

Published by

Children Of Honduras Trust

Newsletter Sep 2020

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THE CHALLENGE OF 2020

The year 2019 ended in the usual way for CH Trust in Honduras, with the usual activities we do each year. 2020, as we know, has proved to be a very different year! The children started the new school year at the end of January, many with uniforms and school supplies provided by our sponsorship scheme. Within six weeks the country was in a complete lockdown, has remained in that state for many months and is still ongoing. Lockdown, started on the 19th March, is still in place in August at the time of writing. People have not even been allowed out to exercise and most do not have books to read or internet connection. The other thing that they lack is food.

However, many good things happened before lockdown, some of which are mentioned below. And then Covid-19!

FOOD BAGS TO HELP AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas now seems a long way away and in a different world. It was a time



- CESAR DELIVERING AN EMERGENCY FOOD BAG -

when we could get food to children and into children. At the end of term, CH Trust gives out food bags to many children to take home. The end of the school year, at the close of November, finished with over 2050 food bags being given to the children to take home to their families.

Luis, who works with schools in the poor areas on the outskirts of Tegucigalpa, gave out 1050 bags of basic foods at the end of term, divided between four schools. Similarly, Cesar gave out food bags in the Valle area and to the Lenca and Tolupan people.

SCHOOL PARTIES

The long Christmas school holiday stretches from the end of November to the end of January. During this time, especially in the poor areas where we provide food to the primary schools, food at home can be in short supply. The school Christmas party dinner, which is held anytime during December and January is always anticipated with excitement. Those involved with food in each school meet together to plan the menu. Each school is allocated the same amount of money for each child. Some schools stew their chicken, some buy it in already cooked and coated with breadcrumbs. Chicken in Honduras is special and not available in many homes. The common factor in the menus is that they usually include two small tortillas and a piece of fruit. The children may enjoy a fruit drink. This often comes in a bag and will be partially if not fully frozen. This provides a cold drink and lollipop all in one. Even though we are providing the essentials for the children, we are also making memories. I received an e-mail over Christmas. In it, Lourdes remembers Christmas past, when she lived at the Orphanage about 25 years ago.

'First thanks to you, and CH Trust for all that help you have given us in Honduras. I remember the containers coming to the Orphanage. That it was fantastic because we knew already that we would have clothes and shoes for Christmas. You do not know how many hearts of children you made happy with those presents and with the container clothes. It was an unforgettable time of year. That's why you and everyone who makes these projects possible, both now and in the past, live in our memories.'

FEEDING CENTRES STEP INTO THE GAP

Our feeding centres are even more important over the long school holidays. These have been instrumental in meeting the need, when the children are unable to get any food from the schools that we supply. For many poor families, Christmas

time can be characterised by hunger rather than as a time of plenty.

Our four feeding centres operate an open table. This means that any child of any age can come and eat at them. The centres operate twice or three times a week.

FOOD IS PURCHASED AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR TO PROVIDE THEIR LUNCHES

As the new term starts in 2020, we are supplying food to the schools we support in the poor areas. We now have an extra school, the Jenny Smith school. Since June 2019 the mums have been cooking our food in their homes and bringing it to the children at the Jenny Smith School. For some of the mums it can be a long walk, with a pot full of food. We could not start providing meals at the start of the school year in February 2019. At this point the teacher, pupils and parents school committee were all new to the job. Consequently, it took time for all of them to start to work together and also find a team of volunteer mums to cook the food. The system is now fully up and running well.

HELP FOR THE LENCA AND TOLUPAN PEOPLE

On the January visit to the Lenca people Cesar bought and gave out young hens. These younger birds cost less and so more can be bought with our money. I asked why he was giving out a single hen to people. He laughed and had to remind me that these people live in hamlet sized communities to work the land and keep hens communally within the group of homes. This meant that each person with a hen would take it back and put it with the others to make a small flock for the group of homes.

During the year, Cesar had taken extra trips to the Lenca and Tolupan communities with food bags for the families and biscuits and juice for the children, who have walked with their mothers and waited for the arrival of the lorry or trucks. They will probably have had to wait for a long time. Travel times are not exact in Honduras, even if they had watches! These two trips to distribute food bags during the festive season will have cost about £6500. A lot of money but it will have fed about 9000 adults and children. What a gift at this special time of year. Not much in each bag but it means so much to each desperate family.

On one trip up to the Lencas he managed to take 800 food bags, 200 fruit trees and two mini libraries for two different Lenca schools. I learnt that Santos, our chief builder, originates from this area and has made several trips. This particular trip was marked by very cold weather and a clinging damp mist. Looking at the



- SOME OF THE LENCA RECEIVING TREES -



- LENCA CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD BAGS -

photos, you wonder how cold some of these people and children must feel. They do not have the thick clothing needed to keep out the cold.

