

ANDINO'S ANECDOTES



Worthy of a Celebration

Birthdays are a big deal at the children's center. We always have a special party for each one. The girls get a very special birthday party at age 15 following Honduran tradition. This time around we were even more excited to celebrate because a rare cancer has robbed D of so many things but not her joy. In spite of losing her eyesight she faces each moment with joy and anticipation. She invited as many people as she could because she loves more deeply and laughs more easily than anyone I know. We are so grateful for the opportunity to share in the life of these children and experience God's faithfulness in their lives. The gift of life is very evident in D.



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Amanda

Amanda is 17 and busy with school and fitness. In August she started helping in the bilingual school as an assistant teacher to the preschool kids. She is loving it and is doing very well. She has even been left on her own when the main teacher is out. She continues to work on her high school classes online and plans to start college next January. We are excited to see where God leads her. Please pray for the process of choosing the right college for her.

Abby

Life is never dull for Abby. She spends her day playing with all her friends and goes to preschool where her sister is the teacher. We are always answering lots of questions about life and God because Abby's mind never stops.

It is lots of fun to keep up with our little Abby.



Anthony

Anthony just had his 19th birthday surrounded by his friends and the kids from the children's home who have become like family to us. He is working on the college application process while he continues to do some online classes, translating, tutoring. And playing some soccer. He suffered an injury in his arm that damaged some nerves but after treatment and months of physical therapy he is finally able to use his hand more and is not in pain.

His plan is to move to Texas in May to live with his aunt and attend a Christian University to begin studying Bible. He would also like to pursue something in the medical field. We continue to pray God will open doors for him as he launches out on his own.

He has been able to preach a few sermons at our church as well as through zoom. Please pray he will continue to let God guide him as he pursues his future and for a family that will be missing him.

Adrian is in 9th grade. He loves hanging out with his friends and riding his bike or playing soccer.

He has also started helping out at church in different ways.

Staffing Crisis

One of the biggest challenges over the past year has been keeping enough staff for the hospital and school. We have had some missionaries return home before they anticipated due to different family situations and we have lost some of our paid staff to the migration to the United States. We have been actively recruiting to fill in the gaps. God has sent some new missionaries to help in the hospital and we have found some new employees but we still need to fill in more gaps. It is always a challenge to keep up with Honduran labor laws and recruiting to our area can be challenging. Please pray



Did you lose your marbles?

One of the fun things about living next to so many kids is getting to play with them. The popular game right now is marbles. Rigo goes over in the evening and asks the kids who has marbles so he can go challenge them to a game. It is fun to see how excited they get. Having a “Dad” to be around has been very special and we are enjoying getting to watch them learn and grow. Each day we are faced with challenges as we try to meet the many needs of the kids but it is always good to have a good laugh about who lost their marbles and then ask God to help us through.

Lack of Faith

Over the past year our church had dropped in attendance and it seemed like it would be very hard to keep the doors open if things didn't change. My faith started wavering and I wondered if we would keep going. I am so thankful God had other plans. Since the beginning of the year things have begun to change and we have seen a new commitment on the part of our church members and God has been sending new people our way. We pray God will give us wisdom as we continue to grow and care for the needs of the people. I am so glad I serve alongside people who had more faith than me and that I serve a God who is faithful.

University in the Big City

All of the kids here at the children's center have been cared for the best we can. They have a safe place to live, are well fed and get a good education. Most places commit to get kids through high school and at age 18 they age out of the system and need to figure things out on their own. The ministry here is committed to seeing these kids through to university.

Our first group of girls started their new adventure. Our chicas as we lovingly call them are three girls who have worked hard to do their high school through a distance learning center. Two of them want to pursue a degree in education and the other girl wants to study something in the medical field. Our Honduran Children's Center manager helped find a program which will take the girls in for housing in the capital city. She also supervised their enrollment process and went to drop them off. It was a tearful goodbye for all of us and the kids will miss them but we are all so proud and excited for the first group of girls who will pave the way for the rest. They will come back during their breaks and we anticipate this always being the home they can come back to. Please pray for an easy transition and safety as they go to and from the university. Also pray for their siblings who are missing them.

Adrian

Adrian is in 9th grade. He loves hanging out with his friends and riding his bike or playing soccer.

He is also excited about helping in church. He has begun practicing his translating skills. We pray he will have opportunities to serve God where he is and this will give him more clarity as he looks to his future.



A Grateful Heart

Rigo enjoys being able to go around to the different construction sites. Seeing how people have been blessed by the help of donations and teams to give them a church or new home is always a special blessing. At times when the construction is done everyone starts to use it and things go on. One of the last projects that was finished included a home for a pastor and a church building. The pastor and his congregation were so thankful that they invited our family to a special service of dedication and thanks. They planned everything carefully and made a special meal. As they said thank you it was evident through their tears how sincere they were. A grateful heart comes from a place of need.



A New Machine

As Rigo continues to help provide wells for people in need, he is constantly problem solving and trying to improve things. He decided that the best way to get into areas that are more isolated would be with a more portable machine so he started gathering supplies, funds, and ideas and built a new well driller. This past week it passed its test run. We are so thankful for the contributions that made this possible. We are also thankful Rigo has been able to be part of this exciting ministry. One of the changes that has been made in the donated wells is to donate the water tank to assure that the water can be used. We are also looking into solar pumps to find ways to help people afford the water that is so needed. Please pray for wisdom and safety as Rigo and his crew keep working.

