



Iain, Liz & Samuel McKenzie
Honduras, Central America
E- Mail; mckenzie1457@yahoo.co.uk



Hi Folks,

I am so sorry for being so late in writing this newsletter. I started trying to write it in December 2014 and planned it to be a Christmas Letter; I just never got it finished. Things have been a bit tougher than normal recently but with trials come growth and strength and we look forward to feeling strong again soon. In the meantime our anthem has become; "I'm still standing better than I ever did, looking like a true survivor feeling like a little kid." (Elton John)
So this letter will be a wee bit longer than normal, I'm sorry for that but I do think it's worth it. We will try to be less tardy with newsletters from now on. Hope you all have a great summer.

Life can get so complicated sometimes:

We have had so many changes in so many areas over the last few months our heads are spinning.

In our last newsletter we wrote about some children running away, unfortunately, like a fashion it became a bit of a regular event with kids running away but always returning. However 8 children ran away together and we have only recovered 2 children and one of them has been sent to a secure unit. The others have returned to their family and we are trying to mobilize the authorities to do something to make sure they are safe.

In November, the Honduran Government abolished the entire country's childcare authority in one day. They left us with no point of referral for anything to do with children in care, children at risk, even a judge phoned me one day asking what to do. A new authority was eventually put in place in mid-January, all new staff, no experience, no files, (all children's files having been sent to Tegucigalpa) no systems. It's a real mess; no-one knows who is in charge. It is settling down a bit now and referrals are being made again. (see below)

We were expecting a new family to join us at the end of January to work with us for a year. We had so many plans for this year with the additional workers. Unfortunately with only a few weeks to go the new family pulled out. We have had to put a number of our development plans for a disability house and a trade school on hold until we can get more help. While it is frustrating, I would rather have no help than people who don't want to be here.

We have made some major changes with our staffing; changing hours, days of working, responsibilities and pay rates. We are also introducing some formal child care training for our care staff that Liz and I will be delivering. As always, change brings insecurity but hopefully also an improved service.

Iain has passed on a number of his responsibilities to other newer people on site so while his workload should have diminished he still seems to be as busy as he ever has been. Iain's sister (Maureen) was found dead in her house in Edinburgh in January. Simon did a great job organizing the funeral and dealing with all that needed to be done.

Sam has made a huge change in his future plans and has returned to Inverness and starts college on 24th august. He is staying with Simon and Jax.

Liz has struggled with her epilepsy since our return from Scotland and has had more seizures than ever before. She has now settled on an additional new medication and that seems to be working well. At the time of writing she is 8 weeks seizure free. Other than that she too is working harder than ever and loving every minute of it.

Dogs

One of our boxer dogs had another litter of 9 pups. We have sold all of them to raise a few funds for the children's centre. However, the proud father died the week after his pups were born.

Please check out our updated web site at;

www.crstone.org

I think you will like it and see lots more photos of our children, information and details about the school and the hospital.

Children's House

3 of the children that ran away went from this house, Manuel, Kailey and Kevin all from one family. They left with their older brother and sister. Manuel suffers from epilepsy and has gone without his medication. The new childcare authorities have reported this to the police who are now searching for the children and their parents. Please pray that these kids are safe.

In the last newsletter, we mentioned 2 new children Fabiola and Cristobal, we have now added their little brother, Juan Migel (4) and their little sister, Diana(2) to our flock.

We mentioned that we might have a new child Josue, actually called Renan, join us, he came in November. Renan has autism and he has been an interesting addition to our household. He is a great boy who socializes much better than we had anticipated and is pretty affectionate. He is full of energy and never stops running and puts everything he can in his mouth. We have employed 2 staff and a volunteer to work solely with Renan.

Brother and sister, Felix and Merelin returned to live with their mother. She has worked so hard to get her life back in order and has never missed a scheduled visit with her children. We wish the whole family well as the rebuild their lives together. It is so good to see families reunited.

In the children's house that currently brings us up to 27 children.

The new school year started on 2nd of February and we have 10 children going to El Camino –our own bi-lingual school, we have a further 13 children going to Minerva (state) School, and 3 going to Senior school in Balfate. January saw us buying 35 sets of school uniforms and school equipment at a cost of just under \$2,500.

Boy's House

The boys are doing pretty well.

Jayson and Darwin both started 3rd year in senior school and they are piloting the trade school for us. They work in the maintenance department at the hospital from 7am - 10.00am then come home to eat, shower and go off to school from 12.30 – 5pm. Darwin is becoming a very good welder and Jayson is great with wood and painting.

Julio & Luis went into last year of junior school this year and both help out around the grounds.

Elkin (boy with Spina Bifida) returned to live with us after a couple of months back with his family. He is much more motivated and we are helping him develop his ability to walk, and teaching him to read, write and count, he is doing so well.

Girls House

Daniela who we took in, in November proved to be very problematic. Having lived on the streets and around other people's houses for a couple of years, she was really "street smart". Her ability to deceive, manipulate and steal is not something we have dealt with on such a scale before. She was one of the ring leaders in the latest runaway episode. On her return we sent her to the child care authorities who have placed her in a secure unit.

Norma again has been a troubled girl who has shown a lot of troubled behavior, cutting herself, locking herself in her room, trouble at school, etc. She too has run but has not returned.

Reina has been less challenging but not at all perfect. We reluctantly allowed her to visit her family for Christmas and when she returned she has just been so sad and angry all the time. She just wanted to return to her parents but we believe it is not safe for her to do so but she ran anyway. We now know she has gone back to her family who moved house so we are unable to trace them and have lost contact.