A WATER TANK TO SUPPLY THE LENCA COMMUNITY

Santos was needed on the above trip, as we are looking into piping water from the local reservoir to the Lenca community in this area. You might ask why a children's charity is trying to supply water? Currently we need to take bags of basic foods three times a year to this community, because most of the children and adults suffer from malnutrition, as defined by the world health organisation. However, transporting bags of food for six or seven hours, three times a year is not moving these people forward in terms of food security. Two years ago, we bought seed so that they could grow their own food. In terms of cost, seed is easier to carry and produces more food. Sadly, we found that the corn and beans failed due to lack of rain. The smaller seed crops did better. Since then we have supplied small seeds and fruit trees. The Lencas are an agriculture based people, who need to grow saleable crops in order to survive.

Water is a problem in this drought corridor, which stretches across parts of Latin America. So, we started looking into how the Lenca situation might be improved. We were told that there was a reservoir nearby, so Cesar and Paulino the Mayor started asking questions and looking for answers. Paulino journeyed to the capital, Tegucigalpa, to get permission from the government department to access water from the reservoir. This happens to be the office where Ada, Cesar's sister, works. Permission was granted but the need remains to transport the water and store it.

During the trip, they visited a block built tank that was built 36 years ago. Sadly, it leaks badly and so is not fit for purpose. Cesar took a qualified engineer with him to inspect this tank and advise on the project. The conclusion was that the tank could be patched up but it would only be good for about two years. Ideally, we need to build a new tank. We began looking to build a tank the same size but the people requested one half as big again. This is understandable as the more water they have, the more crops they can grow. The other consideration is that water is only turned on for a few hours on relatively few days, so you have to collect as much as possible. I remember visiting a pastor and his wife many years ago. They had a pila, a large concrete tank, like a tall horse trough. They had a hose pipe in the corner with a trickle of water coming out all the time. This is typical of the water supply in Honduras. No pressure! You rejoice if water comes out of the tap. The water pressure is virtually non-existent unless you have

a header tank. Such tanks can only be afforded by the financially well off.

Under guidance, the community will provide all the labour needed to help keep the cost down. We learnt that there was piping in place from the reservoir to the tank but this will probably need replacing in places. I dream that one day I will be able to stop taking bags of food to the Lenca community, in La Paz, because they will no longer need them. This is the aim of the project.

On this visit they took 200 fruit trees of varying varieties. These are usually given out one per family but they farm communally and so they aim to always have a crop in season as the trees mature. This trip included lemon grass plus a fruit used for juice that I have not heard before. The others are the more common fruits such as oranges, lemons, Guava and mangos.

THE BATTLE AGAINST COVID-19

In Honduras, the health service is very fragile. It has been seriously degraded over the years by corruption. The entire country can only field ten working ventilators. The country has been in lockdown since to 19th March. The poor, as usual, are very badly affected. They cannot go out to work. With no store cupboard and no money to buy food, many are going hungry including the children. A donation of money had been given to the government to buy food for the poor during lockdown. This money has been given to the Mayors to spend and distribute. The mayor for the Valle area is excellent and has been working with CH Trust for many years. It was Will, the mayor, who closed the state park so that we could use it to unload our containers during the latter years of sending. He asked Cesar for advice, as where to buy food at the best prices and how to buy and bag it for distribution, in the same way that is done for CH Trust. The problem, as always, is that there is not enough money to buy food for all in need, even though the bags of food are smaller than those we provide. There was only enough to help 3000 families, which is nowhere near meeting the need. The Government has only made this one donation in five months.

Honduras does not have any structure for social support so, if you do not have money, you may starve. There must be a lot of desperate mothers in Honduras who have no money and cannot get out earning any to buy food.

One person per household is allowed out on one day per week, between 6am and 3pm, to buy food or do other priority jobs like going to the bank or pharmacy. The day on which you can go out is determined by your ID card number, which

will be checked by the army, who are policing the streets. The road between the Valle de Angeles village and the capital is closed and controlled by the police. At the bottom of the hill, where it joins the city ring road, the army is in charge.

SCHOOL FOOD - PLAN B!__

There was CH Trust sourced food remaining in the schools and feeding centres when lockdown started. Cesar provides food to them in batches intended to last about three months. The teachers are organising distribution of this remaining food to the families most in need. This has to be organised on the day that the head teacher is allowed out. Unfortunately, it is too early in the year to be harvesting any food from the school gardens. In fact, it is the time when they should be planting seeds.



- OUR FOOD DELIVERY AT SABANETA SCHOOL -

Sabaneta usually feeds 77 children from their own school, including kinder. They also feed 10 children who walk past their school on their way to college each day. These are children they know who desperately need that meal.

Cesar is coordinating the schools. Many children from Chiquestepi and Guanacaste walk for two hours to catch the bus to college and two hours home again. This is why we like to sponsor children for education. They work so hard to receive an education, even though many parents cannot afford to buy the school books they need. No text books are provided by the school.

At the start of lockdown, the school hen houses were still being run by volunteers. The eggs were collected and distributed to those with the greatest need. For the first time, some hens are being raised for meat. I gave permission to have some killed and given to families who had nothing else. This will also happen to hens that have stopped laying. As the lockdown continues all hens have been killed and used for food because of the problems of feeding and possible theft. These will be restocked when schools reopen.

