

Honduras Ed. 101

by Carol Stewart

Those of you who know that I'm a teacher will not be surprised that I was most interested in the school in San Pedro Cruz, or that I have turned my reflections into a Social Studies lesson

The school in San Pedro consists of five large rooms, filled with a variety of desks and benches, and a couple of small bookshelves. The classroom I entered that first day, with the intention of teaching Vacation Bible School, contained 44 third- and fourth-graders, and one very kind and dedicated teacher, Elia. The children were bright and cooperative. They welcomed me warmly, and were eager to see what I would present to them. Elia spoke very little English, but she listened to my poor attempts at Spanish and translated my words into something the children would actually understand. From my first few minutes in the classroom, my goal was to spend as much time as possible with those children.



I am the director of a preschool in North Dallas, housed in Central Congregational Church. One of the most common complaints I hear from our teachers is that we just don't have enough storage space for all of our materials and equipment. In San Pedro Cruz, that was not a problem. The shelves were bare. Emily Grossman, Program Director for Honduras International, was making her yearly visit to El Rancho Paraiso that week. She explained to me that the school was free, but that in order to attend a child had to be able to afford a school uniform and twelve spiral notebooks. There was only one book on each subject in a classroom, and the teacher had to write everything on the chalkboard for the children to copy into their notebooks. There were children in the village who were not able to buy even the few supplies required, and thus excluded from the opportunity for an education.

One child who touched my heart was Keslin, a girl of about 5, who was not in school but faithfully carried her brother, looking on as others played. I

want Keslin to be able to attend school. I want the children of San Pedro to enjoy just a few of the books, crayons, scissors and glue that our schools have in abundance. I want Keslin and others like her to enjoy the education that we take for granted.