



Jubilee

SUMMER 2024

JOURNAL

Dear Friends,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you this summer season. Every year in Honduras the transition between the intense dry season and the abundant rainy season brings stark contrasts. This year, however, brought even more new challenges, rarely seen before. As you may recall from email updates, May was filled with horrible air pollution, putting us in the "hazardous" air quality index category for many consecutive days, due to forest fires, pollution, lack of rain, and extreme heat. We reached above 90 degrees from March - to May, something very rare for Tegucigalpa, due to our high altitude.

In addition to the poor air conditions, the rain which normally begins during the first days of May didn't fall week after week after week. Sadly, for our students, families, and community members, the lack of rainwater also means a lack of running water in our homes. During the dry season, there were parts of La Era (and much of the entire city) that only got a few hours of running water every 15 - 30 days. This means that when the water does come, someone must be home to fill up every bottle, container, basin, and reservoir that exists in the home.

How does a community survive with such little water, you may ask? Hondurans in poor communities like La Era have learned to become experts at saving and recycling every drop of water, washing dishes and clothes with as little water as possible, and taking fast bucket showers.

In Honduras, it continues to be an injustice, decade after decade, that the poorest communities get the least water.

Thanks to the support of generous partners like you, Jubilee was extremely blessed to be able to drill a 300-foot well that supplies every toilet, sink, and washing basin with water that never runs out. Reminding us once again of His faithfulness and provision to Jubilee, *"He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never run dry."* (Isaiah 58:11)



We ask for your prayers and ongoing support as our students and families continue to learn, grow, and thrive despite often difficult and adverse circumstances.

In Christ's Love,



David & Emily Romero



Becoming an Instrument of Praise

JUBILEE WORSHIP

This year, our After School Music Program, Jubilee Worship, has grown more than ever before! We have 110 students in the program, 40 more students than last year. In addition to acoustic guitar, bass guitar, electric guitar, drums, percussion, piano, trumpet, and voice instruction, this year we have added three new instruments to our program: Saxophone, Violin, and Flute.

We have four separate student worship bands, a choir, a marching band, and a recorder ensemble too. We couldn't provide these enriching and empowering programs without the support of donors like you. Thank you!

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In the program, I find inspiration seeing that the new generations of musicians in our country come with so many dreams and such a desire to serve God.

– **Diego Garcia, Trumpet Teacher**

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In Jubilee's music program, we can give young people and children a beautiful space to develop the gifts and talents that the Lord has provided them.

– **Josue Lopez, Saxophone Teacher**

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The music program is a blessing that God has placed on this place. “Great things the Lord is doing with Jubilee, we are joyful!”

– **Luiz Mendoza, Program Music Principal and Drums Teacher**

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The goal of the music program is not for young people and children to learn to play an instrument, but to become an instrument of worship for the Lord.

– **Jonathan, Guitar Teacher**

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Jubilee offers children and youth who live in poverty-stricken neighborhoods the opportunity to meet Christ and receive a transformative education while also discipling the student's entire family.

What our students are saying?

JUBILEE WORSHIP

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I am very happy to be learning new things. This has been a year in which I have felt the presence of God and great joy in praising the Lord.

– **Brigette, piano, 6th grade**

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I really like my class, my teacher is very fun, and I love the flute. I enjoy learning to play it with games and activities, and I've learned more easily.

– **Alejandra, flute, 4th grade**

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Well, I feel happy and grateful to God because He has allowed me another year here in the choir. Honestly, I like it a lot because the most important thing is to worship God, and that's why I'm here.

– **Sharon, Lead vocalist, 7th Grade**

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I like it because I can express my feelings for the Lord and help others connect more with Jesus.

– **Shezeldy, bass guitar, 5th Grade**

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I am part of a very talented group that has improved a lot. We are very curious and excited to learn new things.

– **Melanie, violin, 6th Grade**

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Win-Win: The Positive Impact of ATHLETES FOR CHRIST

The Athletes for Christ After-School Sports Program began in 2023, now in its second year, we have over 60 students participating in both soccer and handball! A key highlight of this program is the integration of parents, coaches, and kids, which helps to foster a supportive environment for our students. The program offers specific disciplines for both girls and boys: until now, handball for girls and soccer for boys. These sports not only promote physical activity but also have an evangelistic purpose emphasizing Christian values and representing Christ on and off the field.

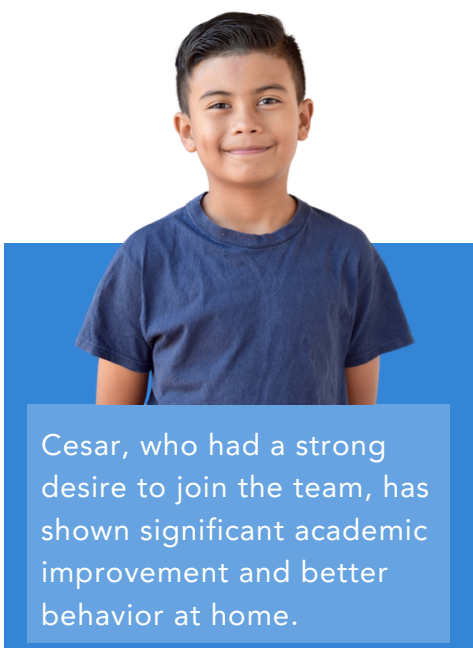
Handball, in particular, has been a great sport for our girls to begin to get in the game, allowing them to get to know each other better and enjoy a sport that fosters unity, teamwork, and strategy.

