



TRUJILLO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
 Post Office Box 606
 Hiram, GA 30141
 (770) 713-5197

TCS Newsletter Winter 2017

Independence Day

Likely the most celebrated day in all of Honduras is September 15th. September 15, 2016 marked Honduras's 195th celebration of its declaration of independence from Spain. Trujillo, like virtually every town, celebrates with a parade as the entire community enjoys a "state fair" type atmosphere. Trujillo Christian School (TCS) has its own band that marches in the city's parade. People of all ages dress in the blue and white national colors of Honduras. Two of our teachers shown below are looking very patriotic (Alma and Erlinda).



TCS Marching Band



Many Graduates in 2016 Ceremonies

Trujillo Christian School (TCS) Trustees Bo Gray and Phil Robertson traveled to Trujillo in late November to attend the TCS Graduation Exercises. TCS hosts a dual graduation of kindergarteners and 6th graders (most of whom have been at TCS since kindergarten).



Unfortunately, November is start of the rainy season in Honduras. Trujillo was also undergoing street construction and improvements and thus was suffering near constant power outages. As a result, on the evening of the graduation, rain poured down for hours, the streets were flooded, and **the power quit 30 minutes before the graduation was to begin.** After a delay of 90 minutes, the ceremonies commenced by candlelight (so pictures are a bit dark to insert).

Luckily the dinner for the graduates and families was held in the restaurant at the Hotel Brinkley, which enjoys the benefit of a generator. The power stayed off for about 12 hours, but the rain continued.

The following day, Bo (pictured below) and Phil met with the entire faculty and staff for lunch. They



were able to present each staff member with a small bonus gift. It was a great time for everyone.

This past fall, Assistant Principal, Marleni Osorio received her diploma as a Professor of Education in Educational Administration. To get this degree required her to take a 6-hour bus ride every weekend for several years in order to attend the National Pedagogic University Francisco Morazan in La Ceiba, Honduras. We congratulate her for her determination and hard work.



Marleni Osorio

TCS Newsletter Winter 2017

While in Trujillo, Phil and Bo also attended the graduation of the first Trujillo-based class of the Honduran Bible School (HBS) that meets weekends on the TCS Campus. This three-year program of study for adults and older teens meets one weekend a month. It focuses on personal knowledge and personal evangelism using a college level curriculum. HBS was founded in 1984 in Catacamas. In 2011, our TCS Bible teachers traveled to the main Campus for classes. Each monthly trip to HBS required a 16-hour bus ride, two nights lodging, and money for food for three days. On one occasion, bandits stopped the bus and everyone aboard was robbed of their valuables.

In conjunction with the HBS faculty, our Bible teachers conceived the idea that we establish a satellite school using the TCS campus. This would give the TCS staff and other Christians in Trujillo and surrounding towns the opportunity to attend. West Metro Church of Christ agreed to pay the expenses of administration and teachers traveling to Trujillo. Three years ago the first class started with a total of 16 students, including five of the TCS staff. The first HBS graduating class totaled eight, including three of our TCS faculty. We now have a class starting every year. The total enrollment has grown from 16 in the first class to 25, with more beginning in February 2017. Students come not only from Trujillo, but also from the surrounding area. Many travel by bus from towns within a 60-mile radius. This work appears to be a big success in spreading the Gospel in this part of Honduras. The graduate pictured above is Lexsy Puerto (with her daughter). Lexsy is a qualified teacher who serves as the TCS administrative assistant and as a substitute teacher.



Future Plans 2017

Just like in the U.S., in Honduras each new governmental administration brings changes. In 2014, the Ministry of Education established teacher education criteria that we could not meet. Thus we had to stop offering 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. The current Ministry of Education appears to be willing to explore the possibility of allowing TCS to reestablish these grades. This will obviously require additional teachers. With the help of an attorney we hope to again become certified and bring back some of the 6th graders! **Although the Honduran literacy rate has dropped from 31% to 20%, the average number of years of school attendance is only 6.2 years.**

During the month of December, TCS was advertised on the local radio station with multiple spots per day for a modest fee of \$250. As a result of this advertising, many of the classes are already filled to capacity with preregistered students. Trujillo Christian School starts its 25th school year on February 1, 2017. It continues to depend upon your support. TCS operates separately from the Honduran Bible School, so 100% of your sponsorship goes directly to the school and the students. We encourage you to talk about sponsorship with your friends and with the churches where you attend. Also let us know if we can send you materials or arrange to meet with your congregation to discuss this important work. Please continue to pray for the students and staff of the Trujillo Christian School and the Honduran Bible School.

This summer the mission trip to Trujillo is scheduled for Monday, June 26th to Wednesday, July 5th.

If you are interested in making the trip this summer, please contact Libby Gray at Trujillo Christian School P.O. Box 606 Hiram, GA 30141 (770) 713-5197.

Speaking for the children of the Trujillo Christian School, we sincerely appreciate your continued support. May God bless you.