from those sent in the containers.

Our current dilemma is should we build a larger number of more basic homes, 3.5 metres by 7metres, that will provide safe shelter for families, or build a fewer number of more complete homes, with all the basic amenities that we take for granted and consider essential?

Each home we build brings security to a family and releases money for purchasing food and other essentials.

All the houses we have constructed have been funded from designated money. They are usually built in memory of a family member or with a gift of money specifically given for house building. They are not built out of general funds.

CONTAINERS 2013

I have already categorized next year's containers as that of tables, chairs, mattresses and filing cabinets. The furniture has come from various schools and village halls. Two of the largest collections came from the old dining room at the Rolls Royce facility on Raynsway and the DRI hospital in Derby, when the teaching section moved to the Royal hospital. The mattresses are being delivered on a regular basis from a local bed shop. Thank you to everyone who helped to source these items and also provided the man power to move them. As we get older, we need more help from other people to achieve these collections.

In the time that remains to send containers, the Lord seems to be providing the items that money cannot buy in Honduras. Pastor Bev said that she had tried to price some tables, chairs and white boards for the children's project but found that they were not available to buy in Honduras. Such items have to be shipped down from the U S A. Small churches and rural schools cannot do this.

LAST YEAR'S FINANCES

Shipping, import and transport	£18000	Water pumps	£4000
Mosquito nets	£750	Milk (4 tons)	£7560
Oats (4 tons)	£1600	Medicals	£5000
Pasta	£1400	Flour	£700

These are last year's prices. I am sure that all the prices will have increased by 2013.

This year, the import bill was an enormous £4000. Several things contributed to this including a problem with the original import certificate set up six years ago. This sort of expenditure hurts as I view it as wasted money that could be spent on food. We pray for a swifter and cheaper import in 2013. The customs are getting very picky about the dates on food and medical items. Medicines need a date of May 2014. Food needs to be in date even when we know that many foods are good beyond their declared date.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Basic food prices are going up on the world market. This means that we in the UK pay more. However, in Honduras, it means that they have less to eat. The income of many is largely dissipated purchasing food, in circumstances where the people do not generally enjoy cost of living increases. In fact their income stays the same or even lower in the present economic climate. It is difficult for us to comprehend what a difference CH Trust food aid is making in the lives of many people in Honduras.

PASTA AND TOMATOES

We are again trying to send as much dried pasta and tinned tomatoes as we can gather. These are a great favourite with cooks and children alike. The more we can send the more children will be fed through the rural schools. Similarly, more can be given to the Lenca tribes, who suffer so badly from malnutrition. Other packets are given to families in need or crisis. When a mother has no money or food, she can be reduced to tears over the gift of a 30p packet of pasta for her family.

The tomatoes are mostly used by the feeding centres and schools to make a sauce to accompany the pasta. Meatballs and hot dog sausages are also popular when cut into small pieces to top the pasta. Tuna and cooked ham can be used in a similar manner.

Quote from 6 year old Alex ‘I love pasta but I am still “getting used” to tuna!’



- PREPARING THE MILK AND PASTA FOR DISTRIBUTION -

MILK

Milk is still the most popular and expensive food we send. It costs almost £48 for a 52lb sack. This dried full cream milk is specially prepared for us in the New Year. Nearly all the dried milk stocked in shops is made from skimmed milk. Although not offering the same nutritional value, it is still good and any we are given will help a family. A problem with the milk we send is that we cannot buy it in modest quantities. It has to be bought in unit quantities of complete tons, costing £1890 each and no part tons. This often means facing up to a decision on sending more or less than we can really afford.

MAJOR FOOD NEEDS

With all food needs, quantity is preferred rather than quality. If you have nothing to eat the brand name is not important. It is better to feed two children rather than one. Anything with a sauce e.g. meatballs, tinned spaghetti etc mix well with pasta.

