

# Osman HOPE!

*Bringing hope to children of poverty in Honduras*

## My Trip by Margarita Grachen

*The format of this Newsletter is going to be a little different than past Newsletters. It is going to center around our President of Central American Operations, Margarita Grachen's last trip to Honduras a few weeks ago.*

I just got back from spending six busy days in Honduras. The purpose of my trips is always to inspect the physical appearance of the shelters, to gauge the atmosphere at the shelters, and to review the academic achievement, social and moral state of our students. Also, I interact with the staff and kids. I hope the following articles give you some insight into what Osman Hope does in Honduras.

## The Shelters

As usual, I visited all four shelters. La Lima which was started in 2001 (29 kids), Santa Cruz 2004 (31 kids), Jesus Rivera 2008 (32 kids) and our newest shelter, La Cosecha 2024 (11 kids). The latest shelter addition is the La Cosecha shelter. I met all 11 kids, the administrator, teacher and the Pastor. Our experience has shown when we start a shelter, we start with a reduced number of children. I am very impressed with what Pastor Oscar and his church has accomplished in the last 20+ years. He has built a very nice large church, a building for a shelter and a building for his next goal which is a Christian school. All of the funds were raised by activities that the church and its members accomplish. I am feeling very good about this partnership.



The La Cosecha Shelter

As part of my trip I also had an all day meeting with the administrators of the shelters. In that meeting we discuss any concerns or issues. We also plan our bi-annual retreats for the colegio (high school) kids. We formulated a plan for next year and we are excited about what retreat we will finish the year with. We are planning an Educational Olympics in which all the colegio kids from all the shelters will participate. The plan is to do it at the end of this school year in November. (Remember the school year in Honduras goes from February to November). The competitions will be spelling bees, biblical knowledge, chess, math and English.

In addition to meeting with the 32 colegio students I met with students that have graduated from Osman Hope and are currently working and graduates that are going to University.



## Moving Forward

When we started Osman Hope almost 25 years ago we had no idea what we were getting ourselves into. Through the grace of God, many prayers and our loyal donors, the Osman Hope family has been able to break the cycle of poverty with numerous kids and their families. As you read the newsletter, it is obvious that the Hand of God has led us on this journey. As we proceed to add a fourth shelter, we encourage all of our followers to spread the word about Osman Hope and help us on our journey to care for those who, not by their choice, were born into poverty. We are only limited in helping more children by the funding that we receive. Our website is [www.osmanhope.org](http://www.osmanhope.org). **Osman Hope is a 510(c)3. 100% of all donations made to Osman Hope go to the care of the children. The Board of Osman Hope covers all overhead costs.**



Family members from the La Cosech shelter

## Education

To achieve our goals, I personally interviewed all of our 32 colegio students who are on scholarship provided by Osman Hope. Colegio means 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. During my interviews I discuss with them their grades, their goals and we formulate a plan for their success. I also assess their family environment because a bad situation at home means a troubled child. If a child misbehaves or their grades suffer, it is usually because of a bad environment at home. Over the years we have been able to help a number of children turn their lives around.



Margarita with La Lima kids

I am happy to report that everybody is pretty much on track. Just one or two of them are on probation. However, they have until the end of the year to raise their grades to qualify for a scholarship for the following year. We require an 80% average for them to be able to receive the colegio scholarship. A colegio scholarship is very helpful for the parents as it pays for school supplies, uniforms and any enrollment expenses.



Kids in study and prayer groups

In addition to meeting with the 32 colegio students, I met with students that have graduated from colegio who are currently working or graduates that are going to university. More on that in the following articles.

## Working Graduates

It is with great joy that I got to meet with a few of the adults that have graduated colegio thanks to Osman Hope. Also, during this trip I met with Raquel, who graduated from university two years ago with an Electrical Engineering degree. Since graduation she has gotten married, has the cutest boy and has been working for the local electric company. Attached is a picture of Raquel, little Bryan, her husband Bryan and me.



