



World Vision's Campaign  
**FOR EVERY CHILD**

**CHRISTIAN WITNESS  
IN HONDURAS**

October 2013–March 2014 Report

Prepared July 2014

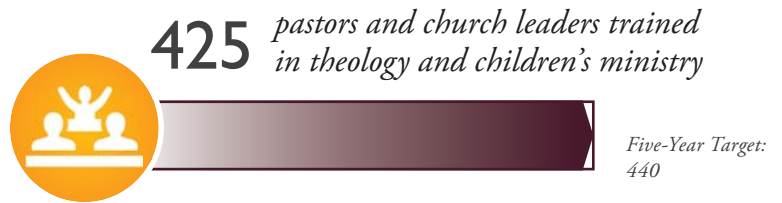


# CHRISTIAN WITNESS

## HONDURAS

### Program Update

Program-to-Date Progress  
October 2010–March 2014



### Program Summary

The Honduras Christian Witness Program is discipling dynamic and articulate young leaders to share their passion for Jesus, teaching teens the facts about HIV prevention and making healthy choices, leading discussion on living with honesty and integrity, and advocating for justice in their communities.

Youth leaders are finding creative ways to teach others about making healthy life decisions based on godly values. Some networks of youth are leading community events, or using theater or soccer to engage the interest of other teens. The young woman in the picture to the right is involved in a radio ministry that spreads information about preventing HIV and teen pregnancies.

Thank you for your prayers and support for the people of Honduras as they grow in their knowledge of Jesus' love and learn to express that love toward others.



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# Goal and Outcomes



## FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM GOAL THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2015

Enable ministry to  
**69,300 PEOPLE**  
 Including  
**6,500 CHILDREN**

Each figure represents 7,000 people.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Churches and youth networks promote a Christian response to HIV

Churches and youth put their faith into action by caring for needs in their communities

Churches, children, and youth demonstrate God's love by advocating for those in need.



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## CHANNELS OF HOPE

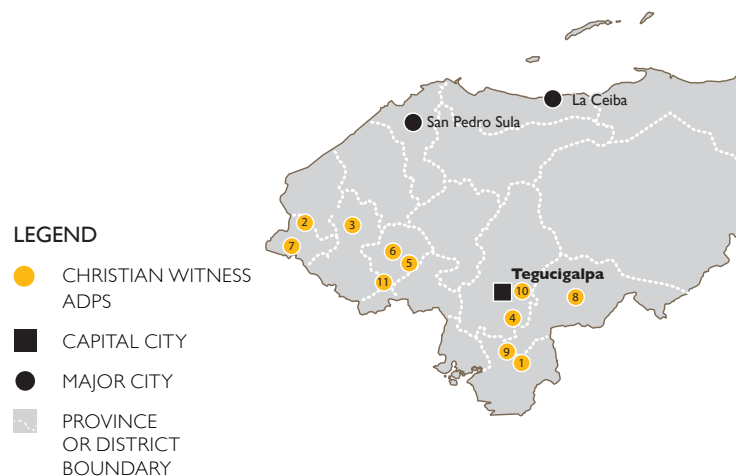
The Channels of Hope program guides faith leaders in wrestling with Scripture to better understand their role as followers of Christ to combat deeply held cultural beliefs that have a negative impact on their communities.

The program is designed to move the *heart*, inform the *mind*, and engage the *hands* of local churches as they become leaders in their communities.

Hope Teams, like the one shown on the left, use the knowledge they've gained to develop plans for their churches to be a beacon of light in the community to care and advocate for the rights of the vulnerable.

## Honduras

This map shows World Vision Christian Witness program areas in Honduras.



## AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- 1 CABEZAS
- 2 COMUNIDADES SOLIDARIAS
- 3 GRACIAS
- 4 NUEVA VISIÓN
- 5 SAN ISIDRO
- 6 SAN JUAN
- 7 SAN MARCOS
- 8 SAM MATÍAS
- 9 TRAPICHE
- 10 VILAFRANCA
- 11 YAMARANGUILA

Held 12 awareness-raising workshops for 124 church leaders about Channels of Hope during the first half of FY14. This brings the number of church leaders trained to 425 since the beginning of the program

Continued to support the 427 peer educators who are reaching out to fellow teens with information about HIV and teen pregnancy prevention, self-esteem, and healthy relationships



Supported youth networks as they participated in World AIDS Day, mobilizing their communities to understand the rights and cares of those living with HIV

Organized 16 campaigns, including three in the first half of FY14, to advocate against stigmatizing and discriminating against those with HIV

## Semiannual Highlights

### ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Youth networks continue to find new ways to reach out to their communities. In Yamaranguila, one youth network is planning a workshop on HIV prevention and stigma for parents, who have traditionally been uncomfortable talking about these subjects.

In San Isidro, youth groups are working on fundraising projects, such as running the school store, to help spread the gospel through the “Helping Hand to the Light” program. In Las Cabezas and Nueva Vision, youth are learning entrepreneurship skills through fundraising projects such as making and selling jewelry, sweets, and electronic games.

The Honduras Christian Witness Program has mobilized 58 hope teams, including 26 during the first

half of FY14, to partner with local organizations to find practical ways to serve their communities. These teams are going beyond their initial training on the subject of HIV, and providing education on drug and alcohol abuse, self-esteem, relationship skills, and preventing teen pregnancies.

Some examples of the work of these teams include:

#### **San Matias and Villafranca**

Nine youth became international advocates through their participation in an event held in Nicaragua by the Rural World of Central America Project. These youth took first place through their drama, “The Theater of the Oppressed,” which demonstrated the insecurity and gang violence that threatens families in some areas of Tegucigalpa, the capital city.

