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BEGINNINGS OF A BEAUTIFUL FUTURE

BY MICHAEL LEMMONS

I can't imagine having my life dictated by one choice I made when I was younger. We currently have two teenage moms living in our ministry house who are experiencing just that.

Many might call them mistakes. But Angel and Ashley are unmistakable gifts from God, and I love watching their young moms embrace the difficult results and responsibility of their choices.

But Yahira and Nancy's lives are certainly dictated by their babies, and they struggle to find the means to better their own lives while caring for the lives of their children. We have long wanted to give them a chance to provide for their kids, and we feel blessed to partner with another ministry that can help.

Mi Esperanza is a ministry run by several of our friends that gives women, particularly moms, an opportunity to learn a trade. Mi Esperanza has classes in sewing, textiles, computers and beauty. Yahira and Nancy, along with one of our other teens named Rosa, are currently in their third week of beauty classes.



THE GIRLS ENJOYED A DAY OF SHOPPING FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR/CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COSTS, PLEASE EMAIL MAIL@BCHONDURAS.ORG.



NANCY (LEFT), YAHIRA (CENTER), AND ROSA (RIGHT) ARE ALL LOVING THEIR NEW CLASSMATES. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MI ESPERANZA, VISIT WWW.THEWOMENOFMYHOPE.ORG.

Yahira, Nancy and Rosa will spend the next three months learning every part of working in a salon. They have class three days a week for three hours each time in which they learn the trade from a trained professor and get to practice their skills on their classmates. The team at Mi Esperanza will then help them through an internship process and finally to find a permanent position in a salon.

We are thrilled to see these three girls have a chance to better their lives and for Yahira and Nancy to improve the lives of Angel and Ashley. We pray that God's hand be over this opportunity as the girls move forward.

You can be a part of this opportunity for Yahira, Nancy and Rosa. Each mom needs \$85 a month and \$150 one-time for supplies to continue with their classes. Their monthly costs will go to transportation and childcare. Rosa needs \$30 per month. If you can, we would love you to be a part of this journey.

Thank you for continually blessing hearts like these in our ministry. And thank you for considering blessing the lives of these girls who are trying to escape the chains of poverty for themselves and their little ones.

FEATURE



A DAY AT A TIME: BC SEEKS HOW TO BEST SERVE FAMILY BY MICHAEL LEMMONS

I lay with an 8-year-old boy sleeping against my back, a 10-year-old snoring in his bunk bed above, a 6-year-old conked out with her legs thrown across mine and a 12-year-old chatting away outside the room. I looked up and laughed, "God, you have an interesting way of giving fulfillment, and also I feel like you're laughing right now."

I had just finished reading Thomas the Tank Engine...for maybe the 10th time this week. After a supposed ghost sighting, I promised the boys that Dayana and I would stay with them until they fell asleep. Within 10 minutes they all drifted away, but I stayed awake thinking how much our lives had changed.

Our Breaking Chains team made a tough decision six weeks ago. After acts of violence toward a few teenagers, her children and Amber, one of our residents, Belkis, was removed from our mission house. This single mom never learned how to handle her anger or be a good mother due to years of living on the

streets, prostitution and abuse from a variety of friends and family.

We saw Belkis become aggressive to other residents but particularly her children, and we knew it had to stop. Following the decision to remove her, we positioned for custody of Pamela, Arol, Jonatan, Dayana and Rosie. We met with Honduran family services, and the three older kids told our social worker they wanted to live with us and continue to go to school. Dayana struggled to know what to do as a confused 6-year-old, while Rosie of course wanted to be with Amber, whom she has lived with and considered mom the past few years. The social worker gave us temporary custody until a judge can hear the case and make a ruling.

So now, we wait for a phone call and attempt to give these kids stability among instability. Rosie lives with Amber at the building like she has for months, and the other four live with me at our house. Courtney has stayed for a month now and has

helped immeasurably with the four.

