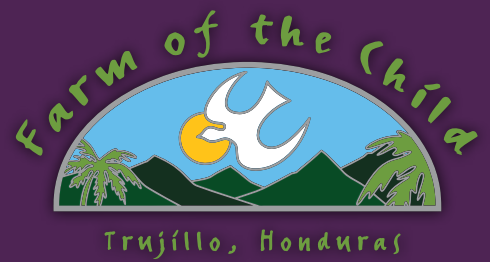


FRIENDS OF THE FARM

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR SUPPORTERS

E A S T E R 2 0 1 2



VISIT THE FARM'S NEW WEB SITE!

We are pleased to announce the redesign and relaunch of our Web site. Creative missionaries have worked diligently for the past year to recreate the site in a way that depicts the Farm's beauty and humility. Please take a few minutes and visit the Farm online and learn about our mission and history, as well as current news and events from the Farm of the Child.

Every missionary and child has their very own page!

Sponsoring children, supporting the missionaries, and donating to help the Farm has never been easier or more efficient. You

can learn about our children and missionaries on the Web site. We now have videos and photos for you to view.

One very important new feature is the **"Join Friends of the Farm"** button on the upper right of each page. We ask that you please tell the people you know with a caring heart about supporting an organization such as ours. We need your help to invite others to help us improve the physical, educational, spiritual, and social needs of orphaned, abandoned, and neglected children of Honduras so that they may become productive, Christian members of Honduran society.



Sharing the link to the Web site and our videos is simple and easy. Please visit the new site, share it on your Facebook page, and invite others to become Friends of the Farm, so that they may share in this wonderful mission.

Visit FarmoftheChild.org today!



SPIRITUALITY

SERVICE

COMMUNITY

SIMPLICITY

THE FACE OF GOD

By Kate Mattoon

Ever since last summer, when I made the decision to extend my commitment to the Farm and stay on as a third-year missionary, I have been faced with the same question from friends, family, visitors, community members, kids, and even relative strangers, "Why?!?!?" It has been a few years since anyone has made the decision to stay on past the normal 27-month commitment, so I guess it is a logical question, but one I don't think I have ever answered very well. I mean, I can give plenty of reasons for staying: I love the kids, I have a great job (teaching elementary school), I have grown and changed in good and important ways at the Farm, I believe very strongly in the mission, and am deeply committed to it, I am challenged daily to live out my faith, the kids are REALLY funny, I like tortillas, and the list goes on. But none of them are THE reason I am still here. To be honest, I still don't fully know the reason. But I can tell you for certain that part of it is this: I know God is here. And I know Him through the kids.

I wish that for one moment, you could see them through my eyes. I wish you could see them from my desk at the front of the classroom, using fingers, toes, lips, nose, and maybe even other parts of their bodies to make sure they add up their math problems correctly. I wish you could

hear Jerson making a unique sound effect for every bouncing step he takes and Manuel's trademark high-pitched shriek, a final release of energy right before he knows he is going to have to be quiet. I wish you could listen to



Darwin tell you the latest random fact he has read in the wolf book, or just watch Jose Pastor read about science, and marvel at how completely it holds his attention. I wish you could stand in my place at recess and have Cati and Brittany give you a giggling hug from behind, because it would be WAY to embarrassing to be seen by the person they are hugging. If only you could see shy little Osman do the victory boogie from his seat at the back of the room when he gets a math problem right, or the pride in Nelsy's smile when she gets a good grade on a test. If only you could witness Cristian testing out his new understanding of sarcasm and irony, making jokes in school then looking up at me with big, questioning eyes, waiting to see if I think they are funny or not. "Profa the homework

was the hardest in the whole world." "But Cristian we didn't have homework..... Which is why that was a funny joke!!" If you could just see for one moment how strangely and miraculously unique each of these kids

is, how carefully and beautifully made they are to carry burdens, weather storms, show love, make me laugh, confuse me, and be light in dark moments, then you would understand, that here, I have met my Maker. And let me tell you,

though each of these kids is made in the same image and likeness, His own, His creativity truly is infinite. In each one of them I see His face in a completely new and different way.

So, when He invited me to stick around, and come to know Him a little better through His creative masterpieces with whom I spend my days, it was, and is, a privilege to be able to say "Yes."



A BLESSING IN OUR LIVES

By Erin Rider

Every single one of our children here at the Farm of the Child is a gift from God and a blessing in our lives. Today I have the privilege of introducing you to Kimberly, one of our most loving, open, generous, and spunky "blessings."

Kimberly, who joined our Farm of the Child community in July with four of her siblings, is known and loved for her beaming, toothless smile, her contagious laugh, her funny (and sometimes very strange!) facial expressions and gestures, and her acceptance and love for everyone she meets. Since I knew I could not adequately describe Kimberly to you in my own words, I decided to let her tell you herself. Here is a word-for-word translation of our conversation:

Kimberly, what would you like to say about yourself?

My name is Kimberly. I am 8 eight years old. My friends are Kevin, Sara, Dorfa, and Erin.

That's great. What else?

Erin, my zipper is broken.

Ok, don't worry, we can fix that later.

What else can you say about yourself?

