



Spring 2021

The Jubilee Journal

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

We hope and pray that you are well! As the school year in the US rolls to a close, Jubilee's school year in Honduras is just two months underway. As you can imagine, the start of the 2021 school year has been like none we have ever experienced. The Honduran Secretary of Education mandates that all schools must begin and continue virtually until further notice. Although seeing our 300 students through a screen on the first day of school was outside our normal tradition of welcoming eager and nervous kids with hugs, smiles, and high-fives at the entrance, it still was surprisingly rewarding to be "together" again!



We are so incredibly blessed by a resilient, creative, flexible, and hard-working teaching staff that goes to no end to find fun and engaging ways to impact and educate our students. We are also so thankful for the eager energy and enthusiasm our students bring to the Zoom classroom every day, excited to be together and to be able to learn and socialize in this new way. Last, but not least, **we are thankful to donors like you who continue to invest in our students and community during these unprecedented times.**

We know that this virtual learning has taken its toll both on students and parents. Personally, as parents of Jubilee students (Anthony in 6th grade and Eli in 4th grade), we can attest to how emotionally and relationally challenging it has been to do distance-learning from home. All of us have been working, studying, and living under the same roof 24/7 for the past 12 months! Talk about a test of family bonds, patience, and love! **We ask for your continued and increased prayers for our families and students during these mentally, emotionally, financially, and spiritually challenging times.**

With much gratitude,

David & Emily Romero
The Romeros



Abby in 9th grade and Kevin, Uzziel, & Dominic in 7th grade were thankful to receive a school supply kit for this new school year!

Jubilee's 2021 Theme Be Strong & Courageous

On Monday, February 8th, we began with 300 Kindergarten – 9th grade students and all kinds of new and innovative ways to reach, educate, and impact our students and their families through virtual means. We felt that the Lord was leading us to the well-loved passage from Joshua, **“Be strong and courageous”** as a needed theme for our times and for this school year. Without a doubt, we must be strong and courageous to successfully face head on the challenges of this new year.

Students are connecting to live Zoom classroom instruction 3 days per week. We are also using Google Classroom to post assignments and for students to submit their homework. **We are so thankful for the support of churches and individuals like you who made it possible to help us supply several dozen students with a home computer!**

Through your generous support, we were also able to give out school supply kits to each one of our 300 students at the beginning of the school year! On the day of the school supply distribution, Maryorie in 8th grade—who has studied at Jubilee since Kindergarten—shared her gratitude saying, “I am so thankful to the school and our supporters because often we need school materials like these but we can’t always buy them. I know that it was God who put the desire in their hearts to benefit us in this way and to allow us to be more prepared to do all our schoolwork.”

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– Maryorie, 8th grader

Some Words from Our Students & Staff



“I am very happy and grateful to God. I really like our devotional time, and I love this year’s theme verse which is Joshua 1:9. I will be strong, and I will be very brave! I want to thank my teacher very much for her efforts and dedication.

– Angeri Castellano, Sixth Grade

“From the beginning of teaching school virtually, I have cried out to God to give us a lot of creativity. It is not easy to keep students engaged and learning while they sit in front of a screen, but even given the limited tools that we have, the Lord has given us His favor. Even if the internet fails us, we have a ‘Plan B’ to ensure that we can keep moving forward with our curriculum.

– Mrs. Claudia Velásquez,
Kindergarten Teacher



“My teacher is great, and I appreciate everything she teaches me. I pray that God blesses her!

– Iván Bailey, Second Grade

Building Deep & Tall

Generous gifts to Jubilee’s Middle School Campaign from partners like you are allowing us to build every day and get closer to the finished construction spaces that we can’t wait to begin using! Also, these gifts have allowed us to employ 15 full-time construction workers for the past 20 months!

The 22 foot high retaining wall that will allow us to expand the property over 50 feet outwards. On top of this extension, we will build the chapel and roofed soccer field. The first completed stories of our new four story building and the beginnings of the stairwell that will connect the original building with this new building. The new building will contain office spaces, teacher work areas, a cafeteria, a science lab, and more classroom space. **Read more on our blog at jubileecentershcn.org/blog.**



Welcome Laura to the Jubilee Family

We are very excited to introduce you to Jubilee's new Community Engagement Coordinator, Laura Sullivan. In addition to the energy and passion that she brings to her work, Laura brings in over 30 years of administrative and team management experience from working for RDV Corporation and Maria & Doug DeVos. Please reach out to Laura by email at lsullivan@jubileehn.org or by phone at 616.293.5065 if there is any way that she can be of help to you!



“ I am overjoyed to join the Jubilee Family! From the minute I first spoke with the Romeros, it was very evident to me that they have a great passion for what God has called them to do. I could feel the love that they have for the children and the community in which they serve. I look forward to meeting you and learning more about what has brought you to this incredible mission. ”

Student Feature: Joshua Garcia

Joshua Garcia, a 7th grader this year, has been a strong leader at Jubilee. Joshua sings and plays the bass guitar in the student worship band, which has allowed him to lead his fellow classmates in something that he is passionate about—worshipping God. Just as COVID has meant a transition to in-person instruction to virtual learning, we have also transitioned our music academy to be held virtually. While not ideal, Joshua continues to work hard to glorify God with his voice and through playing the bass guitar.



Weekly virtual student devotionals continue at Jubilee and Joshua shares, “The Thursday devotionals have been very edifying for my spiritual nourishment and a source of truth for the times that we are living in. The Devotional times give us strength to keep going!” It has been difficult for a very-social and natural leader like Joshua to sit behind a screen for classes, but he is hopeful for the day that he gets to return with his classmates.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Jubilee's May Student Sponsorship Campaign is right around the corner! Also, the date and venue of our Fall Celebration Event is still TBD. We will let you know as soon as we know more.