Dayana and Arol are in counseling to work on behavioral issues and anger management (for lack of a better term) learned from years of their mother's example. Jonatan will likely start counseling next week, but we're still looking for funding to start with Pamela. We're hoping counseling will help them cope with this new change, talk through their pasts and provide us with some relief from behavioral issues.

We are trying to remain in contact and have a relationship with Belkis. The kids had a supervised visit with her last Sunday, and we're hoping to make this a regular occurrence.

We don't know what the future looks like exactly, but the lack of urgency from the judge gives us a reason to believe the kids will end up in our custody. From there we will decide what's best for each of the kids and what they all want.

The three older kids said they do not want to live with their mother,

so we're exploring different options. For now we're waiting for an answer from the judge and heavily praying before we make any decisions.

I'm the primary caregiver for Pamela, Jonatan, Arol and Dayana. Amber has given me relief with Dayana and Pamela, and Corey watches the boys whenever he can. Courtney has been wonderful during her visit, more than I can express. Darwin also lends a hand, watching the kids after school or in the evenings. This is a team effort.

Due to this change, our ministry has taken on the added financial responsibilities of these children – the biggest expense being food for four growing kids. We are also seeking funds to continue counseling. If you can, we would appreciate any donations in this area. We're taking on a major unanticipated expense.

Most importantly, please pray for these sweet hearts and for us over the coming months as we make decisions. The children are adjusting well, so we pray that continues. And pray for Belkis as we search for the best way to help her.

God has blessed the kids and us with loads of people, many they barely know, who love them and want to show them the purest love around. Although they still act out at times and miss their mom, they see God's unconditional love in all of us. As a result they're slowly but surely improving.

I'm fairly certain God's laughing sweetly as we walk through this new, uncharted land. But I know he's walking alongside us, holding our hands through a variety of incredible people. God is pretty amazing, indeed.



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MAKE LASTING MEMORIES BY JOINING US IN HONDURAS FOR BEACH CHRISTMAS 2012

BY COURTNEY MATHEWS



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OR WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL COURTNEY@BCHONDURAS.ORG.

During Arol's recent counseling appointment, he was asked about his favorite memory. His response? Last year's BC Christmas celebration at the beach.

We were blessed last year, thanks to our supporters, to be able to sponsor each child, teen and adult living in our ministry for an unforgettable Christmas. Each resident was sponsored to join us on the beach of Amapala where they received presents, shared meals and grew closer to one another.

The event was such a blessing to our ministry that we are doing it

again this Christmas, and we would love for you to join us in Honduras! This year's trip will take place on December 19th and 20th.

The dates are set so that those from the U.S. who choose to come share in the celebration can return to the U.S. in time to share Christmas day with their own families.

We know many of you who come on mission trips miss your friends from Breaking Chains throughout the year, so this would be a great opportunity to come visit them. As Arol's story proves, it will be something they remember forever.

“THE GOD OF PEACE”: BC EXPERIENCES LOSS OF A TEEN, AMAZING LOVE FROM CHRISTIAN FAMILY

BY AMBER FOSTER

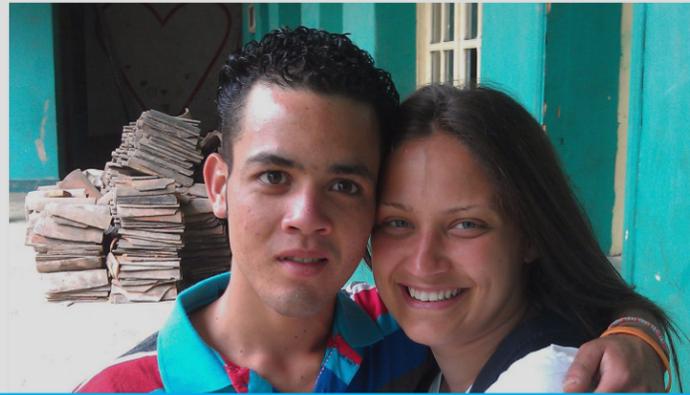
Loss is always hard, no matter how often it happens or what form it takes. We experienced the hurt of loss once again this August as one of our teenagers, Julio, drowned during a swimming trip to a local river with our Breaking Chains teens.

