

This is Part 2 of the newsletter I sent out a couple of weeks ago. But this one is very different. This is my personal take on how Arturo and Suyapa have been giving their lives so kids like Joel Lopez can aspire to more than they ever could have dreamed.

Allen Blancett



## In This Issue

[Joel's Family Background](#)

[His Progress in School](#)

[Aspirations](#)

## Family Background

Joel Lopez, in 5th grade this year in White Dove School, is one of twelve children of Reyna and Rosendo Lopez of Santa Clara, Santa Barbara, Honduras. The Lopez family are Lenca, the largest remaining indigenous group in Honduras. His dad is a farmer who works diligently to feed his large family, and his mom cares for them at home. Sometimes there's enough to eat, sometimes not; seldom is there any extra. So Joel's story needs to be told.

I first saw Joel as the little guy in the red shirt sitting at the table on Lencho's porch with other Santa Clara kids drawing a house and pasting green leafy fronds on the roof of the house. This was Suyapa's first kindergarten group.



Later Karen and I visited Joel's family at their house down the hill. Here's Joel--the little guy in the red shirt--with four of his siblings and his mother Reyna.

If you believe something good is going on at White Dove in Santa Clara, and if you would like to provide financial support to help it continue, write a check to

**Honduras Agape  
Foundation**

Send your check to:  
**Friends of White Dove  
P.O. Box 5483  
Aiken, SC 29804-5483.**

On your check, designate the donation as "**Support for White Dove Santa Clara**". If you want it to go to a specific area of need, indicate that either on the check or on a note you send with the check. Every cent will be forwarded to the school.

## Financial Needs

Love Offerings for Teaching Staff: Any amount

Support for students unable to pay full cost: Any amount

## Update on earlier needs:

Donations have been received to complete purchase of curriculum books for this year.

A donor has committed support to finish construction of the White Dove administration building.



In another visit, we saw where Reyna cooked their food at the back of the house.



Step by step a few donors helped them with shoes, beds, clothing, an added roofed-and-floored kitchen with a smoke-free stove, and a pila out back.

Every school day his mother Reyna would send Joel and his older brother Adonis to school in clean clothes, wearing their unfamiliar socks and shoes, and with hair neatly combed. Trudging up the rocky path to school with their book packs, they became the first generation of their family to be welcomed without prejudice into an educational environment.

## Progress in School

As Arturo's vision of White Dove School developed into a reality, other school-age siblings joined Joel and Adonis in school. Small in stature and quiet in demeanor, Joel grew in ability and confidence. His universe of experience in learning just blossomed in the loving, supporting, challenging surroundings at White Dove.



Joel's parents don't have the educational background that enables them to help him much in his studies, but they understand the importance of preparing oneself for the future. With the financial help from donors such as you, they have been able to enroll Joel's brothers and sisters in White Dove as those children grow. In this photo, Joel is the smaller boy.



Here are the same children without their parents in the picture.



## Aspirations

Suyapa describes Joel as "an extraordinary student eager to learn and to be a better person every day. He understands very well the concept of being a high level leader; he wants to transform himself, his family, and his country. He is pursuing his dream of 'being somebody' when he grows up."

To appreciate the significance of Joel's aspiration, you need to be aware of the general level of hopelessness that permeated the community several years ago. Few children had reason to expect or even hope their life could be better than what their parents experienced. And certainly no Lenca family had a reason to expect that.

But because Suyapa and Arturo and many other adults at White Dove are giving their lives to nurture the students there, and with the help of financial support provided by many donors, those children in and around Santa Clara whose parents choose to put them in this learning environment are being given the opportunity to prepare themselves for a better future. They are being given the tools that can make their dreams come true.

As she analyzes Joel's progress, Suyapa says, "You can tell when a child wants to learn. In Santa Clara our students don't have access to the internet, but they still have books. For example, in the White Dove library we have a set of encyclopedias donated by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Mullenax. Recently these children have been using those encyclopedias to do research about Nelson Mandela, Ghandi, etc. And Joel is one of the students who amaze me all the time when he comes to do research."



Then Suyapa finishes the story with a hint of why White Dove exists and is nurturing future leaders such as Joel. As she expresses it, "That's why we are here--to be servants of the Lord in every way possible."

And that's why it's hard for me to resist when I hear their need for financial support.

For more information on White Dove Santa Clara, you can call either Suyapa Perdomo at the school in Honduras [01 1-504-2625-1300], or Allen Blancett [803-295-7395]. If you prefer, contact us by email at [whitedovesantaclara@yahoo.com](mailto:whitedovesantaclara@yahoo.com) or [WDFriends@gforcecable.com](mailto:WDFriends@gforcecable.com)

**Sincerely,**

Allen Blancett  
Friends of White Dove Santa Clara