

the official update for the Allen family: serving Christ in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

After years of praying and discerning the Lord's leading, God in His faithful, steadfast love has opened the doors for us to be serving here in Honduras. So here it is...our first letter ever written to you from Honduras! Thank you for praying for us and for giving generously to allow us to begin our labors here. We hope this letter will give you the opportunity to praise God with us for His faithfulness, and also invite you to pray for specific people and details of our ministry. We also invite you to subscribe to our blog, which will give you glimpses into our new role here building the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior.



Broadcasting the Good News

El Camino de La Vida distributes two radio programs to AM, FM, and short-wave radio stations throughout the country. One of my responsibilities is to travel with Pastor Melvin to deliver CDs and DVDs with new programs to these stations. This is an adventure as many of the stations are in remote areas. Our visits provide an opportunity to share the Gospel as many of the radio station operators and DJs are not believers.

Thursday Church

Every Thursday, I drive nearly 3.5 hrs. round-trip to the church at Las Casitas, in the mountains east of Tegucigalpa. Pastor Melvin, his wife Carol, and I often go early to visit homes in the community. This gives us the chance to personally invite people to church, pray with them, and to present the Gospel. I also spend an hour each week with three young men studying basic doctrine. We pray that these guys will be future leaders of the fledgling church where male leadership is notably absent. After the discipleship time, I often have the opportunity to preach God's Word during the service. Please pray that the regular attenders and visitors would be truly transformed by the Gospel.



Friday Night Elder Training

Each Friday night, nine young men from three different churches meet at our home for a 20 week class on Biblical Eldership. Since our church does not have a building to use for mid-week activities, this gives Jennifer the chance to use her hospitality gifts. Our prayer is that these men will be trained to lead Christ's Church faithfully in accordance with Scriptural guidelines. These guys are sharp, and Pastor Melvin has even been delving into Greek in order to shed light into the Pastoral letters (I and II Timothy/Titus). We are using an Alexander Strauch book called *Biblical Eldership: Restoring the Eldership to Its Rightful Place in the Church*, which I highly recommend for you to read.



You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

II Timothy, chapter 2:1-2 ESV

Thank you for your generous investment in our ministry in Honduras. Donate on-line @ www.lam.org or via mail to the following address:

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



Divine Appointments

Since arriving in Honduras on January 20, we have met so many people with incredible stories. We thank God for each conversation we have been able to have, and for each person that God puts in our path.

One divine appointment came about as we were shopping for furniture. After finding only expensive furniture stores, we decided we'd rather hire someone to build us a kitchen table. We were introduced to Señor Mariano Esquivel, who is both a gifted carpenter and the owner of a pulperia (a small convenience store run out of his home). He is a hard worker and his hands show the wounds of his trade: missing one finger and perpetually stained from varnish. He came to our home and talked to us about measurements, prices, and designs that he could make. After seeing some pictures of his work, we commissioned him to build us a special kitchen table which will be a place for our family to eat together, play games together, and host guests for dinner.



Sr. Esquivel was also really interested in knowing what we're doing here and why we wanted to move to Honduras. After telling him of God's calling on our life, he explained that he and his family are Catholics and that he believes that the Word of God can produce positive changes in our lives (amen!). He asked me if I would be willing to teach him and two of his sons more about the Bible. So, we have been meeting each Wednesday night (around our new table) to explore the book of Romans. Sr. Esquivel is excited to help his sons learn more and make good life decisions in an environment where gang activity is evident on every corner. Please pray for the time we spend together in God's Word, for the Holy Spirit to make clear God's plan for salvation.

Also, on a side-note, I have a personal desire to help hard-working folks like this provide for their families. To that end, we've launched a new Web site to help him promote his business: www.esquivelehijos.hn

Prayer and Praise

- We praise God that He has allowed us to make the move and begin the adjustment process smoothly, with clear evidences of His faithfulness. Our car was nationalized, we have furniture, and we've even hosted parents and friends in our new home already!
- We praise God for open doors to share the Gospel of Christ crucified with people that we've met - neighbors, visitors at church, and others environments.
- Pray for the Friday night men's study on Biblical Eldership. The goal is to raise up men who are Biblically qualified to lead Christ's Church.
- Pray for growth in spiritual depth and scriptural understanding of those in the churches.
- Pray for Joshua, Samuel, & Simon as they make friends, build trust, and learn the language.

New Opportunity

Many of you know what it is like to meet for worship in a public school. With that comes challenges, but also opportunities to reach out within the community. The principal of the school that our church meets at has invited us to come and evangelize to the students there. When Matthew went to talk with Señora Julia, the principal, about this, she brought up the fact that there is also a need for someone to teach English to the 4th, 5th, & 6th graders. Her desire is to give the kids 1 hour of English a week, but the teacher is out on disability leave. Long story short, Matthew and I were "hired" to do the job! Every Friday, both of us will be spending 4 hrs. teaching a total of 315 kids. The best part is that Sra. Julia permitted us to use the Bible as part of the curriculum! Our hope and prayer is to provide a bilingual New Testament to each of these children. We will use them for teaching English and most importantly, presenting the Gospel! Please send us an e-mail if you would like to contribute to the cost of these Bibles - they are \$4 each, including shipping costs.

Keeping in Touch

Matthew & Jennifer Allen

Serving His Church in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

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*Please keep us informed on how we can pray for you.
We love to get e-mail updates and phone calls from
our friends!*