

How Is White Dove Able to Grow? Trip Report--Part 2



- Where do students come from?
- How do they get here?
- Why are they coming?

A few years ago the student enrollment of White Dove was stuck at about 40 to 50 students. When Arturo talked about continuing to grow the school, I was convinced he was dreaming--you know Arturo and his vision! He assured me and others that if he just had a bus, he could bring in paying students from outside of Santa Clara. Well whaddayaknow--a group of supporters in Mississippi provided a bus, and the response confirmed Arturo's dream.



In fact, now the school also has to rent a second bus to bring in the students, and both buses are packed. Enrollment this year is up to 88 students. You can see what I mean in this short video: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/vl5rkqze8h3zlon/Buses%20Unloading.MOV?dl=0>

The larger bus brings in 24 students and 5 adults, the smaller one brings in 22 in a first load and 11 more in a second load. Now Arturo has evidence of need for a larger bus, and he's trying to find one!

Where are the Students Coming From? And Why Are They Coming?

When White Dove started about seven years ago with a Pre-K, Kindergarten, Prep., and 1st grade, all the students lived in Santa Clara, a community of about 400 people. The parents were willing to go along with the vision of a bilingual Christian education for their children, without much evidence it would succeed. Then as the school has added one grade level each year, the evidence has been building that when compared with the offerings in the public schools, White Dove may be a preferred alternative. Parents seeking a strong curriculum in a bilingual Christian environment began inquiring about enrolling their child. Students showed up who had previously attended bilingual schools in other communities or had been tutored in English. Students enrolled from outside of Santa Clara. That's what fed Arturo's vision of busing the students.

It appears that White Dove is becoming recognized increasingly as a place stressing academic excellence. It is attracting students from as far away as San Marcos, where parents of five White Dove students are teachers in the public school. Two students from La Union have parents who teach in the public school. Two from Pueblo Nuevo include the public school principal's daughter and the daughter of a doctor. Several other students have parents who appear to be well educated and who want their children to have the same opportunity or better. Why are parents bringing their children to White Dove? I think they bring them for three reasons—because they believe the students will (1) get a better education, (2) learn English, and (3) learn life skills in a Christian environment.

How Do The Students Get To School?

The students in Santa Clara walk to school. Those who come in on the bus arrive at school by 6:20 AM. That means one of the buses begins its trip at 5:15 and the other bus begins at 5:30. Parents and students understand that the bus can wait no longer than seven minutes for a late student. After that time, the parent must bring the student to school. Seldom is a student late. Obviously, attending school at White Dove is a serious business.

Status Update on White Dove Needs

Donations have been committed to cover \$5,000 of the \$8,000 needed for books. \$2,000 has been received, and another \$3,000 has been committed as quarterly payments. So the need remains for \$3,000 additional support.

A donation of \$4,000 has been received also to pay for resumption of construction of a teachers' residence. Arturo estimated that this amount will provide a completed building.

Donations have also come in to assist in paying love offerings to the teachers.

Other needs mentioned in last week's newsletter have not changed:

(1) The Honduran Ministry of Education has issued a ruling that schools beyond 6th grade must provide bathrooms for students in the upper grade levels, separate from the bathrooms for grades one through six. Arturo estimates that cost to be \$2,500, based on the cost for the original bathrooms.

2) There's a smaller need also. Of the students who have been at White Dove for several years and have outgrown their uniforms, about 15 can't afford to replace them. So they come to school in the heavily worn, too-small clothing. For about \$75 apiece, you could help the parents of one of these growing students to buy a shirt, pants, shoes, tennis shoes, 2 pair socks, and a sweat suit for P.E.

As these needs are met, others will be described.

How Can You Help?

If you believe something good is going on at White Dove in Santa Clara, and if you are able 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"

[I'm working on a new way to donate that doesn't go through the Honduras Agape Foundation, but I haven't yet firmed up that process. More info later.]

For more information, contact . . .

By phone:

Suyapa Perdomo, in Honduras [011-504-2625-1300]

Allen Blancett, in the U.S. [803-295-7395]

By email:

whitedovesantaclara@yahoo.com

WDFriends@gforcecable.com



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