After lockdown ends, many will not have jobs to go to. No job means no food. The sugar factory, which employs a large number of people from the rural areas during and around the Easter period, was only allowed to employ a few key people to work the machinery. The income from the sugar factory employment allows many families to manage for the whole year. This will not happen this year. There is also a risk that the company will decide that they can manage without the local labour in future years. Such a decision would impact Guanacaste, Sabaneta, Chiquistepe, Pedrigal and Naranjal i.e. all the villages where we feed children in the schools or run feeding centres.

What I like about the poor of Honduras is that they are always ready to give to the family with the most need. Cesar once took a single mattress from the containers up to the Lencas. However, there was a problem. A large number of people but only one mattress! When he asked for advice, they were all in agreement. 'Give it to that lady as she needed it the most'. They could all have made good use of that mattress.

EMERGENCY FOOD BAGS

Cesar was granted permission by the authorities to purchase 1000 food bags and to distribute them over three days to five different locations around the Valle. One week later, he and three friends took trucks down to Comayaguela, to pick up the food bags from where he usually buys them. The police escorted them down the mountain and the army accompanied them across Tegucigalpa into Comayaguela!

Before he arrived to collect the food from the bodega, the purchase had already helped several families i.e. the owners of the store and the people they employed to help bag the food. The individual food bags containing red beans, rice and flour had to be created by the staff from the large sacks bought in by the shop. They also employed some men to help load the vehicles. The exercise has helped to keep the food supply chain moving as replacement stocks of food are brought

to the bodega to sell.

We have been able to buy the food at cost price plus a little, as CH Trust is a good loyal customer and the owner likes what we are doing. Each food bag costs us £6.73. It can sell at nearly double that price in the smaller shops found in the rural areas. Food is not cheap in Honduras.

The owner of the bodega, where they bought the bags, sent CH Trust a video thanking us for the custom. She said that it helped to keep them in business in hard times, as well as allowing them to employ others to help put the bags together to meet the order. Each person employed is feeding at least one family.

Below is a translation of the video by the daughter of the owner of the wholesale store, where Cesar buys the bags of food put together for him.

“Good morning friends from England. I am the daughter of the shop owner where we are packing the products. We are very grateful that all of you were able to give work to many people who need work. We know these bags are given to the families that need them the most in Honduras and we know that during this crisis these people will be as grateful as we are. Thank you for your help. God will bless you.”



- CESAR COLLECTING FOOD BAGS FROM THE BODEGA -

Cesar was distressed that he could not give a few bags to ladies who came up to them as they loaded the trucks with bags. The army personnel would not allow it, as they said it could create an uncontrollable crowd. The escort went in reverse order back up the mountain where they unloaded the trucks onto a tarpaulin behind closed gates of Cesar's house. Early the next morning they reloaded the trucks and three of them went to deliver the bags.

The bags of food contained rice, red beans, flour, spaghetti, a sachet of sauce for the pasta, special tortilla flour, salt, stock cubes, and a few coffee sachets.

Cesar said,

"I would like to share with you the blessing you give to the Honduran families."

Speaking to Cesar he explains that the bags provide food that could last 2 weeks to a month depending on family size. How is that possible? Because people will probably cook the things one at a time. Red beans, when cooked, can last a long time, maybe up to a week. They can be eaten as they are, they can be eaten as soup, they can be mashed with a stock cube to make a meal. Rice can be cooked alone or with a vegetable or a stock cube or just boiled and can be eaten with beans etc.

The flour can be made into porridge with water and sugar. Flour tortillas are very filling. Maseca tortillas are often eaten with a coffee as a breakfast. When people have very little food, they often start the day with just a coffee.

In two days, they had given out all 1000 food bags. Cesar phones ahead to several areas, telling people that he will be calling. On the way, he gives out some others. He even made a separate journey to an old couple he knew would not be able to reach any of his drop-off points.

Within weeks, Cesar had bought a second 1000 food bags to be delivered to other villages in need. Cesar and his helpers should be much fitter after delivering 2000 food bags. Some deliveries had to be made up long steep paths, to ensure that no one was left out that needed their help.

THIRD 1000 BAGS

Cesar requested money to buy a third round of 1000 food bags, as some villages still had not received any. He ordered the food bags as usual and was going



**- DELIVERING FOOD BAGS TO
OUT OF THE WAY LOCATIONS -**



- RECEIVING MUCH NEEDED FOOD -

to pick them up on the Monday morning. However, as bad weather had been forecast, Friday suddenly found them with three trucks outside the food bodega wanting to be loaded with their food bags. The bags were not ready, so they helped put them together. The trucks were loaded and tarpaulins attached before the first heavy rain storm hit. Six o'clock next morning found the three men delivering the food bags up into the mountains above the Valle. Sunday saw the last of the bags delivered, which were much appreciated by the recipient families. Monday saw the remnants of Hurricane Hannah cross Honduras, unloading five days of continuous heavy rain and causing much flooding. Honduras is exiting from a year of severe drought, which has caused crop losses and famine. Now it has been inundated with heavy continuous rain, leaving the soil 90% saturated and the rivers in flood, overflowing in many areas. Cyclone Amanda also came in from the west, travelled through El Salvador and exited east as tropical storm Cristobel into the bay of Mexico. It stalled here and dumped large amounts of rain in the area. The met office is forecasting a further three months of rain for Honduras and the possibility of a Hurricane affecting the country during the course of the year.



