

# *the Divine Adventure*

VOLUME XIII

THE OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS UPDATE FROM MATTHEW, JENNIFER, JOSHUA, SAMUEL, AND SIMON ALLEN

NOVEMBER 2009

## *The Past & Present of the Divine Adventure*

Stepping from one culture back into our own. Moving to a new city. Being much closer to family. Adjusting to a new job. Missing Latin America. Changing schools again. Finding a home church. Receiving great health reports for Matthew's Dad. Getting plugged in. Discovering contentment to its fullest. Reaching out to neighbors. Studying at Moody Bible Institute. Building lasting friendships.

What do all of these things have in common? This is a glimpse of what the Allen family has been through in the last 16 months since leaving Costa Rica to settle in Chicagoland - the common threads being God's faithfulness and goodness. In His goodness, He did not let us forget His calling for our family; He only intensified it. In His faithfulness, God has been paving the way for us to pursue ministry in Latin America once again. We feel as Jeremiah did when the Word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." Although we will never be prophets, we do believe that God has set us apart to live out His Good News in the Latin American culture.

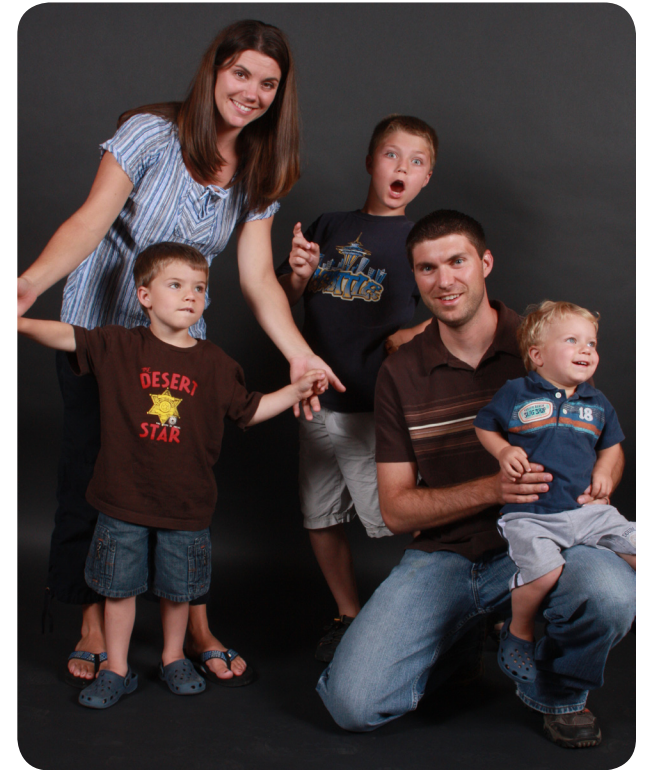
We are thrilled to share with you that we are beginning the process to once again live and work in Central America. In reality, our desire to be serving overseas never diminished, even though we understood that the Lord has lead us to spend this time back in the states. So, we are thankful to be able to prepare to go again this soon.

## *The Future of the Divine Adventure*

You might remember that when we left our home in San Diego three years ago, our sights were set on Honduras. We just can't get this particular impoverished nation off our hearts or out of our minds. Our team at Latin America Mission has recently welcomed us back with open arms to help us live out our call to take the hope of the Gospel to Honduras.

MAY GOD HIMSELF, THE GOD OF PEACE, SANCTIFY YOU THROUGH AND THROUGH.  
MAY YOUR WHOLE SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY BE KEPT BLAMELESS AT THE COMING OF  
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. THE ONE WHO CALLS YOU IS FAITHFUL AND HE WILL DO IT.  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24

www.divineadventure.net



**We love hearing from you!**

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LAM is also able accept on-line gifts on our behalf at [www.lam.org](http://www.lam.org). All gifts are tax-deductible.

## The Call

We'll call it a "personal development center." The idea is to work under the authority of and with the full participation of a local Honduran church. Picture classes offered to the outlying community in carpentry, accounting, marketing, computers, English as a second language, or whatever is laid on the hearts of the members of the church. Envision Biblical counseling and seminars on marriage and parenting. Imagine a daycare where single moms can place their children without worry while they work to put food on the table. Interwoven through it all would be the chance to share the love and grace of Jesus and to provide a foundation for further discipleship in His Word.

## The Context

In spite of political turmoil, droughts, hurricanes, health epidemics, drug trafficking, gang violence, and rampant poverty, we believe that God is doing a new work in and through His Church in Honduras. One pastor recently described to us the spirit of prayer that is evident in the Honduran church, not just in one town, but across the nation, in the midst of the on-going 6 month political crisis. In fact, we have even discovered other families here in the Midwest that share our "up all night dreaming about Honduras" sentiment and feel compelled to get involved.

## The Church

We are very excited about a solid group of church planters called "La Gran Comisión" (The Great Commission). Currently, there are roughly a dozen of these churches spread throughout Honduras, so we are in dialogue with the leadership to determine which one has a similar vision and hope for outreach to their community.

## DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

As we have adjusted to life in Chicago, we have prayed that God will open doors for us to use our Spanish and our love for Spanish speakers as often as possible. Over the past six months, I have developed an unlikely friendship with Sara (not her real name), one of the ladies who cleans at the office where I work. Most of the cleaning staff goes virtually unnoticed, so Sara was definitely surprised when I first struck a conversation with her in Spanish. She also noted the map I have of Honduras posted on the wall of my cubicle. This was a total shock to her! She confided in me that she is a undocumented Honduran who has lived in Chicago for 7 years, and her face lights up every time we talk about her home that she had to leave behind. She was abandoned by her husband and left with 6 young children to feed. With the nearly non-existent job market in Honduras, she came to the U.S. seeking work.

Sara works very hard at two different housekeeping jobs, and sends nearly everything she earns to her mother and children who live in the Honduran capital city. In September, Jennifer, Joshua, and I spent a week in Honduras, and Sara entrusted us with taking some special gifts down for her son Carlos, who at the age of 17, is expecting his first child. Carlos' uncles and their families brought him on the 8 hour round trip to San Pedro Sula to connect with us. It was difficult for us to imagine that this young man was Joshua's age (10) when he last saw his mother. We gave him pictures of his mom, some money that she had sent with us, and a diaper bag full of items for his baby girl.



During our conversation, we were able to update him a bit on his mom and to encourage him to be responsible in his new role as father and provider. We shared our faith in Jesus Christ, and assured him we would pray for him often as his life has been and will continue to be full of challenges most of us will never understand. Meeting people like Sara and Carlos gives us empathy for the struggles of so many Latinos, and it compels us to love deeper and to take the message of hope to the people of Honduras.

## PRAYERS & PETITIONS

THAT WE WOULD GLORIFY GOD IN EVERY OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE

FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GUIDANCE DURING OUR TRIP TO HONDURAS IN MARCH

FOR GOD'S PROVIDENCE TO RAISE UP THE FUNDS WE NEED TO LIVE AND WORK IN HONDURAS

FOR OUR SONS AS THEY HAVE MANY MORE TRANSITIONS IN THE COMING YEAR