Raquel and family

This time I also got to meet with Fernando, Raquel's brother who graduated from the Osman Hope program in 2022 with a Technical degree in Industrial Mechanics. Fernando is one of the kids who struggled with conditions at home. But we did not give up on him. He is currently working with a chicken processing company. He is doing very well and on most weeks, he works 12 hours days six days a week. He is very thankful to Osman Hope because jobs are hard to come by in Honduras and his education helped him get his job.



Alex Margarita and Romario

Also, from the Santa Cruz de Yohoa shelter are Alex and Romario. Alex graduated in 2013 with a Technical degree in Industrial Mechanics. He is working with the company Grupo Disagro. Romario graduated in 2014 with a Technical degree in Electricity. Although he first worked as an electrician he is now working in the transportation industry.

Ingrid graduated from our La Lima shelter in 2017. She will graduate from University next year with a degree in Finance. She has been working at Allied Global for the last 7 years. She has been promoted and is now in charge of training new employees. When I asked her how she got her job, she emphasized her education and the fact that she is bilingual. Her sister Angie will be graduating from high school in November. From spending time with our working grads, its very evident that the education that we provided for them is what has helped them secure good jobs. The job market in Honduras is very tough and even with an education, jobs are hard to come by.



Ingrid

As President of Osman Hope, I am thinking, "We need to find a way to teach them English as well". That will definitely set them apart and help them secure their future. All of these young adults are very thankful for what Osman Hope did for them while they were growing up and they emphasize that it was not just the education but also the love, the moral values and the discipline that helped them be who they are today.

## Paying It Forward

Recently, Raquel and her husband Bryam were traveling by car and passed a young man with two small children who were walking to his work at a Pizza shop. Bryan told Raquel that he thought he knew the man. They stopped to help him. As they drove him to work, they found out that his wife had left him and the two children. Raquel came to us and asked if they could get his two children in our Santa Cruz shelter. And that is exactly what we did.



Osman Hope, Inc.

PO Box 1327  
Brighton, MI 48116  
www.osmanhope.org

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John Keller—President NA  
Phone: 412-804-1388  
Email: keller-john@comcast.net

Margarita Grachen—President CA  
Phone: 412-736-0256  
Email: margaritagrachen@aol.com

Peter Borg—Treasurer  
Phone: 423-967-5761  
Email: rpborg@osmanhope.org

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## Fiesta Patrias

During the whole month of September, the country celebrates what is called the “Fiestas Patrias”. The Fiestas Patrias is a very important celebration that commemorates Honduras independence from Spain 203 years ago on September 15, 1821. It is celebrated with civic and cultural events that promote national pride and Honduran identity.

During the whole week before September 15<sup>th</sup> there were parades from different schools.

At the beginning of the week kids from primary school marched and then older kids paraded at the end of the week. Driving around is a challenge because you never know when you are going to encounter a closed street because the children are marching.

The pictures are of one of our little children from the Nueva Vision shelter dressed in a commemorative attire and also a of a parade in Santa Cruz de Yojoa. The children with academic excellency get carry the flags. There are also marching bands, cheer leaders and flag teams.



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**Wishing You a Blessed Christmas  
and a Joyous New Year**

## Please read the article “Paying It Forward” BEFORE reading this.

After the Newsletter went to print, we learned that the two boys' father in the article died from a ruptures hernia. Their grandmother has Alzheimer, so she can't help. We have found an aunt to see if she will care for them. The Board of Osman Hope said that they will personally provide funding to help the aunt and boys in the short term. Meals will be covered at the shelter. If you would like to make a donation now, please make the check out to Osman Hope and mail to 1109 Devonshire Ct, Kingsport, TN 37660.

If you would like more information, in the Spring newsletter, we will set up a fund for anyone who would like to help support the boys and their aunt. By then we will have an idea of both short and long term needs so we can make a goal that will take care of the children through High School.

## MIRIAN AND MARIA CANO by Baldemar Turcios

Without a doubt, life gives us blows that are difficult to bear. I mention this because I know several young people who have had to experience the death of a parent.

