



IDENTITY DAY AT HOGAR EMANUEL

IM in touch

July 2015



WWW.IDENTITYMISSION.ORG

Who am I?

By Tara Boshart Garcia

One of the foundational focuses for Identity Mission is to bring the children growing up in residential care an awareness of who they are in Christ. Not only who they are in Christ, but who they are as an individual. A great book I read recently that actually uses examples from an amazing project right here in Honduras: [In Pursuit of Orphan Excellence](#), co-written by two admirable orphan care workers Philip Darke and Keith McFarland states it best: “Who we are is grounded in the place of family. The past, present, and future are all held together in the story of our family. **The loss of family and specifically the loss of fatherhood leads to a loss of identity, belonging, and purpose.** The loss of identity in the life of a child is the foundational place of the wounding of an orphan’s heart. Without a clear sense of identity, belonging and purpose will never be found.”

The purpose of Identity Day

That is the core reason, IM decided to host an event we call Identity Day. So many of the children aging out of residential care simply still don’t know how to answer the deepest question we all have: “Who am I?” Our hope is to bring some answers to those questions of identity, belonging, and purpose through

these regular Identity Days. Along with performances from local Christian drama groups, fun activities and crafts, and fellowship with other residential homes that bring their children to join in, an identity message is shared.

Identity Day at Hogar Emanuel

In June, a mission team from Pennsylvania assisted us with hosting our first Identity Day at Hogar Emanuel in San Pedro Sula. They shared the message of how we have NEW LIFE in Christ and are new creations. They presented the younger children with “New Life in Christ” Birth Certificates. This was simply precious since many of these children do not even have a real birth certificate, or know their real birth date.

Also joining us for the day was Pablo Elvir, pastor of City Hope church, a quickly growing church here in the city of San Pedro Sula. He brought an extremely relative message of identity to the older children attending the event because he himself grew up in a residential home. Then IM handed out laminated ID Cards to the 40 youth to represent their identity in Christ. Similarly important because they too are often unable to secure any form of ID cards.



Children enjoying a craft that goes along with the message.



Pastor Pablo Elvir sharing the identity message with the youth.

IDENTITY DAY VIDEO!

Follow this link to see a video of Identity Day at Hogar Emanuel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyNP9ySeHQA&feature=youtu.be>

IM Chosen 2 Care Conference

By AJ Ford

This year the “IM Chosen to Care” conference was held in Siguatepeque. As always the conference was a great time of meeting with long-time and new friends together over 2 full days of general sessions and breakouts. Over the two days, a total of 83 people attended the conference representing 32 organizations. One of the grandest parts of the conference was when we realized the attendance was approximately half Hondurans and half foreign missionaries; praise God! What a joy to know we are serving side-by-side as the Christian body in the orphan cause!

During the conference we were blessed to listen to seasoned children’s homes directors and project developers from all over the country of Honduras. Angie McInvale, director of Hogar Esperanza, shared with us that transition needs to be decided for the individual child not necessarily as one plan for the entire children’s home as a whole. Jorge and Tara Garcia, Identity Mission founders, shared about the importance for each home to cultivate and develop identity within each of their children. Gracie Murphree, director of Heart for Christ, provided important information concerning staff documentation, children documentation, and other very important procedures concerning security and keeping the children’s home legal.



There was a wide array of breakout workshops this year including, Lifebooks (personally I think this is an amazing idea), recruiting house parents, knowing each other’s stories: Power of a testimony, and sustainability. Many attending expressed how beneficial these were for everyday life situations they tackle.

I must admit having a two day conference this year seemed overwhelming, but God pulled it off in a big way and showed up as always! We are so amazed at how He designs it each year with clarity for what He is already doing in each of us and the other orphan care workers’ hearts! Thanks to you our supporters for making sure events like this

happen through your continued prayers and committed support. Watch out for 2016 conference plans coming soon!!!

IM C2C ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Each year in May IM hosts a weekend conference for the residential homes to share and gather information. Plan now to join us next year, May 2016! For more information contact AJ: fordandrew.ky@gmail.com



This is Tania; she came to us from the government children services (DINAF) office in San Pedro Sula. She is one of many abandoned babies in the country of Honduras.

DINAF had Identity Mission pick her up because they too desire to see as many vulnerable children as possible placed into families!!!! God is moving and it is incredible! I can’t even begin to express how precious it is to be a part of seeing this movement of children to families; God’s heart’s being revealed to an entire country: the government, Honduran Christian families, and us here as orphan care organizations.

Transition to Family!

