



## Parental Involvement Demonstrates Initiative

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### A Gateway to Education

Remember how the PTA used to work in the U.S.? Bake sales, cake walks, all sorts of money-raising efforts by parents helped the schools get playground equipment and needed extras. But beyond that, the involvement of the parents showed their support for the schools. And the students recognized that their parents valued education. Well, that same spirit is being seen in Honduras.

Emphasis on education has lagged in Honduras compared with many other countries. Until recent years, only a sixth-grade education was mandated, and often a student who completed sixth grade needed to work in the fields to provide income for the family's survival. Higher education was just not affordable for many families, or even considered worthwhile, compared with other needs. Consequently, as the children matured, they didn't have the skills to move out of the conditions they grew up in.

But the parents of students at White Dove School in Santa Clara have been showing how much they care about their children's education. They still struggle to be able to afford to pay the costs, but they have banded together in a school parents association to provide whatever support they can, and to show the students that education is important. They are involving themselves in school events with the teachers and administration, doing what they can to break the cycle of poverty in the area, moving from hopelessness to opportunity through emphasis on education.

Starting this summer, the parents initiated money-raising events. At International Day at the school, they sold food to the assembled crowd. On Fridays they sell pizzas. From the parents who couldn't participate in those events, and from any other willing supporters of the school, they asked for voluntary donations of \$10.

Their first goal was to replace the barbed-wire fence gate where the bus enters the schoolyard.



They judged that it didn't present the picture of excellence they see exhibited in the school.

So they finally raised enough money to buy a new gate. Evidence of their efforts came to fruition this week with installation of a new entry gate to the school.



What do you think? Does this say something about parental involvement? I think so.

Does this mean the school is now self-supporting? Goodness, no! But it does show a definite positive shift in culture taking place. Education is being recognized as the best way to improve one's future opportunity. Many of the families are still unable to afford the tuition, necessitating continuing outside help for their children's educational opportunity. But now it's clearly a team effort—teachers, students, and parents working together for improvement.

## The Whole Armor of God

Sometimes we forget that White Dove is a Christian school. But here is a reminder that the students are being taught more than just book-learning. Here we see some fifth-graders explaining to first graders how we are to take up the shield of faith, put on the helmet of salvation, and wield the sword of the Spirit as part of the armor with which we can be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.



## Change of Address for your Donations

We have a new mechanism for sending donations to White Dove School and clinic. In the past, many of our donations went through the Honduras Agape Foundation. Starting immediately future donations to White Dove should be sent to this address:

**Indiana Brethren Charity Fund  
c/o Luke Wolf, Treasurer  
7218 W 550 S  
Delphi, IN 46923**

As before, all donations to White Dove through this organization will be tax-exempt. Also as before, everything donated will be sent to White Dove.

Please attach a "sticky note" to your check to describe how you would like the donation to be applied—for example, for teacher and staff salaries, or books, or general support, et al.

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## For more information, contact . . .

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