As a way to relax after the majority of summer groups had passed, the BC team took the teens for a little excursion to a local watering hole. During late afternoon, after a day of swimming, Julio was discovered missing. The teenagers searched and later found him underwater, unconscious in a deep part of the river. He was 19 years old.

We believe that Julio got caught in a current and pulled into an underwater cave. By the time the teens and team realized he was missing, nothing could be done.

Julio was an intelligent young man with a sweet spirit who had lived at Breaking Chains since early 2012. Julio loved to please and was always willing to help with tasks around the Breaking Chains building. He had a desire to learn and was constantly fighting the battle between his vices and his yearning to improve his life.

Julio loved practicing his English and working with all of our U.S. visitors. We are thankful to all of our



**JULIO WITH HEATHER, ONE OF OUR
BC SUMMER INTERNS.**

interns and groups who were able to connect and have an impact on Julio. Your love, kindness and Christ-like imitation were a greater reflection of godliness for him than you will ever know.

It has been a rough road for our ministry team since August as we cope with the loss of a beloved boy. But concurrently, it has been an incredible reminder of God's intention for the church.

We were and continue to be overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, prayers and support exhibited by our brothers and sisters in Christ. The calls, emails and messages have reminded us that we are not alone, that we are a part of something greater: a family that rejoices together in triumphs, and mourns together in times of sorrow.

The encouragement we have received means more than we can express. We are thankful that, even if for a short time, Julio was able to experience that communal love as well. We are continually blessed as a ministry, but the support of a Christian family may be the greatest blessing of all. God bless you and your loving hearts.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO EL DIA DEL NIÑO (CHILDREN'S DAY)! WE WERE ABLE TO GIVE MONEY TO EACH OF THE FOUR BC FAMILIES TO PURCHASE PRESENTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN. OUR BC PARENTS CAN RARELY GIVE GIFTS TO THEIR KIDS, SO IT WAS A HUGE BLESSING. THANK YOU FOR BLESSING OUR FAMILIES AND NIÑOS!

SEPTEMBER: TIME FOR CELEBRATIONS!

BY COURTNEY MATHEWS

!Viva Honduras! shouts a crowd of paraders and spectators passing through the streets of Tegucigalpa. September has been a month of celebrations here in Honduras. From Independence Day to Dia del Niño to the Feria Catracha, our Breaking Chains kids have been busy learning about their heritage.

Honduras commemorates its independence from Spain each year on September 15th. A major component of the holiday is the host of parades that take place throughout the country showcasing children from various area schools. Pamela and Nayeli marched with Santa Monica school as they danced with batons and pom poms to the tune of Honduran songs played by their classmates.



**NAYELI (LEFT) DANCES WITH HER
CLASSMATES FROM SANTA MONICA
SCHOOL IN THE PARADE.**

Jonatan, Arol and Escarleth also paraded with Interamerican school. Arol and Jonatan were both honored

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PRAYER REQUESTS:

- 25 donors for sustained giving
- Belkis and her children
- Mi Esperanza girls
- BC teens and children
- Education and vocation



**TO VIEW MORE PHOTOS OF THE CELEBRATIONS,
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as sign holders for their respective classes for their achievement in making the honor roll.

Last week, Interamerican School celebrated its Feria Catracha, or Honduran Festival (“Catracho” is another word for “Honduran.”) The festival was a celebration of all things Honduran, from history to music to food.

Parents gathered at the school as each class presented a bit of Honduran history or culture. But the day was also a competition. Each class was assigned a particular region of the country and a tent area to showcase it. The classes decorated their tents and sold food typical of their region.

Students and families ate fried plantains, crab soup, tamales, baleadas, enchiladas and other fare while listening to traditional Honduran music and dancing along. In the end, Arol and Escarleth's first grade class took first place, while Mr. Corey's class took second.

It was a joy to watch our kids have fun and interact with their classmates. Thank you for supporting them!

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