

Honduras Trip Report

With gratitude to the Lord, I want to share with you all that transpired during my recent trip to Honduras. The purpose of this short visit was to finalize the details of our ministry and build upon the relationship with Melvin Zelaya. Melvin pastors a small congregation in the heart of Tegucigalpa (Iglesia El Camino de La Vida /Way of Life Church), and oversees 3 other churches in outlying areas. To help take some of the load off of Melvin's shoulders, my role will be assisting with the preaching & teaching rotation at each of these churches. The vision is also to use one of the rural church facilities for establishing a pastoral training center. The facility, built by work teams from Indiana, will func-



the church facility at El Renuevo

tion perfectly for workshops, seminars, and ongoing training of men for pastoral and lay leadership. My time will be spent discipling men, equipping church leaders, and developing relationships with neighbors in this community through mid-week activities.

HOUSE HUNTING- Just a week before this trip, some friends of ours introduced us to YWAM missionaries in Costa Rica that had previously lived in Tegucigalpa. Due to a tough economy, they've struggled to sell or rent out their home. They've been praying that God would bring along people to enjoy this home, and to use it for ministry. We arranged to see the house, and it seems ideal for us! It's close to school, church, and the airport. Plus, they've made a creative use of space to build a loft and bunk beds so we'd be set up for our friends to come down and work with us. *Mi casa es su casa!*



Christian, Kevin, Dad, and Mike

Divine Appointments

Even in the planning of this trip, Jennifer and I have seen evidence of God's faithfulness. I was joined on this trip by four other men who have been and will continue to be a significant part of my spiritual life. For me, this trip was a God-ordained opportunity for men from different seasons of my life to intersect and be a part of laying a foundation for the next chapter of the divine adventure.

My dad, Ron, came on this trip with the specific purpose of scouting out places to live for his kid and grandkids. This was Dad's first trip to Honduras, and we praise God for his health and enthusiasm for serving the Lord. He's already got a long list of projects that he is interested in heading up, from medical missions at the clinic facility to construction projects.

My dear friend Christian from San Diego also came along, and was a real servant to me. His Central American driving & navigation skills kept us out of trouble as we traversed some tough topography. Christian has prayed for our desire to serve in Honduras for years, and to have him on this trip was a huge encouragement to me!

Mike is a friend from New Covenant Bible Church, our home church in St. Charles, IL. Kevin from LAM also came along, officially representing our sending agency. For Mike & Kevin, their objective for the trip was get to acquainted with Pastor Melvin and to help us formalize our ministry responsibilities. We are humbled that these godly men are investing their time and energy in the work God has called us to.

† Come Worship the King †

A friend in California gave me a short book entitled *How to Worship Jesus Christ*, by Joseph S. Carroll. This book has convicted me that my prayer life should be less about asking God for things, and more about praising Him for His faithfulness, His grace to sinners, and His holiness. In true worship, we should be setting our affections more on Jesus, and less on things of this world that we so easily over-emphasize.

When we worship God, we are in-line with the purpose for which we were created. Without worship, our Christian walk is at risk. It can be so easy to put the proverbial cart and horse out of sequence. If we enjoy Christ, we can then serve Him out of our affection for Him. Attempting to serve the Lord without first being a worshipper reduces Christ to a task-master and tempts us to make our work the objection of our affection instead of Him.

"Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart." -Psalm 37:4

Praise and Prayers

Pray for...

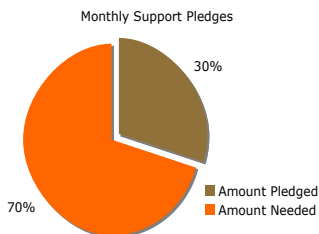
- Jennifer & the boys as they begin homeschooling for the first time
- Matthew to be able to balance work, family, ministry, & personal time with the Lord
- Pastor Melvin & his family, that the Lord would continue to use them in Tegucigalpa for His glory
- Continued providence as we work towards raising monthly support

Praise God for...

- A great trip that was fruitful in terms of defining roles for ministry in Honduras



Jennifer and I are confident that God has been preparing our family for long-term ministry in Honduras. We have been working towards our goal of moving to Tegucigalpa right after Christmas, taking significant steps, such as moving in with Matt's parents, homeschooling, submitting residency paperwork, & shipping our car down. Yet December is quickly approaching. We can only move at that time if our monthly support is at 100%!



Committing to 2 years of monthly financial support will

give us the foundation we need for our first two years of work there. 2 years. 24 months. Will you give \$25, \$60, or \$100 for the next 24 months? We need your help in setting a solid foundation for our ministry.

To encourage others to pledge 24 months of support, Matthew will be spending 24 hours non-stop on his bike. (Granted, this isn't exactly a sacrifice for him...it's fun!) Matthew plans to pedal from NOON on Friday Oct. 8th until NOON on Saturday Oct. 9th in the vicinity of Rockford, IL. Our family will be camping out Rock Cut State park Site #60, so we'd love for you to stop by or even camp out with us. Grab your bike & your family & take part in the adventure of riding both dirt and pavement for a few hours. Matthew even has an extra light for anybody crazy enough to ride the night shift! Invite a friend, too! We are praying for 30 new supporters to join our team by the day of this event.

Schedule of Events:

- Friday, Oct. 9th: Noon- Matthew begins to ride
 4:00 p.m. Road bike ride (with Jen, too)
 7:00 p.m. Bonfire and S'mores
- Sat., Oct. 10th: 8:00 a.m Mountain Bike Ride
 10:00 a.m All-Family Ride
 12 p.m. Picnic, prayer time, & celebration

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

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



Give on-line @ www.lam.org. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Summer in Review

ROAD TRIP-

After visits to friends in Ohio and Indiana over the 4th of July weekend, we headed west to San Diego. We had the blessing of spending three weeks with so many good friends. The body of Christ @ Pacific Hope Church extended us a warm SoCal welcome, and it was a huge encouragement to us to have time learning, praying, and doing life together with long-time friends. The highlight of our summer was getting to see how God has been at work in the lives of friends we haven't seen in over 3 years since our last trip 'home'.



PARTY TIMES- August is always a busy month of fiestas for the Allen family because we celebrate all three of the boys' birthdays. Joshua is now 11, Samuel turned 6, and our little Simon is 3! We are grateful for our sons and the way God uses them to deepen our understanding of Himself.



Upcoming Events

Saturday, Sept. 25: Drop-in Open House
 12-8 p.m. at the Heiberger home, Lancaster, Ohio

Fri/Sat Oct. 8-9: 24 for 24 Bike Ride in Rockford area

Saturday, October 9th: Dessert night with the Allens
 Belvidere, Illinois

Friday, Oct. 15 7-9PM: Coffee house with Bob Holda
 and other musical guests @ New Covenant Bible
 Church in St. Charles, Illinois

Sunday, Nov. 14: Dessert & coffee with the Allens
 Belvidere, Illinois

Keep us informed of how God is at work in your life,
 your home, and your church.

Matthew & Jennifer Allen

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