In the case of soccer, we are very happy because the boys have started competing with other schools which continues to help them to develop their skills and character. It has been demonstrated how they stand out from others through their disciplined behavior and their focus on supporting their teammates rather than winning at all costs. On one occasion, the coach of another team asked Jubilee's coach, "What do you do to make your kids so disciplined and respectful?" All the glory be to God!

Soccer players in 9th and 10th grades, Rony and Dominich, had behavioral issues. Through Athletes for Christ and the discipline it instills, they have become better students academically, are more humble, and dedicated to the Lord.



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Cesar, who had a strong desire to join the team, has shown significant academic improvement and better behavior at home.

Alexander Martinez, the Sport's Program Director says: "As children of God, we must take every opportunity to spread the message of salvation. Athletics connect us with students who may be behaving badly, are disrespectful, or think they have no skills, which gives us the opportunity to build self-esteem, perseverance, discipline, and character." This aligns with 1 Corinthians 9:24: "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize."

Athletes for Christ has proven to be an invaluable part of our community, helping to develop not only the physical aspects, but also the spiritual lives of our students.



Teacher Feature:

MS. URBINA: A WITNESS OF GOD'S GLORY

Here at Jubilee, we are blessed to have a remarkable teacher, Ms. Guadalupe Urbina. At just 28 years old, she has a story of faith, perseverance, and unwavering love and has been an integral part of our community since 2019. Ms. Urbina's teaching degrees have allowed her to teach at both the elementary, middle, and high school levels. During her first 4 years at Jubilee, Ms. Urbina taught 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades.

This year, she has enjoyed the new challenge of teaching Social Studies (including Sociology and Philosophy) to our 7th - 11th graders.

"At Jubilee, I learned that I could serve the Lord with my profession. I learned how praying for my students can make a big difference in their lives, and I feel the freedom to worship the Lord in many ways, especially with my kids."

Ms. Urbina's journey has been filled with challenges and adversities. From a young age, she has felt the Lord's mercy in her life, guiding her steps and providing strength during difficult times. Hailing from a small rural town in southern Honduras, Ms. Urbina faced significant obstacles in pursuing higher education.

"Since I was a little girl, I went with my mom to church," said Ms. Urbina who also shares the testimony of her brother Ulices who suffered from epilepsy for many years. The doctors told her mom that if they didn't operate on Ulices, he would die.

In the middle of the night, Ms. Urbina's mother would always pray over her three children, but this night, completely desperate and without the finances to have the operation, Ms. Urbina's mother cried out to God in great anguish, begging for a miracle. Ulices, at 6 years of age, woke up and told his mom that Jesus told him that he was healed and that they should go to sleep. The next day his mother took him to get tests done and the doctor confirmed that he had no signs of epilepsy anymore and from that day on, Ulices was healed, glory be to God!

As we approach a joyous milestone in Ms. Urbina's life—her upcoming wedding in December—we rejoice with her and celebrate this new chapter. We are grateful to have a teacher so deeply committed to God, who has witnessed His glory so profoundly in her life.

Read the entire story at: jubileecentershq.org/blog

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Feature Edwin:

A SKILLED MUSICIAN AND VISUAL ARTIST.

Edwin is 11 years old, in 6th grade, and has been a part of the Jubilee community since Pre-K. He is very talented and shines in multiple areas, including spelling, music, photography, playing the drums and the piano, and most notably, graphic design. He stands out for his passion for graphic design and communications, but most notable is his love and passion for serving the Lord!

At his local church, Edwin serves in the audiovisual ministry. He loves making videos, creating graphic designs, and engaging in all aspects of audiovisual arts. His enthusiasm for these activities reflects his deep interest and growing expertise in this field. Edwin dreams of becoming a renowned YouTuber or journalist when he grows up, aspiring to use his talents and interests to make a significant impact. His strong stage presence, ability to preach to a crowd, and his confidence further highlight his potential for a future in media, communications, and vocational ministry.

Music and worship are also central to Edwin's life. He plays the drums and the piano in Jubilee's Music Program and thoroughly enjoys this form of expressing his love for the Lord. His devotion to God is evident in his desire to serve the Lord in everything he does. Edwin shared that his favorite Bible character is Jesus, whom he admires above all others. He is particularly inspired by the miracles of Jesus and how He manifested on earth.

John 1:18 "No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known."

Another one of his favorite Biblical protagonists is Peter, whose faith and transformation resonate deeply with Edwin. He recalled the verse in John 21:7 "As soon as Peter heard him say, 'It is the Lord,' he wrapped his outer garment around him and jumped into the water."

Edwin's faith in God is truly inspiring. His dedication to serving the Lord through his multifaceted gifts and aspirations for the future highlight the development and transformation that the Lord is having in His life and what an effective Christian leader Edwin is already and will continue to grow to be!

Read the entire story at: jubileecentersh.org/blog





Filled with Joy!

Please Join us for Jubilee Centers International's

15th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

at The Point | 555 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49548

Please note the new location on 28th Street!

RSVP by October 28, 2024 at jubileehn.org/celebration



PO Box 7758, Grand Rapids, MI 49510



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