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*Glory to our Almighty God, for everything he's doing with children and young people of our beloved country, Honduras. Alleluia!*

In Honduras we have been going through difficult situations of crime and violence in most of the major cities. It is sad to admit, but violence, organized crime, and gangs have been affecting society—especially children, adolescents, and young people under 18 years old. Young people are the target of gangs because the law does not condemn people under the age of 18. Young people are victims and easy prey for gangs, which force them to sell drugs and to serve as spies or informants for drug dealers. In response to this, AJS (Association for a More Just Society) is reaching the most vulnerable young people to rescue them and work with youth and their parents toward a better life.

AJS programs are strategically forming youth clubs and sports clubs in three areas

of Tegucigalpa where gangs have a strong presence, and these programs are involving leaders of local churches to support "Youth Impact" clubs. The purpose of the programs is to create positive interpersonal relationships and educational opportunities and to improve family life and community life for children and youth. To date, 200 children through impact clubs and 100 children in sports clubs have been developing life skills and positive relationships that are giving them the opportunity to become agents of change in their community. The programs also include community outreach, and youth have been supported to develop several community projects such as prevention campaigns, community infrastructure, and improvement for the most vulnerable households.

AJS has also adopted a Child Protection Policy, which has improved safety levels for

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# Empowered Women

Alba Leticia Matamoros is a mother of five: two girls who are young adults and three teenaged boys. She began to work on growing food when community gardens were started in her area in 2010. Later she started planting vegetables at her own home and got her children involved, sharing with them what she had learned. Initially she had no idea how to plant and harvest her own vegetables, but the trainings provided by MCM helped in



teaching her how to start and maintain her own family garden. This has improved her family finances: before, she had to buy everything; now, she saves money on the food that she can grow for herself.

At another training, Alba also learned how to raise chickens. MCM supported her with 15 chicks, which she fed with concentrated feed designed to help them grow into big healthy birds. Some are for her family's consumption, and others she sells.

Alba also started receiving training in gender, human rights, and domestic violence prevention with MCM in 2012. Two years later, she got involved in community meetings and contributed positively to updating and developing a new community plan for future work in the neighborhood.

Currently she also works with other female community leaders on a larger vegetable production project (in greenhouse-like "macro-tunnels" on a community plot) for small-scale commercialization.

Grateful that part of God's plan was to give her and her family the opportunity to be part of these projects, Alba also expresses thanks to MCM and World Renew for the contributions that make all of this work possible.



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participants of the youth club program. This policy has been socialized with all AJS staff, parents, and program beneficiaries. AJS has created a response team to investigate any suspected psychological or physical vulnerability of a child or young person. AJS now has a more comprehensive program, through the creation and strengthening of protective factors regarding violence and migration, and this has improved relationships at the family and community levels, promoting the rights of children in communities with high rates of violence. We praise and glorify our God.



## Please join us in prayer:

- Recently Honduras has chosen its new Supreme Court. Please pray that the new judges will always seek to do justice to reduce corruption and crime in the country.
- Please pray for the health of all members of the Honduras team. Some people are suffering from illness and disease.