Pasta and Spaghetti	Tinned tomatoes and baked beans
Tinned meatballs, sausages, and tuna	Tinned vegetables and soups
Dried soups	Rice and Oats
Rice pudding	Powdered milk
Plain flour	Cooking oil
Sugar	Cereals
Drinking Chocolate	

BAKING

Several of the churches and projects wish to teach cooking and baking. They are looking for bowls, baking trays and bun tins. Large saucepans and frying pans are also needed.

CLOTHES FOR SCHOOL

Jeans are now used as school uniform by many of the rural schools. Here in England, children's jeans can be purchased from the large supermarkets, ranging from £4 to £5. We need ages six to fifteen. If anyone wants to help a child attend school, this would be a good purchase. They start school at the age of six. Whatever we send will fit someone! Second hand are also good.

Black shoes of any description, second hand, new, even plimsolls allow children to access school.

The white or blue school shirts help to achieve the same. They do not seem to have a preference for long or short sleeves so, if we are buying; we purchase whatever is going out of season in England that offers a good reduction in price. Dark blue is still the main school colour for skirts and dresses. In the mountain areas underclothes are very much valued, especially for the older girls. They have also asked for bras for the older girls.

Towels and bedding including blankets, knitted or ordinary, are needed in the high mountain areas.

SCHOOLS AND KINDER

Each child to attend school needs:- a rucksack, black shoes, paper pad or exercise books, pens, pencil, felt pens or crayons, 30cm ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener. The older children need a compass, protractor and set square.

SCHOOL NEEDS

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, sugar paper, marker pens, white board pens, blackboards, white boards, chalk, liquid paint, paper, exercise books or reporters pads (the cheapest). They also need equipment for the more specialised lessons.

- School Supplies e.g. Pens, pencils, felt pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, calculators, compasses, protractors, set squares, pencil cases etc.
- Paper is very expensive, so reporter's pads or exercise books are a great help to families. They also need individual glue sticks or containers of glue.
- For science; test tubes, thermometers, beakers, flasks, mesh and gauze for bunsen burners, tripods for burners, magnifying glasses, magnets, prisms, lenses, laboratory weighing machines for chemicals, microscopes, prepared microscope slides, basic electronics material, etc.
- The schools also like our wall charts and posters. Sometimes you can find them in Spanish in some of the shops. If they are in English they cover the writing over with Spanish. They also like pictures of animals and plants that they can display or cut up. Old calendars are good for this.
- Craft resources such as artist paint brushes, embroidery silks, large hole needles and other sewing needs, etc.
- Footballs make for great playtimes, great gifts for the boys as well as the old favourite, marbles. Like the UK, Honduras is football crazy. In addition to football boots, which are a real treat, they are also seeking football strip for

inter team events.

- Skipping ropes are popular with the girls. Also dolls, baby or Barbie are greatly loved by the girls.
- Recorders are an item asked for by many schools. They have recorder groups but lack enough recorders for the children. Guitars are also needed.

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

- Inexpensive digital watches for the older children.
- Large saucepans, jam pans or pressure cooker bases. These are needed for cooking lunch in the schools. Very large frying pans and catering size saucepans.

SHOWING THE WAY

The wind up lamps and torches continue to be popular in the poor areas where there is no electricity or money for batteries. The lamps we buy in bulk. I think this year they will cost about seven pounds due to increased costs. The torches are coming down in price and I managed to buy some from the pound shop. If you wish to purchase a lamp for us to send please send the money to me as soon as possible as we buy in January.



- A STUDENT USING THE NEW MICROSCOPE SENT FROM ENGLAND -

A NEED FOR BUILDING TOOLS__

Now that we are involved in building houses in Honduras, we have been asked for help in providing a large variety of tools. In the process of building the houses, young men are being trained in a range of building and plastering type skills. To do this they need the relevant tools, as used by the already skilled people.