Yessenia was never any problem until Daniela's arrival and has been difficult since then. Yessenia had been the top girl in school for the last 3 years running but has lost her focus. Yessenia who we thought had run away has now returned, she was in fact abducted by the others who ran away to make sure she didn't report where they were going. However the parents, who had encouraged their children to run away, realised the significance of abducting a minor and sent her back. We are glad to have her back.

Andrea has thankfully stayed home. She continues to grow in to a beautiful woman in her nature and her looks. She works hard around the house, plays football for the local ladies team, studies hard and really wants to go to university. She has her first boyfriend and they came and asked permission to date and meet 2 times a week in the house under supervision.

We have now moved 4 girls from the children's house into the teenage girl's house. This too is a challenge but the girls are doing really well and growing up fast.

Things have settled down in the girl's house again.

Update on Sam, we just got Sam's final school results for the year and he has done a great job;

English 96%

Maths 95%

Physics 92%

History 95%

Advanced Computer programming 100%

Araon. You may remember the little boy Araon that I have shown photos of during our visits with you. Araon had skin cancer that was untreatable. In November it became clear that there was no more treatments we could offer, no more surgeries that could extend his life. In December we moved Aaron and his mother Glenda from the hospital into our family house to provide hospice type care for what we expected would only be a couple of weeks. Aaron's dad Juan increasingly stayed too and we had many visits of family and friends. Aaron just kept on fighting until March when he very quickly deteriorated and died on 16th March. A few days before he died, he was awake to get his 2AM meds, and he told Glenda he had, had a dream. Glenda asked him what it was about, and he said Jesus was in his dream, dressed all in white, with a blue sash around him. And Jesus told him that he was getting ready to take Araon to a very pretty place - the most beautiful place he'd ever been. Jesus said that he was going to take Araon's hand, and take him to that place, so that he would get there safely. And then he'd be with Jesus there. While we are glad his suffering is over and we believe he is in a better place, it has left a huge hole in our lives. Glenda of course is suffering; please remember this is the second time she has gone through the same thing having lost her daughter Mirabelle to the same condition 5 years ago. Also knowing she cannot have any more children with her husband as it is a combination of their genes that generate this condition. Since Araon died their marriage has suffered greatly and it looks unlikely it will survive. Glenda currently stays with us just to have a place of peace as she works out her future.



1st New arrival She was a 4 week premature baby, born in the city hospital to an 18 year old mother who gave birth and fled the hospital. The new childcare authorities asked us to take her on Easter weekend as the hospital was going onto a skeleton staff. We have had her since she was 17 days old and at the time of writing she has been with us for 16 weeks. She has grown from a measly 4 pounds and is already 14 pounds. She is way too small to mix with the other kids yet so Liz and I have her staying with us. While she is a treat to have, it is challenging having a small and very unsettled baby living with us at our age. She is (temporarily) called Alison Elizabeth until we can complete the legal process of getting her birth registered without a mother or father in the process.



3rd New arrival is Cindy. Cindy is only 13 years old And was raped by her Mothers boyfriend. She is 30 weeks pregnant. We will Have Cindy with us until at Least her baby is born in October. She is helping look after Alison and Felix which is great training for her.



2nd New Arrival. Is another baby also 3 months old. Felix was removed from his family due to severe mental health problems of his mother. He was pretty malnourished and dehydrated but has recovered well. At this point we really have no other information on him but he is a sweet little boy.



4th new arrival is another small child. He is still in our hospital at the moment as he is very sick. Daniel is 3 years old but is so severely malnourished he is about the size of a one year old. He will need a lot of care when he moves in with us in the next day or so.

Finances As we have continued to develop the services of the hospital, the children's centre and the school the running costs have continued to grow too. We are very very tight in finances at the moment, in fact at the time of writing; we only have 2 weeks of operating costs left. We have been tight before and have always seen God's provision. We expect to see the same this time, but as always it takes people to respond too. So if you, your church, your social club whatever would like to consider supporting the work of Loma De Luz, now would be a great time to start. If you want it to go to one particular branch of the work please just mark your donation to say so. You can give through our web site at www.crstone.org or through Liz and me at www.globe-uk.org

New Developments

We would really like to press ahead with 3 small developments at the Children's Centre;

- 1) build a new central kitchen and dining room for all three children's centre houses. Work is estimated at \$10,000 (£7,000)
- 2) build an extension onto the girls house to provide a staff apartment. This is estimated at \$10,000 (£7,000) (now underway)
- 3) We would like to add 3 more houses to deliver care to long term children in more of a family setting. Each house is estimated at \$50,000 (£35,000)

UK Visit. We have just bought tickets to visit UK. We will arrive in England on 19th November and will work our way north arriving in Inverness on 23rd. We will fly out again on 7th January 2016. If you have a group, church, or even just your family, please drop us a note and we will do our best to meet with you.

And Finally,

I'm sure you will see from the above ramblings that we continue to be a little busy. We currently have 37 children in our care. We continue to see children having their childhoods restored, children getting a great education, children regaining their health, children walking and talking and seeing for the first time in their lives. So please do not hear our reports as complaining or negative, we are weary from these last few months but we continue to be excited to see what our great God has in store for us and His children that we care for. As always we are grateful for all you do to support the work we do; in prayer, in deeds, and in finances, we need them all.

Thank you, and may God bless each and every one of you.
Iain, Liz and Sam.