**- THIS GRATEFUL MUM LOOKS ON AS HER SON
EATS THE FOOD WE PROVIDED
ON THE DAY OF THE CHILD AT
NICOLAS URQUIETA SCHOOL NEAR THE CAPITAL-**

This is a quote from one of the ladies who received a food bag.

"Friends of England I would like to thank God and all of you for the family bag as this

is a great blessing for us, even if you had provided just a little, a bag of coffee is still a blessing from God. May God bless you today and always.”

The food bags are consuming a lot of money. But how better can we use it than feeding desperate families and hungry children? The three thousand bags of food that Cesar and friends delivered were to 3000 different families in the many villages around the Valle area. He has requested another 500 bags to take to villages that did not receive them on previous deliveries. This can be challenging e.g.Sabaneta have barricaded the road into their village in an effort to keep the virus out.



**- CESAR AND HIS CHILDREN PUTTING
FOOD BAGS TOGETHER -**

COPING WITH COVID-19

I would like to share with you some very pleasing news I heard from Honduras this week, in spite of the virus which continues to rage. The country is still enduring severe lockdown, with only one person per household allowed out once in two weeks, on the day the government declares, as dictated by the end number



**- MOTHER AND CHILDREN
RECEIVING A FOOD BAG -**



- JERONIMO DISTRIBUTING FOOD BAGS -

on their ID cards. The country has now been in lock down since mid-March, about the same time as when the UK started. The situation is interfering with the work of CH Trust in a number of ways.

One of the Tegucigalpa suburbs, Comayaguela, is a hot spot for the virus. As a result, Cesar is unable to reach the vendor, where he buys the food for the food bags. So, he has lots of plans but is unable to implement them!

Pastor Jeronimo, who lives near La Ceiba, on the north coast, runs a feeding centre with CH Trust food twice a week from the church. In order to beat the lockdown problem, he has now been able to persuade someone with a vehicle to take him to buy sacks of food, which he then puts into plastic bags and distributes to 50 families. He normally does this once a month with money CH Trust provides. In passing, he comments on the resourcefulness of the people. There is a lake nearby, where people during the crisis have been catching fish to eat, sell or trade for other food items.

And now for other good news! With the help of Glenda who translates for me, I then spoke to Angelica and Pastor Felix who work in an area not far from the Valle de Angeles. Glenda not only translates the Spanish for me but also understands the culture and how things work in her home country, Honduras. Her input is always very valuable as you cannot always transfer things across cultures or from wealthy countries to poor countries successfully.

Pastor Felix and Angelica usually run a feeding centre, twice a week, which is open to all children in the area of any age. As the economic situation in Honduras has worsened the numbers have grown to the extent that they have been feeding 150 children twice a week with food provided by CH Trust. As a result of lockdown, this operation has had to be suspended. They have not withdrawn any of our money from the bank since May. I thought that their work had stalled as the children are not allowed out from home. It transpires that they had not withdrawn money from the bank because it is not near to where they live. Currently there is no public transport, so they would have to take a very expensive taxi. They have overcome the interruption in funding by borrowing cash from the church and buying the food locally. The diet may have had to change somewhat but it has helped the local economy. Having bought food to feed the children with the equivalent of their monthly allowance, they cook it in their own home. Six ladies from the church then come and collect it. The ladies go out in twos and visit three different areas to deliver the food to the children at their homes.

The system works like this. The children sit outside their home with a plate or dish. When the ladies arrive, they place a portion of food onto the plate and move onto the next home. In this way they feed 150 children, three days a week. That one plate of food will be shared with everybody. Many families will not have anything to eat at all some days.



- CHILDREN FED BY FELIX'S TEAM -

I was so impressed by what they were achieving, I enquired if it was possible to cook and distribute more food if we bought it. The answer was yes. They could manage an extra day as there were many ladies in the church who would help them with the cooking and food distribution. So, they will now receive food four days a week instead of three.

To date, CH Trust has not included Pedrigal in our distribution of food bags in the Valle area. In response to lockdown, Pastor Felix and Angelica bagged and gave out the remaining unused food (from the feeding centre) to provide some relief to struggling families. They also made us aware that many families had nothing to eat in their homes and requested help. So, we authorised the funds to provide basic food bags, the contents of which will just contain three different items, rice, red beans and tortilla flour. This will help relieve the hunger of some 100 families in the area. The contents have been selected to feed the largest number of people possible for the longest amount of time out of the available budget. It would seem that in this crisis, many families do not eat some days because there is no food and no money. This has now been going on for months

and the government does not provide any help. Many families are therefore in desperate need of food of any sort.

