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BREAKING CHAINS THROUGH EDUCATION

BY COREY BRYANT

Scholarships, scholarships, scholarships! Four children from Breaking Chains have received scholarships to attend Interamerican School, a local bilingual school where I am a fourth grade teacher. School begins in February, and we have a lot of work to do to get the kids ready.

Michael and I have begun tutoring lessons with some of the kids to get them up to par with the others at the school. Many of the kids at the building are far behind, and some are even unable to read. Dayana, Jonatan, Arol and Escarleth will start school in February at Interamerican. We plan to enroll Genesis in another bilingual school starting in August of next year.

Interamerican has partnered with us to provide a scholarship for each child, meaning there are no monthly payments for the children. However, we will be responsible for the cost of books, uniforms and transportation.

The kids are extremely excited to start school, and we



Corey is a Kent State University student finishing his college and student teaching requirements at Interamerican School in Honduras. He began working with Breaking Chains Honduras this fall.

are just as excited to watch them learn and grow with this amazing gift we have been given. Education in Honduras has several issues, especially in public schools, so it will be an amazing opportunity for these kids to go to a private school. Stay tuned for more updates and ways you can help provide a first-class education for these loveable children.



REIMAGINING COOKING

BY AMBER FOSTER

This summer, Tim Theiss and Kingston Church of Christ began talking about how they could help make the lives of the families we work with a little bit healthier. Tim found an experimental stove that limits smoke output and, in turn, helps with the respiratory health of those using it.

Early this month, we received eight stoves which we are testing out with local families to see how cost-effective it would be to provide these with the homes that we build. We are very excited about the possibilities of this project.

'TIS THE SEASON: A HOLIDAY BLESSING

BY MICHAEL LEMMONS



All of us at Breaking Chains are grateful to our friends and family who showered us with generosity. We love and appreciate you so much! We hope your Christmas is as blessed as ours will be.

When you receive nearly \$4,000 in less than five days, you can't help but feel elated. When that money answers Christmas wishes for close to 40 people, you can't help but feel in awe of the Almighty's power.

Our ministry team at Breaking Chains has talked for more than a month about how we want to celebrate Christmas this year at our building. We all loved the idea of getting them each a gift and taking a trip, but then we had to come up with a way to pay for it.

We decided we would try to get sponsorships, \$100 per person living at our building. We put the bios about each person on my blog on a Friday and linked them to our Facebook and Breaking Chains blog. Then, we watched

the donations fly. We had every sponsor needed by the following Tuesday.

Thirty-six beautiful souls will enjoy gifts to call their own and experience Christmas at the beach this year, thanks to more than 30 individuals and families.

The celebration will happen at the beach December 29 – 30. Our BC kids and adults only know we're taking a trip for Christmas and about the wonderful people who made it happen. When we told them about their sponsors, they erupted in applause. They won't know the other plans until they arrive at the beach. Then they will be overwhelmed with decorations, gifts, food and a Christmas experience like most of them have never known.

YOUTH GROUP FORMS AT BREAKING CHAINS

BY AMBER FOSTER

This month marked the start of something very exciting here at Breaking Chains. Due to the influx of teens at our ministry over the past few months, we decided to start a teen class. We were all a little hesitant about how the teens would receive the class due to the transient nature of their lives, but as a whole, they have welcomed it with open arms.

We typically have about 15 teens. Our current goal is to work through the life of Christ on Sundays and deal with life skills and team building on Wednesdays. All of the teens have a journal they use during class to write about their life experiences as they pertain to the



day's topic. It has been touching to read some of their goals and struggles, as well as the little notes they often leave for us in the back of their books. We hope to share with you some of the prayers they wrote over Thanksgiving weekend in the next few months.

FEATURE



“I’LL TRY TO BE MORE NORMAL, MOM.”: A SWEET, YET GUARDED SOUL

BY AMBER FOSTER

Cristian is a 17-year-old young man who came to the ministry one night with two friends and asked for a place to stay. I wasn't at the building at the time, and Courtney called to ask my opinion. New kids are always a challenge, but we try to give everyone a chance, at least for a place to sleep at night.

The next day was a build day so Cristian went out with the rest of the kids to help David build a house, and quickly won over the hearts of everyone involved. Cristian is a hard worker and eager to please. At the work site on his first day with our ministry, he shyly volunteered to lead a prayer over the family and did a fabulous job.

At seven years old, he witnessed his father murder his mother. Since then, he has tried desperately not to turn into his dad. Cristian knows the right answers and the right way to behave, but he rarely shows emo-

tion and always has a forced smile on his face.

One day I sat down with Cristian and asked him to share his story. Then, we talked a bit about my concerns for him. I worry about his inability to express true emotion, and I told him how that might affect his future. Cristian looked up at me with true sadness in his eyes and said, “I’ll try to be more normal, Mom.”

My prayer is that Cristian stop “trying” to be normal and just allow God to work in his life as he is. He is a wonderful young man who is starting to open up, especially when he scores a goal in soccer or chases Rosie around the building. One night, Cristian told me he would love to be a leader in the church one day. With his responsibility and leadership skills, I am confident that he will one day realize that dream.

CRISTIAN’S PRAYER:

Our Father,

I give you thanks for all the things you have done in my life. Take care of my father, wherever he is. I ask you to bless him. I thank you that I don't have any bitterness towards my father. I know that he did wrong and I ask you to put a new heart in him, because only you can change people. I ask that he is able to laugh at your side. Help me to be someone good, that has enough strength to move ahead and to help my brother. I ask you to take care of my family and take care of my mother, wherever she is. I pray that I do the right things so that she can be proud of me. I know that you care for me and protect me. This is all I ask.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



TEENS SERVE OTHERS, GROW TOGETHER THROUGH HOUSE BUILD PROJECT

BY: COURTNEY MATHEWS

Building a house is not always easy for a group of well-educated grown-ups, so we weren't quite sure what to expect when we brought eight teenagers from the homeless ministry along to do the job.

Jennifer Wright, another missionary and friend in the city, came across a family in need of housing. After successfully raising the money to complete the project, all she was missing was the workers. David saw it as a great opportunity for the youth at the building to get their hands dirty and help, so at 6:30 on a Wednesday morning, we piled into cars and headed to the site.

Once at the site, we found out that the job was a little trickier than



originally thought. Not only did the teens need to build a house, they also needed to tear down an existing structure and cart away the heavy, dusty debris.

We watched and smiled as teens got to work, never complaining as their bodies became human dirt magnets or the long morning stretched into early evening. The teens worked in tandem all day - hammering together, laughing together and, at the end of the day, admiring a job well done - together.

Once the house was built, Cristian

said a blessing for the new homeowner, and then the homeowner said a blessing of her own right back to the teens.

It was a great experience for the teens to see something come to fruition that they were responsible for creating. The teens are capable of doing so much if presented with the right opportunity. We pray that, as a ministry, we can continue to present those kinds of opportunities, and that each of the teens will realize the amazing purposes that God has for them.

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bchonduras.wordpress.com

Prayer requests:

- New scholarship and education initiative
- Safety and growth of the youth at the building
- Christmas plans
- Building and roof purchase
- Awaiting approval for the Honduran NGO