

The Hearts For Honduras School started as the vision of Paty Villanueva, a woman who grew up in La Entrada, Honduras and knew well the poverty of many of its families. For many years she worked with her husband in a family business, but she felt called to invest her life for the children of her community who didn't have access to education. So she allowed God to use the talents she had been given. God has moved the hearts of many people who work with the school to make this miracle of faith and love grow: The Hearts For Honduras School.

The school's mission is to **provide a Christian-based education to the poorest of the poor** in La Entrada, Honduras. Many children in La Entrada do not get an opportunity to attend school. In many cases this is because their parents cannot afford the cost of uniforms, books, etc. needed to attend public school. More often the children have had to "sell" on the streets to make money for the family to survive day-to-day. The goal of Hearts For Honduras is to encourage and support families to send their children to school. An important part of the program is to **educate parents**, who are mostly uneducated, about the value of getting an education to improve the quality of their life.

The hope is that with more children being educated, future generations will have a better chance of **breaking the vicious cycle of poverty**. Each child not only learns at the highest levels but is also taught about Jesus Christ. They see the love of God in action everyday! With every smile that enters these school rooms we know that a sacred memory is being created that will stay with these children for a lifetime.

In addition to an education, children are **provided with a meal each day**. When one of the students was asked to join a visitor from the United States for a meal one day, the visitor noted he wasn't eating. When asked why, the child responded that he didn't want to get used to eating so much. For many children, this is the only nutritious meal they will have all day.

In 2000, the school opened with one teacher and a class of twenty three 1st graders. Each year it grew in classes and **now there are six grades serving nearly 170 children** each year. In Honduras a typical grammar school is grades 1-6, but sadly over 50% of Honduran children do not complete 5th grade.

As the school grew, with assistance from Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, property was acquired and classrooms were built. Other additions to the school include a full scale computer lab, a kitchen and teacher gathering area, and offices. Recently the Mayor of La Entrada recognized the importance of the Hearts For Honduras School and donated property to the school for a playground area. This has been a great addition for the children.

Hearts For Honduras School has been fortunate enough to have continued success and many graduates of the school. Most have elected to continue their education in high school or technical school. The Hearts For Honduras School, through the **Sponsor A Student Program** has committed to these children a continuing education scholarships to pay for the costs of this schooling. In return the students and their families are asked to support the school by helping with classes, preparation of meals, etc. Again, the children and their families are learning a civic lesson in helping their community.

Families are encouraged to attend church services, follow a Christian life style, and become part of a “church family”. Children are expected to attend school faithfully each day, and meet the requirements of the school. Parents are required to periodically help in the school with lessons, childcare, preparation of meals, etc., and to encourage their children to live healthy lives; spiritually, mentally and physically.

To quote the Founder and Director, Paty Villanueva, “Hearts For Honduras is the footprint I want to leave in my path; the legacy that I wish for my children and future generations in order to make my country and world a better place. The time to do this for those in need is NOW. There is no guarantee of tomorrow. The days are few and we should use them wisely.” Wouldn’t you like to be a part of this legacy?

Supporters of Hearts For Honduras receive **the best gift of all**...the knowledge that children are being given the chance to make a better life for themselves, and learn what Jesus Christ can do in their lives. Periodic newsletters are sent by Liberty Corner containing news about the school and the Honduras ministry at Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church. We hope you will join us in praying and supporting Hearts For Honduras! Muchas gracias!