Well, I like cake, drawing, butterflies, playing, and having friends. I like school. My friends in school are Nicole, Cindy, Dorfa, Emily and my teachers Amanda, Hector, and Maritza.

What's your favorite subject?

My favorite subject is English.

What can you say in English?

Yellow. That's all. And blue. That's it.

Do you have brothers and sisters?

I have three brothers and two sisters. Nahomi's the biggest and Yassir's the smallest but he lives with my mom. They are nice. We always share with each other.

Where do you live?

At the Farm of the Child.

What is the Farm of the Child?

It's a house for kids. There are people and cars, and houses and trees, and flowers, oranges, water, and sun. And that's it. And school! That's all. And dogs, too.

Why did you come to live at the Farm of the Child?

I'm not really sure but I think it's because my mom and dad used to fight really bad. My dad went away and then my mom left us alone and I was sad when that happened. Then we went to live with my other mommy (their foster mom) and then we came to the Farm. And now I live here!

Do you like it here?

Yes!

What do you like about the Farm?

Everything. The houses. Nice people. Respectful people.

Is there anything you don't like about the Farm?

House 3 (the little boys!). They bug us.

Is there anything else you want to say?

Erin! When I was really little, I only had one tooth. Haha, that was funny. And before the Farm, I didn't know how to eat well and I was always messy. And I didn't know how to swim, but now I do because we do swim class. Erin?

Yeah, Kimberly?

How come grown-ups have hair under their armpits? I didn't know about that before the Farm.

Haha, I'm not really sure. Is there anything else you think I should write down?

You should write a song for them.

Okay, which song?

The one that goes, "It doesn't matter race nor the color of skin..."

Okay, I'll be sure to write it for them.

I hope this little interview helped you to get a small glimpse of Kimberly. Witnessing her grow, learn, laugh, and love here at the Farm of the Child makes every day brighter and helps us continue forward in our mission.

Here is a translation of the chorus of the song that Kimberly wanted to share with you:

*It doesn't matter their race
Nor the color of their skin
Love all like brothers
And do good*

*Christ needs you to love, to love
Christ needs you to love*

*It doesn't matter race
nor the color of skin
Love all like brothers
And do good*

*To those who suffer and are sad, give
love, give love*

To the humble and the poor, give love

*To those who live by your side give love,
give love*

To those who come from afar, give love

*To the long-time friend give love,
give love*

*To those who don't acknowledge you,
give love*

*To the one who speaks another tongue
give love, give love*

*To the one who thinks differently,
give love.*



Program. Do not mistake the Bridge to Independent Living/Puente a la Vida Independiente, or PAVI, for the Farm's latest construction project. PAVI is a program designed to prepare the teenagers, called Pavistas, for the challenges that they will face in their lives

and work after the Farm. Depending on age and grade, each young adult is assigned to work-hours around the Farm. The work is specifically focused to form positive habits and skills, such as cooperation and professionalism, to ensure success in future work experiences. PAVI provides growth opportunities with both internal and external motivators.

as the quality of their efforts. From school tutoring and maintenance work to agricultural and carpentry training, the adolescents receive feedback and a grade from their work-hour coordinators. The grades correlate to a mock banking system, in which the kids receive "Pescatore Dollars" to save or spend how they want (very much in the way that a child in the US might spend their allowance)! The wage aspect of PAVI teaches, in a simple way, financial responsibility. It is important that the adolescents internalize what it takes to provide for themselves and a family. The success of the program can be seen in the achievements of the young adults in the Phase 2 community in La Ceiba.

Thanks to skills learned in PAVI, the teenagers have found jobs in a new city by making connections and showing off their experience. While our super-teens juggle their many responsibilities, through the PAVI program they become self-reliant, acknowledging the dignity of work and the benefits of having a positive and willing attitude.

A BALANCING ACT THAT PAYS OFF

By Betsy Grace

With the school year underway, the children of the Farm are re-adjusting to afternoons devoted to homework, essays, and science fair projects. The adolescents are teaching us all that life is truly a balancing act. In addition to their studies and responsibilities in the home and community, they are working hard with the Bridge to Independent Living



During weekly meetings, the pavistas present and discuss relevant themes, like self-esteem and relationships, to share their opinions, and improve public speaking. On the job site, they are conscious of their behavior and attitude, as well

PRAYERS & PETITIONS

During this joyous Easter season we pray in a special way for the following:

We pray for the children of the Farm who began a new school year in February, that the Lord blesses them with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding and grants them, most importantly, a deeper way of knowing Him through His works.

We pray for new missionary applicants, that they may be blessed with peace and humility and for those who have yet to apply, that the Holy Spirit inspires them to serve God through His mission at the Farm of the Child.

