THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEN FAMILY



APRIL MMX

Honduras is a land of immense need. Both physical and spiritual needs are visible on every corner. This need compels us to use our gifts to meet these needs, and to share the Hope that we have.

As more than 35% of Hondurans are unemployed, most people make a living as 'micro-entrepreneurs', selling simple goods and services. Our vision is to offer training classes in topics such as Accounting, Marketing, Computers, and English. These courses can enable people to find jobs and expand their 'micro-businesses'. More importantly, this provides a context to share the Bible with those on the periphery of the Church.

At the same time, we think this provides a viable tool for discipling those who already are part of the church. Let those with skills like welding, food preparation, sewing, or carpentry teach others for the glory of God. For more details on our vision for ministry, check out 'The Call' page on our Web site.

... and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed. then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. -Isaiah 58:10-11

## ΑΡΡΟΙΝΤΜΕΝ

My college roommate Ben has been a part of our divine adventure since day one, and has known of our love for Latin America since Jennifer and I first started dating over 14 years ago. Last month, Ben dropped me a note on FaceBook to tell me about a Honduran pastor named Melvin Zelaya who was briefly visiting the U.S. Ben figured he'd be a good contact for us in light of our upcoming trip. Since Melvin was flying through Chicago en route to the Shepherd's Conference in Los Angeles, Ben arranged for me to meet up with him at O'Hare Airport during my lunch hour.

A few weeks after meeting Melvin and his wife Carol in Chicago, we found ourselves having lunch together in Tegucigalpa. They spent the afternoon showing us around their city. We went up to a 'mirador' with a panoramic view of the city. What a strange thing to see the juxtaposed beauty and poverty. It certainly reminded me of how Jesus looked down over Jerusalem and wept for the spiritually lost of that city (Luke 19:41).

Besides the good time of fellowship, we felt a sense of affinity with the Zelayas. Melvin is graduating from Master's Seminary (Honduran campus) this year, and is involved in 3 church plants in and around Tegucigalpa. One of these churches meets in a public school, which feels familiar to us after years of attending church in a rented school building. We feel that God has opened a door for us to work to alongside Melvin in doing



evangelism and discipleship. We have been praying to meet someone like Melvin for a long time! Someone with a passion for teaching God's Word effectively and for the 'functional centrality' of the Gospel. Praise God for the unique way He used my friend in Indiana to introduce us to Pastor Melvin just weeks before our planned trip to Honduras. Coincidence? I think not.

Prayers and Petitions

**Pray for God to** be glorified as we share with believers and unsaved friends what Jesus has done for us, and why we want to move to Honduras

Pray even now that people whom we will "do life with" in Tegucigalpa would respond to the Gospel as evidenced in our words and deeds (God alone is the Lord of the harvest!)

Pray for our upcoming transition to life in Honduras; that God would be our strong tower and refuge in the midst of changes, especially for our boys

Pray for the financial goals set before us with building a team of friends and churches to help with our monthly and up front costs

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer I Peter 3:11

Keep informed on our blog

## **Our FAQs**

Ok, so here's our best attempt at answering the big questions that we all want to know.

Q. How do you pronounce Tegucigalpa? A. Just call it Tegus. Easy, huh? Like many of the city names in Honduras, it originates from a Na-

tive American word, not a Spanish word.

Q. When are you moving to Honduras?

A. Depends mostly on finances. We would like to begin our work there in either September or December of this year.

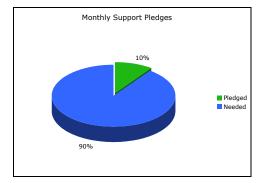
## Q. Will we see you before you go?

A. We sure hope so. We plan to be in San Diego for much of July. Maybe swing by the Pacific Northwest 'on the way'? Of course, Ohio is on our radar, too. Jennifer and I love that God has called us to be His ambassadors to Honduras. We love blogging and writing to you about all the amazing things that our patient Savior is teaching us. It is a blessing for us to be able to involve people that we care about in our desire to share Christ in Honduras. We cannot do this alone, and God in His wisdom, designed ministry to be done together and not solo.

Would you prayerfully consider how you can be involved in all that God is going to do in Honduras? Here's some tangible needs that I'd like for you to contemplate:

Financial support

- Monthly financial support: we currently have 10% of our needed support pledged; per LAM's guidelines, we should not leave for Honduras until we have 100% pledged
- Start-up costs: residency costs, moving household goods, importing a car, related taxes, and air travel will require about \$11,500



We know times are tight, if you don't feel like you can give financially now, that's ok. But you can still help. Here are some suggestions:

- Pray for us
- Share our Web site and our letter with friends
- Host a get together to pray with us for the goals set before us

As we get closer to the 'big move', we will probably have other areas where we could use a hand like getting educational materials put together, packing, and spending time with us

Your generous gifts to support our call can be sent to:

Latin America Mission P.O. Box 52-7900 Miami, FL 33152-7900



LAM is also able accept on-line gifts on our behalf at www. lam.org. All gifts are tax-deductible.