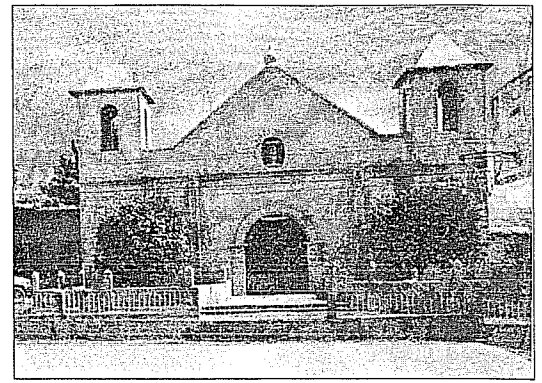


HONDURAS MISSION UPDATE

by Richard & Carol Pine

Prayers for rain and food crops have been answered for the time being and a better year is being predicted for those with land and the ability to raise some of their own food. However, for those who cannot, there is still great need as no social security, medicaid, food stamps, and no help agencies exist except for what the diocese and parish of San Francisco can offer. Three programs have been established through the generosity of parishioners and volunteers.

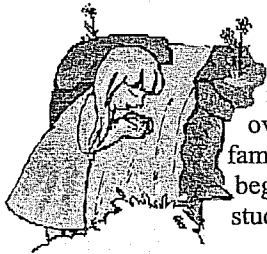
JUAN CARLOS MURILLO: Juan is a 2 1/2 year old boy from San Francisco de la Paz who was born with no esophagus; a rare disability that is usually repaired shortly after birth in the U.S. He has been fed with a tube going directly into his stomach and now must have this repaired. No surgeons or hospitals in Central America have expertise in this. I am arranging for him to come to Rainbow Babies and Children's for this repair this fall with the agreement of all the physicians and surgeons involved to do the work for free. The hospital has not yet agreed, and I am negotiating with the administration. We may be asking for donations through the Honduran Mission Fund to help this little boy to be able to eat, swallow, and lead a more normal life.



Parish Church and Rectory
at San Francisco de la Paz

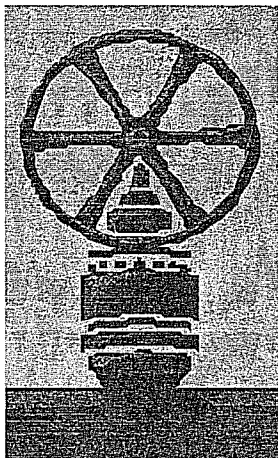
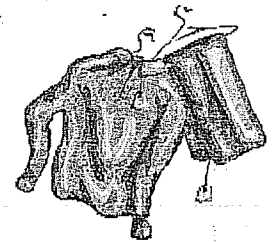
HOGAR de NINOS: The clinic is improving and has arranged for a sister to help administrate and help organize the services. Physicians and other health workers will be going during the coming year to help the Honduran Doctor Victor meet some of the health needs. Dr. Guizzoti (St. Basil) is planning to begin seeing dental patients in January as there are no dental services for 30 miles and those services are beyond the means of most patients. Additional dentists are welcome and could visit throughout the year.

PHYSICIANS, NURSES, LAB WORKERS, & PHARMACY MANAGERS are needed for trips in January, March & May.



"COKE FOR COMIDA": Some students at St. Michael's gave up soft drinks during Lent, drank water instead, and donated the cost of the soft drinks to a food fund which totaled about \$1,300.00. Each month, \$90 buys over 400 pounds of corn, beans, rice, sugar and shortening. These are divided into about 25 pound boxes for 25 families that are the most in need of starvation-preventing nutrition, for about \$4.00 per month. Since the program was begun during our May visit, over 65 families have been provided with this "Comida" thanks to the generosity of our students at St. Michael's. The program will continue until the Easter season of 2003.

CLOTHING: Over 120 shirts and other articles of clothing were collected by the Kindergarten and First Grade classes at St. Basil/St. Michael's and were distributed by our volunteers and Fr. Byron during our visit in May. When we travel we use one suitcase for personal clothing and fill a second (two are permitted by airlines) with donated things that can be used by the children there.



AQUA-SANA: A new "healthful-water" project is beginning this year which has a goal of providing safe, disease-free drinking water to all the villages of the parish of San Francisco de la Paz - Fr. Byron's parish. Anne Sparkman, the Peace Corp worker in San Francisco, is helping to identify villages with the greatest need for better water. Some have no water and have to carry water a great distance in any old bucket or pot that can be found. We hope to drill new fresh water wells and help the villagers organize and manage the well over time to eliminate this ever present cause of infant and adult illness. We will be offering you the opportunity to "buy" a well for a village as our program grows. We will have opportunities for volunteers to assist in drilling site development and village organization assistance. Our goal is to have the cost be no more than \$500 US which is really quite a bargain, even in Honduras.

These are just a few of the many additional supplies, library development, book collections, a is not necessary. We hope to offer training and are "English only" volunteers. Your continued p

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