

JUBILEE JOURNAL

JUBILEE CENTERS INTERNATIONAL

SPRING 2018



BUILDING LIBRARIES

Imagine for a moment that you have never borrowed a book from a public library nor had the funds to purchase a novel at a bookstore. Imagine growing up without books in your home. Inconceivable, right?

As difficult as this is to imagine, it is the sad reality for most Hondurans today. University and school libraries have books but they often can't be checked out due to the fear that they won't be returned. Small bookstores in larger cities offer only a very limited and expensive selection for children and teens, but ironically most of them are in English. No wonder many Honduran kids and adults lack interest in reading!

Jubilee is working to change this for our students and families. Jubilee is one of a handful of schools in Tegucigalpa with an inviting, friendly library thanks to administrators, teachers, and supporting donors who understand that reading is crucial to learning.

In addition to the central school library, we have started to establish classroom libraries and hope to

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have them in every classroom featuring authors from Latin America and around the world. This past January, Jubilee staff participated in a workshop led by two teachers from The Potter's House School in Grand Rapids, MI, learning how to set up and best use classroom libraries. Donated books for the classroom libraries arrived and a local Honduran carpenter built beautiful bookshelves to house what we hope will grow to be sizable classroom libraries.

We are so thankful that Jubilee students are now reading more often during their school day. It is also exciting that they are checking these books out to read at home, a new experience for staff and students alike. We praise God for the opportunities that Jubilee students and staff have to read and share books with their families at home.

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How can I help support Jubilee?

1. Pray for Jubilee's students and staff and the community of La Era.

2. Donate financially to support Jubilee's work.

You can give by mail, returning the enclosed envelope to Jubilee, or by giving online at jubileehn.kindful.com

3. Consider visiting Jubilee so you can personally see and experience how God is at work there.

4. Save your grocery receipts.

Direct Your Dollars is a program that allows you to help Jubilee raise funds by simply save your receipt every time you shop at your local Spartan Store such as Family Fare, Forest Hills Foods, and D&W and encourage your friends and family to do the same.

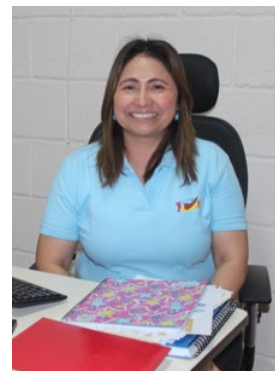
Once we've collected \$150,000 in receipts from these stores, we are eligible for a \$1,000 donation to Jubilee! With a collective effort, the receipts will add up quickly!

We'll be collecting eligible receipts by mail. Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 7758
Grand Rapids, MI 49510

Please make sure you send in the entire original receipt, partial receipts are not eligible.

BIENVENIDA MRS. OSORIO!

Last year when we found out that our wonderful school principal, Ms. Gabriela Casco, was going to get married and move to Nicaragua where her husband serves as a pastor. We were happy for her but sad because we didn't want her to leave Jubilee! We wondered, "How can we replace her?" As always, the Lord is faithful to provide, and through an unexpected sequence of events, He allowed us to meet Mrs. Yeni Osorio who is our new school principal!



Mrs. Osorio graduated with a degree in pedagogy and has worked for over 10 years in different roles in the education field such as classroom teacher, parent/teacher trainer, school principal, and college professor. She grew up in Tegucigalpa, the second oldest of eight children. Her mother taught the family the importance of hard work, unity, and serving God.

Mrs. Osorio and her husband have been married for 17 years and they have two daughters, ages 16 and 7. "We are a very close-knit family," says Mrs. Osorio who smiles and shares that some of her hobbies are reading, taking road trips, and spending time in nature. Currently, Mrs. Osorio is working on her Master's Degree in Administrative Planning Strategies in Education at a university in Nicaragua. She travels to Nicaragua once a month while most of the work is done online.

When asked what she has been surprised by as a new staff member at Jubilee's school, she expressed how impressed she has been with the commitment and love of the staff and the example shown by the leadership of the school. "This motivates me to give even more of myself to the ministry." She shared that she also has been surprised by the order and discipline of the students and the inviting school culture. "It is so wonderful that Jubilee is a place that children are taught to enjoy reading, not just do it out of obligation."

