

# Introducing Melodie Francis



Fellowship International  
missionary to Honduras



## Introducing *Melodie Francis*



Melodie is the daughter of missionary parents, and grew up in Spain. When she was a teenager she first heard of the struggles of children in Honduras and learned of a Christian organization founded in Spain that was working to improve children's lives in a concrete way.

As a college student, Melodie had the opportunity to volunteer at a children's home in Honduras for two months. Her life was significantly impacted by the stories of the precious little ones that were protected in this home.

Melodie writes, "I have been serving as a Social Service Worker in the Children's Home Vida y Libertad (Casa Hogar) for eight years now, as a missionary sent through FAIR (Fellowship Aid and International Relief).

"In this time, I have fallen in love with our little munchkins. They are kids that come from painful, soul-tearing settings, either abandoned, abused, exploited, severely malnourished, or other situations that violate their childhood in profound ways.

"We have more than 40 children from all ages at the moment, and we are hoping to be able to reach out to more than 100 in the future. We provide our little treasures with education, food, medical attention, spiritual guidance, and industrial amounts of love. Thanks to the support and efforts of FAIR, we now have a security wall along the perimeter of the home, as well as an agriculture self-sustaining project that provides food for the home, as well as teaching our children agricultural skills. In short, we are a family. Our home is a place where children find security, love, affection, a sense of belonging, a space to grow, and most of all, a space to heal."

Honduras is one of the most dangerous and poorest countries in Latin America. The staff at the children's home has had the privilege of experiencing God's provision and protection in concrete ways.

# Providing A Future and Hope

## From Death to Life

His name is José and one look into those big brown eyes would melt your heart. Unfortunately, José's story is like that of thousands of other children living on Honduras' deadly streets. His mother, a street woman, had been so disappointed when she gave birth to a boy instead of a girl that she abandoned him.

Suffering with severe malnutrition and near death, José arrived at the *Life and Freedom House Home* (Casa Hogar) at the age of 18 months. His skin was stretched tautly over his bones, his stomach was bloated and full of parasites and he was found to have tuberculosis, anemia, and was covered with bumps and rashes. He could not speak; could not stand on his legs. Although the home's staff did not expect José to survive, they fought for his life. They prayed for him and provided medical care and proper nutrition.

Today José is a much different boy than when he first arrived. The medical intervention he received has erased all signs of tuberculosis. He has learned to speak, is able to run and play with the other children and now displays a smile that lights up a room. At Casa Hogar he hears about the love of Christ through Bible stories and is living proof of how compassion can make a difference.

## The Need

With an estimated population of 6.6 million, Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America. This statistic was made worse in 1998 when Hurricane Mitch struck a deadly blow to Central America killing thousands and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless. In Honduras alone, 70% of crops were destroyed and 40% of the country's population was impacted through the loss of employment, homes and/or loved ones. The country has never recovered from this devastation, and traumatic world events (i.e. 9/11) have only added to the misery.



Loss of employment and economic ruin have made it impossible for some families to care for their children. As a result they have been turned to the streets to fend for themselves. Other children have escaped abusive homes or situations where they are virtually starving to death.

*"In 1998 there were reckoned to be 8,000 (street children) in the capital (of Honduras), but this number has grown since 'Mitch'."* (Operation World) Living on the streets is a deadly game that usually ends in premature death. These children often become victims of sexual abuse (30% are HIV positive) and many fall prey to the "drug" of choice on the streets—sniffing glue which helps to forget the past and avoid the future.

## God Will Make a Way

In 1999, as the full devastating effects of Hurricane Mitch were realized, The Association of Life and Freedom, based in Spain, began the background work in starting a ministry to street children. In 2000, they rented a house in San Pedro Sula (second largest city of the country) that would be used to provide a home for street children at high risk. A year later they had outgrown the house and rented a larger home to facilitate growth.

Now, with 40 children, the Lord has given this organization a vision to establish "City of the Children" a home for 100-200 children. They purchased a parcel of property (6.75 acres) outside the city and have a vision to establish several homes on the property (each housing a "family" of children and social workers), a recreation centre, a medical clinic, in addition to a plot of land being used for agriculture projects that provides food and an income through produce sales for the home. Children also learn much-needed life-skills in agriculture that will be a benefit in future years.



# the fellowship

P.O. Box 457  
Guelph, Ontario N1H 6K9

## Commitment Form

*To be completed by donors wishing to participate on a regular basis (monthly/quarterly/yearly).*

Churches or individuals interested in supporting a Fellowship missionary are requested to supply the following information:

1. Name of missionary you wish to support: **Melodie Francis**
2. Amount of yearly commitment purposed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. I/We would like to use the Pre-authorized Chequing Plan \_\_\_ *(complete section in box below)*

*(complete this section if you are interested in using the Pre-Authorized Chequing Plan)*

Pre-Authorized Chequing allows donors to give monthly to the missionary(ies) of their choice on a regular monthly basis. On the 15th of each month, your requested contribution will be drawn automatically from your bank account. You can make changes or cancel the plan at any time by writing to the Fellowship Office.

Banking Information:  
 Branch Transit Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly donation amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*PLEASE ATTACH A VOID CHEQUE TO THIS APPLICATION.\*\*\***

4. I would like to make my contribution by credit card each month: \_\_\_  
*(if you do not wish to use a credit card, proceed to #5)*  
 \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ MasterCard  
 Card Name (as it appears on the card): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_
  5. This commitment will be sent in: Monthly \_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_ Yearly \_\_\_
  6. Donor Information (if you are completing this form on behalf of a church, please give church name and address):  
 Donor Name *(to whom receipt should be made)*: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_
  7. I would like to receive my tax receipts *(please check one)*: \_\_\_ every month \_\_\_ at the end of the year
- Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

It is understood that this commitment will continue until further notice \_\_\_\_\_.



Return this completed form to:  
The Fellowship  
P.O. Box 457  
Guelph, Ontario N1H 6K9



**the fellowship**

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Guelph, Ontario N1H 6K9

# One-Time Donation Form

*To be completed by donors wishing to make a one-time donation.*

**Please print**

## Personal Information (for receipting purposes)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province : \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone : (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Donation Information

I wish to make a donation towards the ministry of:

Missionary name/Project: **Melodie Francis** Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Options – please choose one

Enclosed is my cheque in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please put my donation on my credit card:

VISA  MasterCard

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on the card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of card holder: \_\_\_\_\_

## Other Information

I would like to be a regular donor.

Please send me my tax receipt to me at the end of the year.