## Villafranca

- Hope continues to grow in this area near Tegucigalpa where gangs are prevalent. By partnering with a local network of pastors, Channels of Hope is now working with six more churches in this area than originally planned, helping them learn to reach out in their neighborhoods.
- The youth network in Villafranca, called reconnect@2, continues to grow. Forty youth leaders have each committed to reach at least 20 youth from the community. So far, 120 youth are part of this network to work together to spread Jesus' words of hope and healing in a community torn apart by violence.

## Nueva Vision

The Gethsemane network held a youth retreat for 61 youth to hear the gospel, participate in a specialized

light and shadow theater, and learn about the consequences of drug addiction.

## Las Cabezas

About 135 children, youth, and adults from four communities participated in a "Soccer with Values" event. The values of confidence, respect, solidarity, communication, collaboration, and team work were discussed in order to understand how they apply to soccer and to life. Teams demonstrating these values as they competed with other teams had the opportunity to earn a new soccer ball as a prize.

## San Matias

Hope Teams coordinated with the Ministry of Health to hold a health awareness event in which about 200 people participated. Information, counseling, and rapid testing for HIV were available, as well as blood pressure and weight checkups.

## CHANNELS OF HOPE TRANSFORMS EDUCATOR TO ACTIVIST

Working in the student orientation department of Escuela Agrotecnica de Oriente, Nélide Suyapa Garcia was involved daily in the lives of students. She grew more and more concerned about the high rates of teen pregnancies, causing promising young girls to drop out and lose their opportunity for an education.

When the Channels of Hope project came to the school, she was immediately intrigued by the innovative approach of using pairs of teens to work together and teach other students. She attended the teen-taught classes on sexuality, self-esteem, making good choices, and the prevention of HIV and pregnancy, and realized that even she had learned some new information.

As she started to see changes in the students, she wanted to learn more about Channels of Hope and became a volunteer to "take a message of hope to the families of the community and, especially, of the youth."

About the training she attended, Nélide said, "I thought it was very interesting from beginning to end. I laughed, reflected, and even cried with the testimony from a person [who was] HIV-positive. I had never imagined that a person like him had such a unique self-esteem."

Her vision expanded from her work at the school to how she could make a difference in her community. "It made me think that if I had an office position in the municipal [association], I could start influencing on the importance of managing projects that could strengthen abstinence, fidelity, and even generate microenterprises to give job opportunities, especially to people suffering from this infection."

Nélide's dream became reality when she was recently elected as vice-mayor of her hometown of Jacaleapa el Paraiso. "I want to make my commitment as part of the Channels of Hope project, and ... show the encouraging and hopeful message in favor of my municipality."



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## Long-Term Impact

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Youth networks are using the experience they've gained through the Christian Witness Program to become self-sufficient. These networks are developing three-year strategic plans that include fundraising, education, and advocacy activities.

These youth, and the adults trained through this project, are recognized as leaders in mobilizing their communities around crucial social issues. More and more, church and community leaders are weaving messages about HIV and teen pregnancy prevention, stigma and discrimination, healthy relationships, and emotional intelligence into their sermons or existing community activities.

As youth networks become self-sustaining and Channels of Hope information becomes an integral part of ongoing community activities, the impact of the Christian Witness Program will continue even after World Vision's work is complete.

## Prayer Requests

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The Honduras Christian Witness Program team asks your prayers for:

- Economic opportunities for the youth involved in youth networks so they won't be forced to leave their homes to find employment, which also forces them to leave the work they've started in their communities to teach others about what they've learned through Channels of Hope
- Churches that are already serving their communities, as well as churches that have been introduced to Channels of Hope but are still discerning what their role is and how they can heed the biblical call to reach out to the vulnerable
- World Vision's partnership with the Catholic Church in Honduras, especially with local parishes and leaders, to continue to grow and be strengthened

*“Channels of Hope has changed my vision of serving the community and has served as a bridge to evangelize and attract the adolescents and youth from the church.”*

*—Pastor Aquiles Nuñez,  
Langué Valle, Honduras*

# LEARNING TO DREAM

Confined to a wheelchair, bullied by her classmates, Silvia felt discouraged and alone until she got involved with Channels of Hope at her local church.

Silvia's life got off to a rocky start. Before she was even born, her parents were warned that she might have a life-threatening neurological disease. At her birth, they discovered that her condition had been misdiagnosed and her life was not in danger; but a problem with her spine left her confined to a wheelchair.

She and her parents celebrated when she was able to graduate from preschool, as her first years of life had been filled with surgeries and medical procedures that left them uncertain about her future. Silvia was thrilled that she was finally able to grow up "just like any other kid."

But that changed when she reached fourth grade. Her classmates began ignoring her at recess, setting her apart because of her disability. A group of girls began bullying her psychologically. Even one of her teachers started abusing her verbally and emotionally. Silvia was distraught and stopped eating, losing so much weight that her health was in danger.

One day when Silvia was at her lowest point, she was invited to a Channels of Hope youth meeting at her church. The love she felt from the group lifted her out of



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the despair she felt at school, helping her form friendships with people who accepted her just as she is.

Now 13 years old, Silvia is an active member of the youth group, serving as the group's treasurer. She also has become a peer educator, teaching other teens what she has learned about HIV prevention, sexuality, and making godly life choices. Participating in the Channels of Hope youth group helped Silvia find hope and encouraged her to dream about her future.

"My dreams are to go forth to other countries," said Silvia, "and take the message of salvation and hope that we have in God. I want to graduate university and have a career and become the president of the Republic of Honduras."

“ *It was [at the Channels of Hope youth group] that God filled the void in my heart. God healed it spiritually and physically.*”

—Silvia Abigail Hernandez Gomez,  
age 13, San Juan Intibuca