Some of our new principal's hopes and dreams for Jubilee are to help the school move forward into middle school and high school. She also wants to make an emphasis on developing children who discover, explore, and investigate. "This is a great weakness in our Honduran education system, but it is something that I hope to continue to strengthen at Jubilee by graduating student leaders who do their work and live their lives with excellence for the Lord."

Welcome, Mrs. Osorio!



SUPPORTING OUR GRADUATES

As many of you remember, two of our sixth grade classes have graduated without the opportunity to move on to middle school at Jubilee. Since we love our students and have made such a great investment in them we knew that we wanted to stay connected to them during what will be some of the most critical years of their lives. That is why this year we are thankful to launch a new middle school support program for our seventh and eighth grade graduates.

Jubilee is providing transportation to and from one of the best and safest public middle schools in our district for our graduates. The students also come twice a week to Jubilee for computer research time and for a youth Bible study and a hot meal. The parents and students are very thankful for this opportunity! Karen, who is the mother of Karla, an 8th grader, expressed how scared she used to be each day, sending her daughter on foot to the other middle school. "I am so happy and relieved to have Karla in Jubilee's middle school support program, and I want to thank everyone who makes this program possible."



BUILDING LIBRARIES (CONT.)

It is our hope that Jubilee will raise up a generation of lifelong readers and learners and we pray that God will continue to grow these classroom libraries so that students can learn more about God's creation. Presently, the classroom libraries have 30-40 fiction and non-fiction titles in Spanish. It would be wonderful to triple this number of books for each classroom by the end of this year!

If you are interested in supporting the growth of Jubilee's classroom libraries, please contact Kate Neckers at kneckers@jubileehn.org.



SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us for Jubilee's first ever Amistad event!

Thursday, May 3

5:00 - 7:00 PM

The Rickhouse at Long Road Distillers

537 Leonard St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Amistad means friendship and we want to get to know our friends better and introduce new friends to the ministry too! We will spend the evening getting to know each other and hearing how God is at work in the lives of the Jubilee students.

We will also be debuting a blend of Honduran coffee made especially for Jubilee from Platform Coffee Roasters. The blend will be available for purchase at the event, with proceeds going directly to Jubilee.

There is no cost to attend but please make sure to RSVP at bit.ly/amistadevent.





Jubilee
CENTERS INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 7758,
Grand Rapids, MI 49510



Follow us @jubileecenters
www.jubileehn.org

A NOTE FROM HONDURAS

This is always a joyful and busy time as we begin a new school year. There is a lot that goes into getting ready for a new year and thankfully it is a big team effort! Some of the many to-do's include decorating and organizing each classroom, enrolling students, interviewing new students and families, updating staff members' roles, maintaining and making necessary improvements to the building and property, leading parent meetings and staff training and orientation, providing all the necessary materials and resources for students and teachers, making class schedules, producing new classroom rotations, and the list could go on and on. We are thankful for God's strength, wisdom, and good health!

After all of this preparation comes the best part. On February 5th, with great thanksgiving and enthusiasm, Jubilee opened its gates to some 220 students who were happy, excited, and a little nervous for the first day of school. After a two-and-a-half month absence from the day-to-day sights, sounds, melodies, chatter, and laughter of

the children, it is so wonderful to have them back! We certainly missed them even though we know the teachers did enjoy their break!

This year our theme verse is "In everything, give thanks." (1 Thessalonians 5:18). This verse decorates every classroom in the building and its meaning is being etched into our hearts and daily habits. During children's worship we are learning about people in the Bible who gave thanks. As a school we are memorizing Psalms 33, 100, and 138. During classroom devotions, each student has a gratitude journal and is experiencing the joy it is to praise and thank God in all times and places! As a staff we are studying the book *A Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp and together we are beginning to see more of His glory as we intentionally name His graces all around us.

Please join us in praying for a year filled with thanksgiving and the fullness of JOY!

In Christ's Love,

Emily & David Romero
Co-Founders and Honduras Directors