One such organization, Destino del Reino, has recently too become a huge part of the foster care movement by becoming a transition home partner with Identity Mission. While it is best for an abandoned child to go directly to his/her foster/adoptive family, a family isn’t always readily available. That’s where this piece to the puzzle is so desperately needed: a safe place for the child to await a family. When IM presented this need to Rhonda Jackson, the organization’s director, she immediately made it a prayer and then chose to fill the need! (No other transition home existed in her region.) It was sweetly a God moment!

Now, the region of Comayagua also has a fully operating transition home. And while IM is processing foster and adoptive families, we can know that these children are being loved and staying healthy while awaiting their forever family!

Although Rhonda soon discovered Tania is suffering from the drugs her mom took during pregnancy, only after a month with the home Tania has gained weight and has been developing as she should; all thanks to the wonderful care of Rhonda and her staff. Thank you Destino del Reino for helping Honduras move towards family-based care!



Miguel Angel was placed into the transition home as well just last week.

FAMILY-BASED CARE MOVEMENT

To learn more about IM’s involvement in the foster care and adoption movement request our handbook at tara.honduras@gmail.com

IM a Partner!

By: Tara Boshart Garcia

Numerous times in His word God calls us to do something about the cry of the fatherless. And for each of us that takes form in different ways. For Abundant Life Community Church it takes the form of walking alongside Senderos de Amor boys' residential home!

Prayer Partners

When this church heard of Senderos' many needs, they decided to put faith into action and do something. First, they put a picture of each boy into the hands of a family from their congregation. Now each boy has a prayer



partner believing daily for God's best for that boy!

Bible Partners

During a devotional time with an IM mission team this past March, several of the boys received Christ as their Lord and Savior. It was then that we knew we didn't want to also create spiritual orphans by leaving these new Christians without a means to be parented in the gospel.

So, when IM shared this need with Abundant Life, they chose to equip the boys in the most important area: with a Bible of their own!

We had the joy of passing out the Bibles last month and sharing a message of who the Bible says they are:

- **Adopted into the family of God**
- **Righteous through Christ Jesus.**
- **Receivers of wisdom, delivered from poverty, and so much more!**



We so desperately want them to know that they are NOT what the world says they are: orphans, poorest of the poor, unintelligent due to lack of nutrition at birth, and so forth. Things they really hear every day from the community around them.



Partners in Change and Hope

While Bibles and Prayer brings hope and change, nothing can bring transformation like a dedicated staff to actually do the daily Bible study with the boys, teach them truth by love in action, and regularly provide the fellowship and structure the boys need to thrive.

That is why we are so extremely grateful for Abundant Life's latest partnership in providing the means for two staff to be at Senderos de Amor and be their extended arms to the boys.

These are the changes that partnership provides. Changes and hope that truly connect us all as the family of God.



Transformation at Senderos

Thank you all that have been a part of the My Childhood Home Campaign thus far. So many projects are underway or completed! But we have tons more! Get involved today!

www.identitymission.org/mychildhoodhome



Big News!!!

God has moved BIG mountains today!!! A fellow missionary and foster care advocate has been in Tegucigalpa DINAF and it is officially declared that Honduras will now allow Foster to Adopt for our Honduran foster families!!!



Flat tire! (Blog from Jorge Garcia)

Edwin and Marlon are 18 year old twins. Milton is their 16 year old brother. Arnulfo is 14. My son Josef is 5 right now, so I have to wait a few years still to teach him how to change a tire. And I was blessed enough to be able to teach these guys something that's going to be with them until they have to teach their own kids.

MY CHILDHOOD HOME CAMPAIGN

Want to know more about how to partner in transforming orphanages into homes? Request a poster, video, and flier!

IM Praying!



Home Care

- My Childhood Home Campaign to be successful in bringing in the funds and partners needed to transform the three residential homes: Senderos de Amor, Hogar Santidad, and My Little Lambs
- AJ Ford, Home Care Director, as he travels to US to share the needs of the residential homes.
- The new staff and all staff of these residential homes to be equipped to love the children in excellence.



Family-based Care

- For upcoming training with Casa Viva (NGO in Costa Rica with solid model of implementing foster family programs in Latin American countries.)
- Pray with us as we search for and hire staff to assist in the area of family-based care.
- For a forever family for Tania and Miguel Angel. For the completion of Erika's adoption!



Other prayers

- For Tara's trip to the U.S. during the month of August. She will be visiting NH, NC, and TX to share what's current with orphan care in Honduras and IM's involvement.
- Upcoming mission teams in September: Rock Church and Judah Church
- Continued collaboration of government and their continued desire to make decisions based on children's best interest.

IM Blessed!

Give today:

Online: www.identitymission.org

Identity Mission

PO Box 411691

Charlotte, NC 28241

704-584-5644

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling."

-Psalm 68:5