



...From One Heart to Another

Heart to Heart

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
- Matthew 25:35-36, 40

Dear Friends,

There's nothing quite like being surrounded by children, whether in Guatemala or at CHCS. The desire of Connecting Hearts Ministry is to encourage the children around us to walk in obedience to Jesus Christ and to find joy in serving him. Thank you for your part in making that happen!

In Christ,
Danna Hall



Amigos Students are growing in Christ!

Part of the Fabric of CHCS

By Tom Orihel, CHCS-G Parent

Connecting Hearts is an integral part of the fabric of Chapel Hill Christian School. It's not just a side program. It's who we are as a school, as a ministry and as the body of Christ. It offers each of us -- every parent, student, alumni, and teacher -- the opportunity to impact the world and spread the Gospel.



The Orihels visiting Evelin

This summer, I was privileged to have my entire family travel to Guatemala. The five of us had previously made a total of eighteen trips to Guatemala, but this was our first time to be there together as a family. It was a great blessing to work together using our individual talents to help the children of Peronia.

My wife, Jodi, a former teacher, taught English to every grade from kindergarten to ninth grade at the Amigos school. For six to seven hours each day, Jodi and my sister Diane Orihel used stories, songs, art projects and games to make learning English fun and memorable.

My son, Joe (a 2005 CHCS grad), daughter Kimmie (a 2007 CHCS grad), and Kimmie's friend, Megan Woods, developed a week-long "youth group" program for the junior high and high school aged kids. On Thursday and Friday, they went into each classroom, introduced themselves, and played games, connecting with their Guatemalan peers, developing interest in the coming activities. On Saturday, they organized a "service project". They painted part of the school, played teamwork oriented games, ate pizza, and gave a twenty minute devotion (translated by Joe). Sixty-seven Guatemalan

teens showed up to help paint and clean their school on a Saturday afternoon. On Monday and Tuesday evening, sixty teens showed up for "youth group" activities.

My son Robert (CHCS 5th grader) helped everyone and got to spend the week with his friend (and sponsored student), Kevin Sanchez. Through his one-on-one time with Kevin and his mother, we were able to learn about some special needs in Kevin's life and help find a solution.



Joe Orihel and his buddies

I was blessed to be able to help each of my family members as they ministered to the children of the Amigos school. I was also blessed to see how the children ministered to and impacted my family. My wife, sister, children, and friends worked tirelessly -- but walked away feeling as though they had received more than they had given.



Handprints completed the freshly-painted wall

That seems to be the way God works through Connecting Hearts Ministry. The more you invest (in time, prayer and support), the more you are blessed. The more you open your heart to the children of Guatemala, the more God fills it with love and appreciation. We thank God for the awesome opportunity to have our hearts connected to His and to the Amigos School.

Seeing God at Work in Guatemala

My name is Leah Maher, and I am in 5th grade at CHCS. I am so happy that I was able to go to Guatemala this summer with my family and our church youth group!

The home visits were my favorite part of the trip. During home visits we got to meet people like Lita and hear story after story about how the people we visited had so much faith in God. They pray to him about everything. They love him. I felt badly because I don't have that kind of faith in God, but I want to. After the visits, I prayed that God would help me to have more faith in him.

I also thought it was neat that when I went to work in the Amigos School, it was ok that I did not speak Spanish and the kids did not speak English. We still found ways to become friends by smiling at each other, playing games together, and sharing the items I brought in my friendship bag.

I can't wait to go back to Guatemala!



Leah made many new amigas!

Praising...

- Thanks to friends who gave gifts to be used 'as needed' during the summer trip. A classroom set of God's Word was provided for students to use during Bible class. A sturdy cabinet was also purchased to store the Bibles, CD player, flannel graph, and other school supplies provided by CHM friends. Thank you!

- It was evident during our recent trip that the students and staff of the Amigos School were growing in Jesus Christ. What an answer to prayer!

- The San Marcos School recently hosted their first Teacher Training Seminar, which was attended by 85 area teachers, most from public schools. This was a wonderful opportunity to share Christ.



Cristian uses a classroom Bible

And praying...

... for Gerson, a newly sponsored third grader, that God will be his strength in a time of sadness. His father recently left the family, and his sister passed away from cancer.

... that the Wordless Book caterpillars, made by the Amigos students, will continue to be reminders for the children of Christ's love. Emily Thompson, a recent University of Akron graduate, shared the plan of salvation with the students through these colorful insects!



Gerson holding a treasured gift from his sponsors

Did You Know?

- Eleven students from Freshwater Community Church in Wadsworth, along with Pastor Len Maher and his wife Kim (a CHCS-N teacher), daughters Natalie and Leah (CHCS-N 5th and 3rd graders), ministered at the Amigos School in July. They taught volleyball, dramatized Bible stories, sang songs, went on a "bear hunt," and enjoyed a flyswatter game! The Amigos students loved learning English as they interacted with the Freshwater group.



Youth from Freshwater Community Church

- Stephanie and Willy Marroquin and Carol Traugh helped lead this summer's trip and kept things lively!

- Teachers and 37 students who want more intensive English are participating in after-school classes. Even after working from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., eleven adults eagerly stay for two-hour English classes. These are taught by Cristian, one of our sponsored students who is attending college.



Stephanie enjoyed her time in PK!

Connecting Hearts Ministry

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