

the official update for the Allen family serving Christ in Honduras

This newsletter marks 6 months of our new life in Honduras. It's hard to believe that New Covenant Bible Church lovingly shipped us off on January 16th. As we hit a milestone in our process of cultural adaptation, it's good for us to reflect on some of the things we have come to enjoy about Honduran culture.

As we share this with you, pray for us as we continue to focus on the positive aspects of this new way of life for us. Here are just a few things we enjoy:

1. Warm greetings: You will be hard pressed to find a warmer greeting. When greeting women, it is appropriate to greet with a kiss on the cheek. Important note: Never lean right as the kiss is expected on the right cheek. Otherwise, this makes for an awkward first impression.

2. Family oriented: Adult children often live at home with their parents and generally show great care and respect for their parents. If you invite someone for dinner, expect at least three generations to show up.

3. Great food. From baleadas to catrachas, the typical food is some form of tortillas and red beans topped with cheese or "mantequilla" (similar to sour cream). Cut up some fresh, juicy pineapple, papaya, or mango, and you've got a fantastic meal. We love the fresh fruit!



4. GPS Systems: Traveling in Honduras is an adventure, and getting lost is not a question of "if" but rather "how lost". Stopping to ask for directions requires careful listening skills, and usually at least a good couple minutes of small talk. This gives us many opportunities to fine-tune our Spanish!

Divine Appointment

The Lord has given Jennifer and I the unique opportunity to be a conduit between Christ's church in Honduras and the Church in North America.

This past month, we had the unexpected chance to share what God is doing here with a church in Memphis, Tennessee. For all intensive purposes, both we and Pastor Melvin are perfect strangers to this church. A member of this church had worked with Pastor Melvin on several short-term projects at Las Casitas (Thursday Church), so the missions pastor sought him out as someone with whom they might like to partner in doing Kingdom work.

Last month, this pastor and a member of the church missions team came down to meet us. We enjoyed getting to know them, and showing them some of what God is doing through El Camino de La Vida. They share Melvin's heart for expository teaching, and they had a chance to see first hand some of the challenges that this ministry faces. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, the church in Memphis has decided to provide the funding for a full-time national pastor for the next 18 months. This is a huge praise, as each weekend for the past three years, someone from our church in the city has traveled several hours to preach the Word at 2 of the rural churches - El Renuevo & Tegucigalpa. Even more than the necessity of a preacher on Sundays is the need for a pastor to be involved in the lives of the congregations throughout the week. Thanks be to God for providing the resources to place a pastor there who has been trained up to teach the Word and also care for the flock.

This is a remarkable answer to prayer and something that we really thought was too big to ask for. God, in His grace, is using His Church to grow His work! Please pray with us that God will anoint this Honduran pastor to faithfully preach the Word, resulting in spiritual & numerical growth of these two churches.

Prayer and Praise

- Praise God for a 4th grade teacher who responded to the Gospel during English classes in the public school. Please continue to pray for each of the students who received a New Testament that they might be compelled to read and understand God's precious message to them.
- We praise God that His people responded generously and helped us with the funds we needed to pay off our "new truck".
- We praise God for using Grace Evangelical Church in Memphis, TN, to greatly encourage Pastor Melvin and the body of believers at El Renuevo. This church came down to see how God is working in our midst and is making a strategic investment in placing a local pastor at El Renuevo.
- Please pray for Joshua and Samuel as they begin another school year at the end of August, especially with the challenges of academics and developing friendships in their second language. Pray that they and Simon would increase in wisdom and stature.
- Please lift up our marriage, that it would continuously be strengthened and give glory to God. Also, pray that we have unity and wisdom as we parent our boys.

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Keep us informed of what God is doing in your lives and how we can pray for you.

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

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Special Projects

The church at El Renuevo is situated on a piece of land alongside a major highway to the southern portions of Honduras. Because of the location of the facility and the large number of rural pastors in the south, we are planning to use this facility as a pastoral training center. In fact, organizing this training center is one of the key challenges that we feel God brought us here to accomplish. The need for men who faithfully preach the Word is great (as it is in your neck of the woods, too!)

Currently, this facility is about 60% completed in terms of construction, and we are praying for God to provide the human and financial resources to complete this work. Jennifer and I would like to invite you to invest in finishing one dorm room to house pastors who come for 2-5 day seminars on hermeneutics, Old Testament, and expository preaching.

I am including estimated construction costs below for you to prayerfully consider.



- ceramic tile- \$300
- drop ceiling - \$350
- ceiling fan - \$150
- paint - \$150
- bunk beds - \$300
- book shelves - \$50
- A/C unit - \$1,000
- electrical work - \$200
- day laborers - \$350

Pastor Melvin & Uncle Kevin (Jennifer's brother) doing some work at El Renuevo

As we plan seminars, we are also asking for help in purchasing materials to teach with. Sound theological books are hard to come by in Spanish, and are especially costly here. Our desire would be to put together a library of books to be used by men studying at the center. If you would be willing to contribute a book or two to this library, please give us a call or send us an e-mail.

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. Psalm 127:1