

THE DIVINE ADVENTURE

ISSUE TWENTY ONE NEWS FROM THE ALLEN FAMILY AUGUST 2012

TEAM WORK: TOGETHER IN MINISTRY

One of our favorite aspects of the ministry which God has called us to involves being a bridge between the North American Church and the Church in Honduras, and this summer has given us several opportunities to be that bridge. In June and July, we had the joy of welcoming two groups from two different congregations who came to serve alongside of us and experience Church in a different context.

New Covenant Bible Church (St. Charles, IL)-We were so



encouraged and excited to share Iglesia El Camino de La Vida with youth and friends from our sending church. 23 members of New Covenant Bible Church (NCBC) youth group came and served joyfully despite the intense heat of southern Honduras. During the mornings, the NCBC youth stained lumber to be used for new church pews. Some of the young men also were shuttled up the road to the Tegucigalpa church to shovel dirt and prepare for work installing a cement floor. The afternoons were spent playing games, doing crafts, and teaching God's Word to the kids from the two southern churches. This time was a huge encouragement for our boys - to have friends and familiar faces experience their life in Honduras and to be able to translate and be involved in

some of the activities. One of my highlights was seeing NCBC pastors praying for the men who shepherded the flock of Iglesia El Camino de La Vida.

Grace Evangelical Church (Germantown, TN)- Grace Evangelical has sent youth and construction teams in the past to build at Casitas (aka Thursday church). This summer, they came again to continue this work. Each morning, the team worked at mixing concrete and building church pews. Afternoons were dedicated to befriending the children in the community. Daily attendance ranged between 45 and 60 kids. Since the teachers at the local school went on strike, we had a few more kids during our final day of VBS. It was great to see the Memphis teens using their Spanish skills and reading Scripture to the kids.



In addition to the tangible blessing of having new church pews, and the sowing of seeds in the lives of Honduran children, our prayer is that these mission trips might be used by God to call even one of the youth to invest their life in preaching the Gospel. Pray for God to raise up the next generation of pastors, missionaries, and devoted followers of Jesus Christ.



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Thanks to our generous friends, we have the privilege of serving Christ here in Honduras. You can make your financial gift on-line @ www.lam.org or via mail by sending a check to the following address:

LAM
LATIN AMERICA MISSION

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

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word

-Paul's letter to the Ephesian church, chapter 5, verses 22-26

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

It is always exciting to us to witness marriages that are thriving and honoring to the Lord. So, when our friends Luis and Norma asked us to come and witness their vows, we were thrilled. Although their vows were exchanged in front of a judge in a crowded courthouse full of strangers, their intent was the same - to obey the Lord and to commit to serving Him and one another for the rest of their lives. Join us in praying for Luis and Norma that God will use their marriage to strengthen the local church.



Also, heaven rejoices in that Joel and Jeni in the Casitas community have both recently prayed to accept Christ as the One who saves them from their sin. In a church devoid of intact marriages and a father figure, we are encouraged to see a young couple begin to build a firm foundation for their family. Pray that their daughter Genesis would be taught from an early age the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done for her.

Finally, as a church (in Tegucigalpa), we have begun "family nights" at our home for the purpose of growing Biblical families. This includes a time of fellowship and teaching from Scripture. We are also using Ted Tripp's book *Shepherding a Child's Heart*. Pray that these evenings together as a church family would provide practical ideas on helping marriages thrive and parents succeed in raising kids who know Christ.



Joel & Jeni with their daughter Genesis

ENLISTING YOUR HELP

- **Prayer support:** God works through His Word and His Spirit. Pray for Pastor Melvin, our family, and Iglesia El Camino de La Vida that we will tirelessly proclaim what Christ has done for us!
- **Pastoral Sponsorship:** We asked each participant in the pastoral training to contribute \$5 to cover the cost of their food during the conference. This leaves the church to assume the remaining costs such as electricity (which is very high here), books, study materials, and travel costs. This works out to an additional \$20 per student. Would you be willing to provide a scholarship for one of the men who desire to learn how to study and teach God's Word? For 2012, we have 4 additional conferences planned, so for \$80, you can sponsor a whole year's study. Please contact me directly if you feel led to help in this way. We'll provide you with details.
- **Come and serve:** We are looking for servants to come and assist with two upcoming trips.
Medical clinic: This winter, we plan to offer basic medical care in both Casitas and El Renuevo. We are looking for doctors, nurses, dentists, or other medical professionals to share the Gospel in a tangible way. Contact Ron Allen if you are interested in more information: rondonna1@verizon.com
Construction: Also this winter, we hope to put together a construction team to prepare the church at Casitas to host overnight pastoral training conferences. We need hard-working guys with electrical, plumbing, or other construction experience to join the team. Please contact Ken Heiberger at ken@heibergerpaving.com for more information.