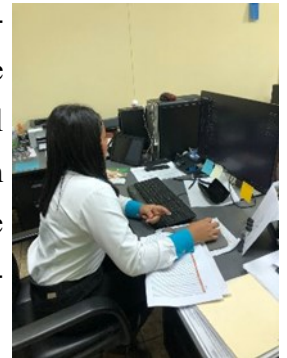
This has just happened to these young girls that we can see in the photograph in which they pose with their mother (dressed in green). They lost their father in these last days of April this year. It is a blessing, according to them, that they have the family and support that Osman Hope gives them. Because despite the mourning, they cling to continue working together with their mother and growing in their studies to obtain a better future by taking advantage of every opportunity and help that Osman Hope has for them. They desire to achieve success not only trusting in their abilities but



also in the grace of God and the goodwill of the Osman Hope family to help them fulfill their dreams and goals. Mirian (the young woman in Blue) is a fourteen-year-old girl that we have supported since 2020. She is currently in the 7th grade under the technology-assisted learning program. She is very responsible with her homework and is not given to joking with her classmates, that is to say, she always sets a good example. She is also part of the Uremu music program. Her dream is to study medicine at the University, in order to help patients who suffered like her father did. Her younger sister Maria (in black) is in the 5th grade of primary school and attends the shelter every day to participate in the activities.

## TATIANA by Baldemar Turcios

Tatiana entered the shelter in 2011. She always got excellent grades in her primary school and secondary school. She has lived with her maternal grandparents since she was a child because her father abandoned her mother. She graduated from High School (Colegio) with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. During the interviews with Margarita she always mentioned that she would continue studying computer science; she began to do her professional internship in another city outside of Santa Cruz in a motorcycle parts agency.



Tatiana at Gwotk

She was not putting into practice what she was studying, so she requested to do the internship in another company, She managed to enter the Civil Works department of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE). During this time she has had the opportunity to learn about civil engineering jobs, this has changed her perspective on her aspirations, since she will not study computer science, but rather Civil Engineering at the University as long as Osman Hope continues to support her.

She is part of the praise group at her church, since her grandfather Manuel Sánchez is the pastor of the church. She is grateful that Osman Hope has reached out to her since she was little, and in her prayers she prays for the directors and donors because they are the financial support for Osman Hope to continue providing hope for life to children and young people in our country.



Tatiana at Graduation

Dear Margarita...

It is a real pleasure to get back in touch with you. I hope that upon receiving this email you are doing great and showered with infinite blessings. There are so many new things that I would like to share with you, I am not sure where to start, but I am very excited to tell you everything that has happened.

Well, I have successfully completed my second academic period with excellent news. My grades, as always, remain at a good rate and this is thanks to all the effort and commitment that I put into my classes. It has been a very productive period and above all full of learning. The holidays for this period have been short, in fact,

I am already enrolled in my third and final period of the year 2024. My goal is to be able to enroll in four classes, to start the countdown of ten classes needed to graduate.

It fills me with pride and hope to see how much I have advanced and realize how close I am to reaching my goal. If God allows it, next year at this time I will be doing my professional internship. I can't believe it! I am very excited about this opportunity. I want to thank you deeply for all the support you have given me; I am forever grateful.

In other news, I am pleased to share that I had the opportunity to attend the last two conferences aimed at young people. Both were extremely enriching and provided me with invaluable knowledge. One of the conferences focused on vocational interest, and was particularly inspiring. The speakers offered deep insight into how to identify our true passions and talents, as well as strategies to align our careers with our personal aspirations. I learned techniques to assess my own abilities and explore various career options, which has been enlightening and motivating.

Both conferences have had a significant impact on my mindset and future planning. I am very excited to apply what I have learned and continue to explore these areas of development. I am very grateful for the opportunity to continue to be involved in these conferences. I hope that at some point, I may have the opportunity to be the one to facilitate one of these conferences and share my knowledge and experiences with other young people.

Don Baldemar mentioned your upcoming visit to Honduras. I would love to have the opportunity to see you and talk about everything that has happened in my personal and professional life. Over the last few years I have not had the privilege of seeing you again. and I think it would be an excellent opportunity to catch up and share our experiences. Without anything else to add, I say goodbye with a big hug from a distance, always wishing you the best and may God pour out many blessings on you and your family...

With love, Francis García.



Francis on the right with her sister Ketys. Both are in the University scholarship program.