Because it was on a relatively small scale and only consisted of the main three basic items, we hope to be able to do the same again in the near future. I do find it difficult to make decisions about such requests at a moment's notice on a phone call! I assume that the food bags have now been eaten. In considering such requests, I also have to balance what is being given in other villages by CH Trust. We still have a problem with moving large amounts of cash from the bank to the village but this normalises out over several visits. We hope to provide more food bags into this area. Although it is a crop growing area, the summer has been so hot and dry that the crops have failed through lack of water.

As you have read, during the month of May, we gave out 3000 food bags into the Valle area villages. We have now bought and given out rising 8000 food bags since the end of November 2019 and I do not think we have finished yet!

VICENTE COLLEGE ANNUAL OUTING 2019

Each year Luis organises a trip for the teenage students at Vicente College to celebrate the 'day of the child'. The pupils are chosen from the 150 students we feed on a daily basis at the college. These students are from the poorest homes.

The trip is always to Picacho, as there are few places to take teenagers to. It is not too far from the capital and has both animals as well as a nice park area with views of the capital below. Only 60 students are chosen each year so that different students go each year.

LUIS WROTE

'Thank you for making this a possibility each year for the students. A day that will stay in their memories for many years into the future. The day they visited Picacho with their friends.'

HOUSE BUILDING GOES ON

The one thing that is still going ahead is construction, or was up to the last information I received! This means that our house building continues. Several houses are nearing completion and a single room house just started. These single room houses are a bit like a bed sit but include a covered lean-to area which is used for washing and cooking. As the family prospers, at a later time, this

cooking area is often enclosed to make another room.

This one room home gives a family a safe place to live that is rent free and theirs for the rest of their lives. What a gift! We cannot appreciate the pressure many ladies in Honduras live under, when they have to find rent each month. In circumstances where work is scarce, no money for rent can put the family out on the street with belongings, small children and all. Often, these new homes have also provided shelter and safety for other family members. Each year a few more families receive the security of their own home. On average we build ten or twelve houses each year. In total, we have now built about 120 houses

The reason for building a house for one lady is that the property she currently lives in has become dangerously unsafe. It is an old adobe house, one built with mud bricks. When the house is no longer water tight, due to aging of the roof, the mud bricks start to crumble and collapse. A condition is reached when the crumbling walls suddenly allow the roof supports to collapse, with the prospect of injuring or killing its occupants. The lady in question has two children. The mayor has gifted a piece of land to her on the understanding that CH Trust was prepared to build her a house. We are thankful that her new house is currently under construction

MARY'S DINING ROOM AT GUANACASTE

Guanacaste asked for a kitchen and dining area to feed the children. This is one of our favourite villages as the people are so organised and proactive, even though they are one of the poorest villages. They add value to any help we give them by contributing with their own efforts. The dining room was built onto the back of a classroom, so that was one less wall to build. It also had a foundation and floor, so these all saved money. They were using the dining room before it was finished as repairs were being made to one of the classrooms. They held their Christmas party dinner in this area but without the railings that make up the fourth wall of the room. This allows the children to feel outside when having to eat inside because of the hot sun or heavy rain. The kitchen has open areas instead of walls for the upper half and these have been covered by fine mesh to keep out insects. A double stainless steel drainer has been fitted and a concrete serving area, which Cesar has promised to tile so that it is clean and easy to wipe down.

When Will, the Mayor of the Valle, saw the dining room that we had built at Guanacaste school, he was so impressed that he promised build a playground for the children. The children call it a basketball pitch. These are not cheap to build

because they consist of boulders, sand, wire mesh grid and lots of concrete. Cesar recently advised us that Will has now fulfilled this promise. Cesar said that CH Trust encourages Will to greater investments in the schools we support. When people see something good being done it seems to make others want to add value. We saw this with Jenny Smith School and the Sabaneta dining room.

Macuelizo is now waiting their turn for a dining room but this I believe to be a complete new build and therefore more expensive.



- CHILDREN EATING IN MARY'S DINING ROOM -

THINKING ABOUT SPONSORSHIP

As the school term starts, we sponsor many children with specific money given for this purpose. (£60 one off payment for the year). In some cases we also use money from general funds to purchase two items of uniform for, say, an unsponsored child from a poor struggling family, to allow them to access education. This is often shoes and trousers or a skirt and rucksack. For older students it is often a text book that they have to provide for their studies. This allows more children from poor families to access education. Without such help families often have to choose which of their children can attend school, or they will alternate their children, giving each a turn for a year in school. This lacks continuity and is very hard on the children trying to pass the end of year exams.

As with all things in 2020, sponsorship will be different for Honduras this year. Some of you will have had information about the children you have sponsored. This information was received from Luis and Cesar prior to their lockdown. We have not received anything from the other ministries, as yet, because Honduras remains in lockdown. Can I please apologise to those of our sponsors who have not received any feedback on their child for this year. As you have just read, this is a direct result of the Honduras lockdown. As information becomes available, I will circulate it to you.

