



# Trujillo Christian School

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TCS Newsletter Spring 2014

## Start-up for school year 2014



Our greatest joy is to know that we have a new babe in Christ; to be able to witness the event is an added blessing! One of the main goals of the Trujillo Christian School is to strengthen the local church through daily bible teaching at the school.

**We thank you on behalf of the Trujillo community for your continued support that makes it all possible.**

## Oversite Visit

Two of the elders (Jack Vanderpool and Irvin Jones) from the West Metro church made a visit to the school at the start of the 2014 school year. We are very encouraged with the positive attitudes and positive outlook exhibited by the teachers and administrators of TCS. The overall evaluation for the trip was that it was the best visit we have experienced in the years we have been working with the school.

The start of the school year did have its issues. During the time school was out, the electrical wiring from much of the school was stolen, so several of the classes had to start without lights or fans. Wiring was replaced, and a night watchman was hired to try to prevent problems like this in the future. Also, the Honduran teacher requirements have changed for the 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades, requiring the school to eliminate those grades until we can meet the new

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requirements. A special thanks to the staff and students that this affected for making the change go as smoothly as possible with such short notice. It did involve the elimination of several of the staff, which was accomplished by voluntary separation. Others had to take on new responsibilities and, of course, the 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade students had to change schools. Separation pay had to be determined and scheduled for those who left.

We found that the remaining staff has formed a cohesive and positive attitude that was very good to see. We met with each of the school teachers and staff, and were able to meet with a couple of those who had volunteered for the separation. Many good suggestions for improvements to the school came from the teachers and staff. Staff, parents, and local church members felt they could do some of the improvements; others will be scheduled for summer work groups.

One of those suggestions came from Lurvin, the 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher who has a wheelchair-bound student, the first we have had at the school. To help him, bathroom provision in the classroom, ramps to the classroom, and widening of sidewalks would be very helpful. Further conversation about this revealed that the toilets in the restrooms are all standard size, making it difficult for all of the kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students (simple things we don't think of).



## God Provides

One of the teachers who left was the English teacher. We had not yet determined what to do about that when a young Christian American/Canadian family moved into the area. Odd events put them in contact with the school. This led to the man agreeing to be the English teacher for the school. He jokes about being a Spanish student while being the English teacher.

## New Equipment

For some time we have been considering a copier for the school. Thanks to a really good sale, on this trip we were able to provide two small laser copiers for the school. During our audit of

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the financial books, we realized just how big a benefit this will be. Last year, copies had to be made 92 times at a local shop, and copy costs accounted for one-fifth of the supply budget for the year. Next day there was a waiting line for copies and many smiles.

### New Clothes

We were blessed to be the couriers for 160 new hand-made dresses for the girls at the school. These were made by one of the TCS supporters in Macon. The teachers had fun handing them out, and the girls loved them.



### School, Families, Church, and Community

We have been hearing good things about the parents, school staff, and church congregations working together more and taking more ownership for the school. During our meetings we learned that Alfonso, the director, had openly asked the parents to please attend one of the local church congregations at least twice per month. The parents have accepted the challenge and many are attending more frequently than requested, learning more about God and obeying the gospel. With parents being more engaged with the school and the church, they are initiating outreach efforts in the community. One church has grown enough spiritually and numerically to establish an eldership. A fifth congregation has also been started; Richard Machen, who is an American with business interests in Trujillo, has started a congregation at his camp. He has hired a graduate of the Baxter Institute to do the preaching and they seem to be getting several folks to attend. Juan, the minister/evangelist, said that 17 adults and 22 children were attending Bible classes.

### Teacher Encouragement

We came up with a teacher's self-evaluation comprised of 10 questions based on suggestions from several U.S. teachers from various areas. These questions involved the non-teaching part of their contribution to the school, like *Christian example, helping each other, supporting school functions, parent interaction, student interaction, improving their teaching skills & knowledge,*

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*etc.* We asked each TCS teacher to provide an assessment of themselves and their peers and clearly indicated that this would not be a part of their official records. We also asked Alfonso and Belinda, the principal, to make a separate evaluation. We said that only the four West Metro elders would know the individual results. The top four scores identified by the teachers were the same as identified by Alfonso and Belinda. We were pleasantly surprised that the management team and teachers recognized the top four folks in almost the same ascending order. We factored out the scores they gave themselves and the results did not change. We only announced the top two in hopes that everyone would be better team players in the future. The teachers had fun with this and asked that we do it three times a year.

### Safety

Concerning security, we felt comfortable moving around town and visited the ice cream shop as often as possible ☺. While there, the usual inconveniences occurred – power outages, limited cell service, and roads in dire need of repair.

Trujillo is not representative of the problems that seem to be making bad news for Honduras. If we continue to take the same precautions as in years past, all will be well. Jack also talked with Oscar (at the National/Alamo desk) about helping out this summer with chauffeuring and he was all for it.

### Thank You

**Without each sponsor, there would be no Trujillo Christian School. In the U.S. we serve as an all-volunteer support arm for the school. Other than newsletter supplies, bank transfer fees, and mailing expenses, sponsor donations are wired monthly to Honduras for school support. One way to save on these expenses would be to send these newsletters by e-mail to sponsors who would be willing to receive them in that manner. If this would work for you please e-mail us at [westmetrocofc@gmail.com](mailto:westmetrocofc@gmail.com).**

**Speaking for the children of the Trujillo Christian School, we sincerely appreciate your continued support and may God Bless you.**

