

TCS Newsletter Winter 2015-2016

## Graduation 2015

The Honduras school year runs February to November. Graduation ceremonies are held jointly for the Kindergarten and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade classes. They are normally held the week before our U.S. Thanksgiving. At that time, Kindergarten children move up to being a part of the regular school classrooms, and the 6<sup>th</sup> graders hopefully will be able to continue their education in Trujillo public schools (costs for public schools often prohibit additional education). Graduation

ceremonies are always celebrated as a family affair with relatives and friends attending and cameras constantly flashing. One difference from U.S. graduation ceremonies is that each graduating student is expected to select someone (normally an adult and often not a family member) to be their special guest at graduation. The special guest signs the school record signifying the graduate has officially graduated, presents a gift to the graduate, and attends the special meal that follows the ceremony. One or more trustees usually make the trip to Trujillo to take part in the festivities.



This year, two trustees (Bo Gray and Jack Vanderpool) and one long time sponsor (Paul Ingle) attended and participated in the graduation ceremony.



## Vacation Maintenance Targets Hygiene

December and January are vacation months for Honduran children. These months provide opportunities to do work on school facilities that can't be done during the school year. This year work was initiated to improve bathrooms and also to build a new septic tank. The bathroom improvements went smoothly. However, building a new septic tank meant hiring men to "hand dig" a 12x12x12 foot pit into the "rocky" mountain hillside during the monsoon time of the year. Then others were



hired to build a concrete block tank. Obviously, the pit was at times more a pool than a pit. Because of the rains, the project required almost two months to complete. Thankfully, however, it was ready about 2 weeks before school started on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Dual Utilization Trujillo Christian School Campus

In 2014, Dago Rodriguez, one of the Bible teachers, asked to use the TCS campus on one



weekend monthly. His plan was to bring teachers from the Honduran Bible School (Escuela Biblica Honduras [EBH] or the Honduran Bible School [HBS]) in Catacamas, Honduras to Trujillo monthly. The teachers would provide an intensive weekend Bible Study for interested adults and teens on the TCS campus. He felt that this would provide opportunities for more students to attend the 3-year HBS course of instruction. HBS trains Bible teachers and preachers to develop their skills. HBS's staff is made up of a team of evangelists, pulpit ministers, missionaries, Bible teachers, and Christian leaders. This will start the 3<sup>rd</sup> year at the TCS Campus with

the 2014 class anticipating graduating November 2016. The majority of this 1<sup>st</sup> graduating class will be TCS teachers and staff.

## Trustee's Goal for 2016

We are frequently told that Trujillo Christian School is the best school in Trujillo, and that our graduates excel when they go to other schools. Of more importance is the fact that, through their daily Bible classes, the students also grow in knowledge of God and His will for their lives. We give credit for these accomplishments to our staff. They are dedicated to the children and to the school.



We have now been overseeing the school for 10 years. During that time we have been able to provide only one small pay raise. In U.S. dollars, the salary range for teachers is from \$275-\$375 per month. Our goal for 2016 is to provide a pay raise for the Trujillo Christian School staff. The cost of food is one of the largest expenses that families have. We regularly check food prices when we are in Trujillo. Over a period of years, we have learned that the cost of food in Honduras is comparable to prices in the U.S. In addition, most common items are more expensive in Honduras. We feel that this is a good barometer of the overall cost of living that helps us to realize the need for a pay raise for this dedicated staff.

We believe our employees in Trujillo deserve a raise, and the only way we have of providing that raise is asking our sponsors to help. **We ask each of you to increase your sponsorship to \$50 per month** so we can provide salary increases to all of our employees, and supply for other needs of the school. If you are not able to do this, we ask you to please continue your support at your current level. Also, please encourage others to join with you or to sponsor a child themselves.

As a contributor to the school, you can be assured that your money is used wisely. In fact, 98% of the money contributed goes directly to the school.

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS 2016

### Alfonso Orellana - Administrator



As our first TCS staff meeting began, we had a cheerful and pleasant conversation about the experiences of the holidays and were happy to return to work and see our co-workers. Belinda and I planned and presented an agenda for this year's activities. Our staff committed themselves to do the will of our God and honor the commitment to serve the angels on earth, our beloved children

One of the challenges we discussed was continuing our efforts to handle special needs children. Jairo (who cannot walk) is our 1<sup>st</sup> special needs child and is now going to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (some say he is the smartest kid in the school). This year we will enroll Isabel, who is 9 years old and was never accepted in the public school system because of her visual limitations (10% of a normal child). Isabel had heard that Jairo now knows how to read and write. Although she is 9 years old, Isabel will become a 1<sup>st</sup> grader at TCS. Her doctor says that she can learn, but she will have to be close to the board. We all desire to help her because we know that she is one of the smallest of our God and needs our support.



### 1st Day of Classes 2016 Belinda Brizo - Principal

February 1, our first day of school, was very fresh and sunny. Trujillo Christian School opened with an exaltation (devotional) to the God of all time. The children and teachers demonstrated many signs of joy and gladness to have the opportunity to meet again since many had not seen each other during the holidays. As the principal, I gave a euphoric welcome to the students, parents, faculty, and staff. Alfonso Orellana, our administrator, welcomed the audience and told our children to strive to end the year 2016 with great success through hard work and perseverance. We encouraged our students to work hard on their education, but also to realize the relevance and importance of our Lord Jesus Christ as the giver of every principle and wisdom. We were happy to hear that our words were received with great joy and applause.

Once students were identified by grade, teachers and students moved to their classrooms to begin another year of learning and building on their educational formation.

We express our sincere thanks for your support and wish you many blessings.

### Trujillo Mission Trip 2016

Our Mission Trip to Trujillo Honduras for 2016 is scheduled to depart Atlanta on June 27, 2016 and return on July 6. If you are interested in making this trip, please contact Jack Vanderpool at jackandbethv@bellsouth.net or our TCS coordinator, Libby Gray, at (770) 713-5197.

**As always, we ask you to remember the school in your prayers.**