My sponsorship proposal for the year 2020/2021 is based on the following considerations. While Honduras remains in lockdown, the children are being given 'homework' by their schools. As you have probably guessed, the children we sponsor do not have the ability to receive lessons remotely via modern technology and are therefore largely missing out.

Currently, there are no plans to open schools. Even if they were, many of the parents would not be prepared to risk sending their children back to school, in circumstances where there is little or no health care available.

Most people have had no work and therefore no pay for six months now. Many will not have a job to go back to when the lockdown is eased. This means that they are struggling to feed themselves and will have no money for things such as school uniform. I am hoping the government will bear this in mind and relax some of the uniform rules. Even if they do, the children still need shoes, rucksack, exercise books, glue, crayons etc. in order to function at school.

If those of you who sponsor agree, I would like to open up the money you give for one child and extend its use to provide for more than one child. I am proposing that the child you usually sponsor receives the minimum needed to attend school and any remaining money be used to help provide school necessities for other children.

My thinking is that during the lockdown a child will not have used their rucksack, skirt, trousers and shirts etc. The shoes will probably have been outgrown and handed down to another sibling or, in the rural schools, they will need replacing because they have been worn in the process of collecting their schoolwork from the teachers. Similarly, the boys may have grown out of their trousers but other clothing will still be good. School uniform is precious and removed from a child immediately on their return home from school, including the shoes. This helps



- SPONSORED CHILDREN AT GUANACASTE -



**- SPONSORED CHILDREN WITH RUCKSACKS
CONTAINING SCHOOL ESSENTIALS -**

to keep things in good condition. So, although all the children will need school supplies, some of their current kit can be used going forward, thus releasing 'replacement' money to assist others.

If you are not happy for your 2021 sponsorship money to be used in this wider way, please inform Mick Liggins or myself, so that your wish can be honoured. For the immediate future, my aim is to exploit the school 'timeout' to help as many children as possible to access education. I am also setting up an education fund for those who want to give into this special need.

(The effect of my scheme on sponsors should be invisible. Visibility of the specific child (children) that you sponsor will remain as before). The child you usually sponsor will be given first what they require, before looking to help other children in desperate need. The sponsorship scheme will return to normal in due course.

If you have not already done so, can I please remind you that it would be a great help if you can forward your sponsorship money for 2020/2021 by November 2020 if possible. Many thanks for your support of this life changing benefit to the children of Honduras.

Payment Address:

Mr M Liggins, 3 Stewart Close, Spondon, Derby, DE21 7EG

Email: sponsorship@chtrust.org.uk Telephone: 07811006196

Sponsorship Account

Bank - NatWest sort code 55-50-53 account number 64612155 account name CH Trust Sponsorsip (this is the correct spelling of Sponsorship for the account).

A NEW WATER PROJECT FOR RETIRO

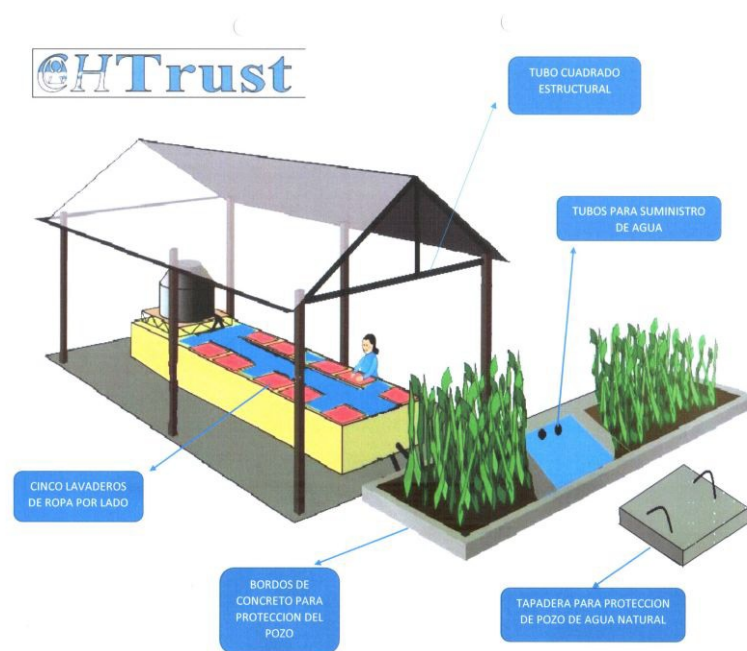
The village of Retiro lacks water services because of the remoteness of the village and because the village has been abandoned by the authorities. The community have tapped into a natural water source in the ground, which they have protected with a sheet of metal. People bring their water containers and fill them with the jug and funnel kept by the water source. Several residents said that they had intestinal problems from time to time but this is their only water supply.