List of tools needed for our building projects:

Wheel barrow	Cement mixer
Spades, shovels and Picks	Trowels, floats
Spirit Levels	Hammers (lump and claw)
Metal cutters	Hand saws
(shears, angle grinders)	Nails
Electric circular saws	Screws
and jig saws?	Tarpaulin
Door hinges, bolts and	Electric welder
locks	Garden hose
Plumbing wrench	Adjustable spanners
Garden secateurs	Rakes
Compressor for paint	Generator
spraying	Petrol can

GAZEBOS AND TARPAULINS__

We are still looking for gazebos and tarpaulins to guard against the strong rays and heat of the sun. Lorry curtains would also do the same task.

ROTAVATOR__

We sent four 8 horsepower petrol rotavators. These were asked for to help turn the ground, which is often very hard due to lack of water and the baking sun. Large areas of land are hard to till with only a spade or fork. We have sent them to areas where the students are working to provide food for the dining room.

We have since been asked for more, especially from the Orphanage, which has over 50 acres of land that is gradually being brought into cultivation. Small domestic rotavators are not capable of performing this task.

PETROL STRIMMERS__

These have been requested to cut down the grasses and weeds that grow prolifically during the rainy season. When the rains end, these weeds dry and

become a fire hazard, threatening crops and buildings. Again small domestic trimmers are not suitable for the scale of this task. Electric powered tools, again, are not suitable because of the lack of electricity supply and, where available, the supply standard (i.e. 110 Volts, 60 Hz). The trimmer type which uses metal cutters, rather than consumable chords, is preferred because obtaining replacement chord is likely to be a problem in Honduras.

NEW LIFE BLESSINGS

Our Honduran helpers have enjoyed giving out the baby bags and family bags that many of you make. They say that they often reduce the new mums to tears when they see the beautiful things given to them. We now have many ministries asking for these bags.



- A NEW MUM RECEIVING A BABY BAG -

CEILING FANS

Ceiling fans appear to work and are very welcome. These are more popular than table fans as they do not blow paper about and cover a larger area with a gentle breeze. Those with lights attached can be used without the lights.

BEAUTY PRODUCTS

Many are now asking for these items because they are running classes on hair care, nails and beauty care. This can give a girl the ability to earn a little money locally, helping to feed her and the family. Others may be sufficiently talented to start a small business. Also all the teenage girls like these things.

I am not asking for money to be put into these items as they do not rank high in our priority list. However, many people may have spare items in their possession that they might wish to donate. New and complete bottles are not important.

REDUNDANT CHARITY BAGS

We would like to receive any plastic charity bags that come through the door that you do not expect to use. This type of bag is well suited to wrap blankets for shipping and to line the banana boxes against absorbing damp during transit.

BENEFITS OF RECYCLE

Some of the clothes and shoes that we receive are not suitable to be sent to Honduras. We sell these on as recycle, much for distribution to more temperate climates. We have raised £2403.60 so far in 2012 this looks like being nearly £1000 down on 2011. Thank you to all who have helped with their contributions.

We are grateful to a Christian supporter skilled in a different kind of recycle process. He managed to convert a gold wedding ring we were given into £267 of additional funding!

FEBRUARY DELIVERIES TO DERBY

Please note the dates of receiving week in Derby. It is possible that it may be half term school holidays in your area. It varies around the country. I will not be available to come and meet people the week before 11th February. The unit will be open every Tuesday up to receiving week but not on other days. We will probably work the Saturday before Receiving Week, as well. If you wish to bring your things prior to receiving week that would be good but we are only open on a Tuesday. I need everyone's cooperation on this issue, as the pressure and demand on my time around this period is great. Deliveries on a Tuesday, before packing week arrives, helps to spread the load.



- RECEIVING A DOLL AND WELLINGTONS -



- USING COMPUTERS SENT FROM ENGLAND -

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

All cheques made payable to CH Trust please.

DATES FOR 2013

Receiving, Packing week **February 16th - 23rd excluding Sunday**
Loading Day **Saturday 23rd March**



- GIVING OUT PASTA AND MILK -