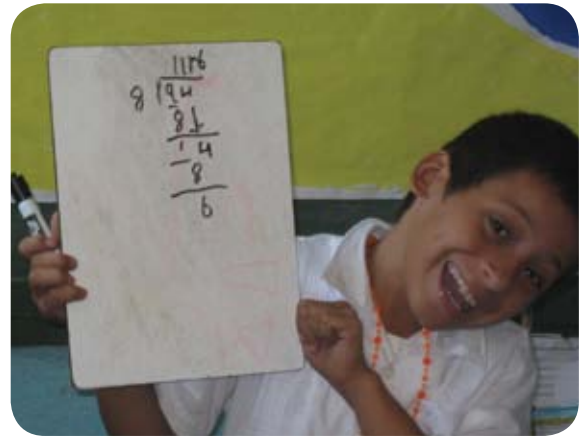
We pray for Honduras and for all of Central America, that the Lord leads these lands to a deeper relationship with Him through peace, charity, and love of neighbor.

We pray for all benefactors of the Farm, that during this season of Lent the Lord blesses them abundantly and reveals Himself through the gifts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Amen.

MOCHILAS HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

Thank you to Betty Medina, Fernando Garcia, Valerie Pizarro, Dorian Melendez, Sheyla Ayala, and Denise Santana from Mochilas Puerto Rico for the awesomely generous donation of 128 backpacks full of notebooks and supplies for all of the students at St. Peter's Catholic School and the Vincent Pescatore Catholic Institute, in addition to teachers' supplies, a new laptop, hours of fun, games, and LOVE and much, much more. ¡Gracias, hermanos!



A WAY FOR US ALL TO CONNECT AND SUPPORT THE FARM

By Bob Riley

I want to share our beautiful weekend in promoting the Farm in southern Wisconsin. Under the direction of Christina Dippold, my wife Sue and I spoke at three Masses between St. Alphonsus at 5:00 pm on Saturday followed by 8:00 am on Sunday and over to St. John's for 10:00 am. In addition to our talks this weekend there was an insert in the bulletin and the second collection was for the Farm. Christina and I also talked to the RCIA classes.

I had a man approach me after Mass and say that it was time for him to give back and he wants to visit the Farm on our next trip.

I share all of this because again if each of the Friends of the Farm adopt similar programs it would be a tremendous boost to our fundraising efforts. In the last three years, these two parishes with a combined membership of 1100 families have raised over \$10,000 for the Farm!

*Bless you and thank you both
Sue and Bob Riley for your love and
support of the Farm of the Child!*



Support the Farm of the Child by donating online at www.FarmoftheChild.org

TO HAVE FAITH IS TO BUILD THE KINGDOM OF GOD

By Ysmary Trejo

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have Works? —James 2:14

Our beloved Honduras is passing through a time of great difficulty. Like many Latin American countries, we find ourselves in a country that is being hammered daily by the trials of delinquency, violence, drug trafficking, and poverty, on top of the challenges of an education system that prevents the growth and progress of new generations. These are harsh blows for our beloved people, who are being innocently crucified by this reality. We cannot ignore such suffering.

According to the Honduran Institute for Children and Families (IHNFA) approximately 80% of Honduran children live in poverty and where there is such a high rate of poverty the majority of children are prone to social risk. Sadly, the centers of protection that exist to attend to these children are few and far between, and not all children have the opportunity to enjoy a socially, psychologically, and spiritually healthy life.

Farm of the Child is committed to embracing these children who do not

have a safe space in which to develop. Our mission is directed at helping these children who are lacking the basic necessities and those whose rights are vulnerable. We fight to protect the rights of the children of Honduras. We fight to protect the physical, social, and spiritual well-being of our children and adolescents.

Christ has given us the faith, with the light of the Holy Spirit to guide this mission. He gives us the capacities to do great works that are pleasing to Him, and he compels us to continue working to build His kingdom.

As a community we cannot turn a blind eye to the suffering around us. To this we are called as Christians, to fight for the most vulnerable among us, being a mantle of life, hope, and selfless love in service to others. In the face of suffering, of our powerlessness in the face of our poor and humble humanity, we must cling to Christ and approach others as Christ approaches us; to console, to inspire, to continue on with the Cross.

The Passion of Christ is prolonged in the passion of His people. Christ is crucified in His people. In the crucified, and from the cross of His people, He calls us "to take away the sin of the world," to eradicate the crosses of history, the crosses of injustice and oppression, to walk the path of solidarity with the crucified. We believe in the Risen Christ. We must work to recover peace in our hearts and in our society. For this, brothers and sisters, when we

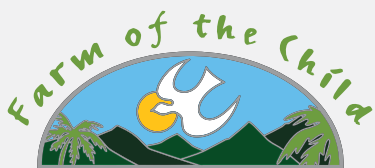
remember Christ's triumph over death, we make His promise a reality: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.



In this time of Lent, our Lord invites us to follow Him, in love, to walk with Him on the Way of the Cross. Christ, who died for our salvation, gives us the gifts of hope and joy in the Resurrection, to be born to new life. Likewise, His littlest children, the children and adolescents of Honduras are promised this new life, a place to grow, to develop, to play as true children of God. Honduras will have a different and more beautiful future.

Those of us who live and serve in this country, those who live in other countries yet still love and serve Honduras, we unite our efforts to improve the living conditions for all our brothers and sisters here, especially the children and the poor. In faith, we work to build the Kingdom of God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.



1616 Nottingham Knoll Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32225

We exist because generous people donate money and time to help fulfill our mission — to provide for orphaned Honduran children.



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