The run-off from the water supply is collected in a large square area, which the

ladies use for washing their clothes. There are four stone pilas that the women use to wash their clothes upon. The ladies asked if a shelter could be built over them as they are working in the blazing sun or torrential rain depending on the season. More pilas would be good as the early morning is a prime time to wash when it is cooler, for this hard physical work which is not a quick job.

This area serves over 120 families and 60 children from this community and the ladies have asked if they could be considered for help to build cubicles for the women and girls to shower.

Cesar has designed a covered area which houses a large water tank which will store the drinking water. They plan to chlorinate the water in the tank weekly. The water source is completely covered and protected. They will now have ten covered pilas instead of the four they currently have. The only item not planned for yet is shower cubicles for the girls and ladies.



- ILLUSTRATION OF THE PROPOSED WATER PROJECT -

JENNY SMITH SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas decorations were made by the pupils at Jenny Smith School. Not only are they a nice gift to take home to take pride of place but it also shows the interaction of parents and community with the new school. The villages have also worked together with the help of a tractor, to create a path for the children to walk to school from one of the villages. In various ways we are empowering their

community. They are learning that if they work together they can achieve much more than they ever thought.

Christmas was a busy building time for the school due to the school holidays. During the previous term a kinder building was erected. This has turned out to be a tall building, looking like a Norman fortification! It is tall because it had to be built at the bottom of the site, which is also the bottom of the hill. It is one large room with its own toilets. It has a covered outdoor area where the Children can play and eat their lunch. The other less exciting but large construction job was the surfacing of the two large playgrounds. I thought this was just the laying of a bit of concrete on the ground. In actuality, it consisted of flattening the ground then laying sand and small boulders before the layers of concrete could be put on top. This was an area equivalent to two large adult swimming pools. The last thing to add to the school was the top soil donated by the Mayor Will for the school vegetable garden. This was shovelled from the road onto the garden area. Unfortunately all the schools were closed before anything could be planted this year.

The school has had no children since mid March. Even so, one of the parents who helped build the school has organised the planting of sweet corn in the school garden which is growing nicely. Cesar will go down to take photos when the children and parents enjoy the fruits of their harvest. Cesar calls this his SICORE CH Trust programme. This stands for Sow, Harvest, Reproduce, Hand in Hand with CH Trust. At the time of writing he was requesting permission to buy vegetable seeds for 1000 families in the Valle area. He had already taken mixed seeds and trees to the Lencas. He has also requested 300 trees for the Valle area families. Lockdown has taught them that things growing in your own garden provides much needed food.

SCHOOLING AT HOME

Cesar asked if we could buy two photocopy printers for the Guanacaste school. The lockdown will soon have lasted six months and the children have not been able to attend school. The teachers have been copying the school work for each child, each week, and assembling it into packs for collection by the children from the school or teacher's house at a specified times. The teachers have been paying to get sheets photocopied for the children but have come to the end of their resources. They asked the parents if they could make a small contribution but with six months without work or pay they cannot afford food let alone items for education.



- THE NEW KINDER BUILDING -



- INSIDE THE NEW KINDER -

I told Cesar, yes, we were happy to purchase these items. I am not sure why they need two machines but Cesar is so frugal with our money that they must be needed. When asked, Cesar started to explain how the school system worked in normal times. The children work from a manual that covers four subjects and lasts a year. The manuals are designed for a child to fill in the answers directly into the manual. This is problematic because the schools are not able to provide a manual for each child. Thus, they have to share a manual and copy their work out of it into their exercise book, to complete in class or as home work, depending on the lesson. This accounts for why they need so many exercise books per child. In lockdown, the teachers have to photocopy and send the work for the four subjects out to the children, as they are not in class to copy it from the manuals. Since the manuals are not written in, it also means that the manuals can be used again. The paper and ink consumed by the photocopiers amounts to £60 per month for 50 children. Double for Guanacaste, who have 110 pupils. Cesar commented on how hard the teachers have been working but they are limited by resources. This situation will be replicated in many rural schools that are ‘forgotten’ by the government. However, we can help those we know and support.

UPDATE ON MINI LIBRARIES

The books that we have bought for the school mini libraries, which is an ongoing project, have been very useful in lockdown. The teachers have been able to lend books out to pupils to read at home. I am sure they will also have been read by or read to other siblings, not to mention the parents. The books were considered too valuable a resource to be lent to pupils in their homes but lockdown has forced the teachers’ hands, to the great benefit of many a family’s education.

IN CONCLUSION

I would like to finish with these quotes:

JERONIMO ON THE NORTH COAST, WHO PASTORS A CHURCH AND RUNS ONE OF OUR FEEDING CENTRES, WROTE:

“I want to tell you that I have already withdrawn the money and purchased and delivered 50 bags of food, benefiting 50 families in this way. It was very surprising, the strong reaction of the parents, when receiving their food bag. I also made an effort to go deliver the food bag to each home, with the help of 2 members from the church, We are happy to be channels of blessing for other people but it is only possible thanks to you and CH Trust. All families appreciate the help you give for them.”



- GIVING A MINI LIBRARY TO A LENCA SCHOOL -

It felt good to hear that the money provided by CH Trust is helping so many desperate people. Thank you for providing that money, which continues to be sent to Honduras at this time of great need. It is only through your generosity that CH Trust can meet the challenge. I am sure you will agree that your contribution is making a difference to the lives of many children and families in Honduras.

This is a quote from one of the ladies who received a food bag.

“Friends of England I would like to thank God and all of you for the family bag as this is a great blessing for us, even if you had provided just a little, a sachet of coffee is still a blessing from God. May God bless you today and always.”

The food bags are consuming a lot of money but can we use it better than feeding desperate families and hungry children?

Cesar wrote,

‘How can we ever say thank you enough for the love and compassion CH Trust has shown to the poor in Honduras.’

On behalf of CH Trust:

Thank you for making it possible to feed thousands of families living in extreme poverty, who are without food. It has been my privilege to send out your gifts of money that have helped so many and in so many different ways as you have read.

May God bless you as you have blessed others with your donations.

Jenn

GIFT CARDS, ALTERNATIVE PRESENTS

This year the alternative present gift cards that sell at £5 have been reduced to things that we know will be happening in the foreseeable future.

INVEST IN A CHILD

The card that Hannah Smith, Jenny's daughter, established last year will be used to purchase shoes and school supplies for children who do not receive our educational sponsorship. There will be a lot of children who need exercise books, glue, pens crayons, that their parents cannot afford, and shoes to either attend school or walk to the teacher house to pick up their weeks school work.

A BAG OF FOOD FOR A FAMILY IN NEED

There will be an increased large number of desperate families in need of food this year as so many have lost their jobs and no work means no food. Many who worked in the city have lost jobs. This cascades down to the ladies who feed their children by taking in washing and ironing. No work in the city means no money to pay to have your washing and ironing done.

FRUIT TREES

Cesar takes 200 fruit trees every time he visits the Lenca communities. He is planning to give out trees in the villages in the Valle area. During the lockdown people have realised that anything that grows in your garden can be eaten or bartered for other food. The demand for trees has grown.

ONE CHICKEN FOR A FAMILY

Cesar is still giving hens to the Lenca people when he can purchase them in La Paz.

VEGETABLE SEEDS

We are buying seeds for the Lenca people also for a 1000 families in the Valle area. Seeds can mean food for the future even if they cannot find paid work.

As it is unlikely that we will have a Honduras Evening this year if you would like to buy cards please write or phone. The details are on the front of this Newsletter. Payment to C H Trust by cheque or bank transfer. Bank details on bottom of standing order form at back of newsletter.

TWO CHICKENS AND A COCKEREL (£15)

Buying two chickens and a cockerel provides the start of a breeding set of birds.

GIFT AID

Please check that you are still able to gift aid donations to us if you have signed a declaration in the past.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Donations can be made online via GoFundMe. Unfortunately, Wonderful.org was a victim of the Covid-19 crisis and is no longer available.

You can reach the fund raiser for CH Trust on GoFundMe here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/Honduras-Covid-19-Crisis>

Amazon Smile has raised £30.49 for CH Trust between 1st April and 30th June 2020. Thank you to all those who have chosen to support CH Trust via smile. If don't currently support us via Amazon Smile, but would like to, please go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> and follow the instructions. We are registered with Amazon Smile as "Ch Trust (Children Of Honduras Trust)".

BANK TRANSFERS

If you want to make a donation to CH Trust via a direct bank transfer, our bank account details can be found at the bottom of the Standing Order Form on the inside back page.



- SPONSORED CHILDREN AT TABLON SCHOOL -



- A WELCOME EMERGENCY FOOD BAG -

DONATION FORM

Please complete the form below and return with your donation. Please make cheques payable to "CH Trust". Address on the front cover.

I would like to:

- Donate to the General Fund

- Sponsor _____ (Number of children) with a full/half sponsorship for the next academic year

I have enclosed £ _____

STANDING ORDER FORM

Standing Order	
I wish to support CH Trust for	£ <input type="text"/>
Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Annually <input type="checkbox"/>	
Starting on <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> and thereafter until further notice	
To the Manager Bank/Building Society	

Address: _____	

_____ Postcode: _____	
Your account details	
Name of Account Holder(s): _____	
Your Account No.	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Sort Code	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Signature(s): _____	Date: _____
To (Bank) Name: HSBC	Sort Code: 40-19-37
Account No: 61589865	Account Name: CH TRUST



**- YOUR SUPPORT ENABLING
MORE HUNGRY CHILDREN TO BE FED -**

GIFT AID FORM

If you are able and willing to grant to us Gift Aid, please complete the authorisation form below and send it with your donation.

I would like Gift Aid to be authorised for:-
(please tick all boxes you wish to apply).

- Today
- Back dated for the last four years
- For the future

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax each tax year.
I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1

Signature

Date

Address

Postcode

Please notify the charity if you decide to cancel this declaration or change your name or address or no longer pay sufficient tax.
