

# DIVINE ADVENTURE

dicciembre de 2013

Aventure Letter Veinticinco

**GO  
BIG** or go home

In January, we begin our fourth year of ministry here. As we reflect on God's faithfulness, we see that we have learned so much, which we feel has prepared us for the next season of ministry here. We could summarize our time here something like this:

- Year One: Learning the culture and getting to know the lay of the land; lots of tough lessons
- Year Two: Able to identify and care for members of the various congregations, but still as outsiders
- Year Three: Capable of supporting Pastor Melvin and actively participating in pastoral care in the distinct churches; ready to take on additional leadership
- Going Into Year Four: Clear understanding of the challenge at hand; Ready to set goals and prayerfully undertake the strengthening of each church family

For me, recent months have been marked by prayerfully asking the question, "Go big, or go home?" I have wrestled with questions like whether or not I am capable of the challenges of being a full-time minister of the Gospel. I have wrestled

with the huge paradigm shift of coming from Corporate America with all its measures of success, business processes, and key performance indicators to a work where quantifying results is difficult, if not dangerous.

I am thankful to the Lord for several brothers in Christ for walking through these difficult questions with me, and for reminding me of all that God has done to save me and to bring our family to the mission field. In November, David Sunday and Dave DeHaan, elders from our sending church (New Covenant Bible Church) came down to encourage us. Their visit was instrumental in affirming our precious partnership with Pastor Melvin and our call to GO BIG, serving the Lord where He has placed us!



The El Camino de La Vida ministry has graciously welcomed our family to continue with them in their

labors to reach this nation with the truth of Jesus Christ. As such, we have signed a formal three year agreement to continue here as co-laborers with El Camino de La Vida. As a ministry team, we are prayerfully writing detailed ministry goals for the coming years. We look forward to involving YOU in various ways in the work God has called us to do.

**LOOKING  
AHEAD**

**2014**

As we take the "long-view" on our call to ministry, we thank God for the fruit we see thus far in the lives of our friends here in Honduras. This year, we will continue to invest in the lives of others through individual discipleship, Biblical training, and edifying the church of Tegucigalpa.

## Discipleship

- Jennifer and I are looking to improve our skills in Biblical Counseling and equipping others to care for each other in the local churches.
- Casitas discipleship time will continue to focus on Biblical Eldership with the goal of raising up preachers & elders in this congregation.

## Biblical Training

- Walking through an 8 month study of the book of Colossians with the ladies in each of the 4 El Camino de La Vida congregations.

- Conducting training conference 5 times this year with a focus on Systematic Theology and specific books of the Bible (to be determined).

## Tegucigalpa Church

- Beginning a home Bible study with new friends in the neighborhood where the church prayerfully plans to build in the coming years,
- Working with Melvin Harold to strengthen the youth group, emphasizing evangelism and equipping each young person Biblically for the unique challenges of their environment.

## PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

The past few months have been full of new challenges for Jennifer as a full-time working mom. Jennifer had the opportunity to teach 12th grade English at the International School where our boys attend. In my ignorance, I assumed that teachers work from 7AM until the bells rings at 3PM. But, it turns that teaching requires working late nights and weekends to prepare lessons, grade papers, and interact with students, parents, and school administrators. My sincere apologies to any teacher friends that I may have offended over the years with jokes about majoring in "Flannel graphs" or undue stress caused by Play-doh drying out. The past few months have given us greater appreciation for professional educators, and have reminded us to pray for our friends we have who are teachers. What an amazing opportunity to share the Gospel...but what a ton of work!



I am very proud of Jennifer for her hard work as mom, wife, teacher, and missionary for these past four months. As of the new year, I will have my wing-man and ministry partner back full-time. Jennifer will focus on getting trained and subsequently teaching others in Biblical counseling. As a couple, we also see the need to visit friends in their homes, pray with them, and provide counsel from God's Word.

Some of Jennifer's tasks this year will include:

- Continuing in her role as Sunday school teacher along with Carol and other women in Tegucigala.
- Increased involvement with some of the youth in Tegucigala
- Launching a nursery ministry at Casitas
- Participating in some of the training conferences, studying the book of Colossians with the ladies

## NEWSFLASH!!!

For more than 80 years, God has used the Latin America Mission to proclaim the Gospel in the Spanish speaking world. As of January 1, 2014, LAM will be officially a part of United World Mission, a like-minded mission with ministries around the globe. We are excited about the way the United World Mission will be enabling our family to stay focused on the task that God has placed before us here in Honduras.

For the time being, any gift that you might feel led to share with us can be sent through Latin America Mission. You can send your gift on-line via [www.lam.org](http://www.lam.org) or via snail mail-



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

## THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS

- Pray for Joel, Josué, and others that we desire to see built into a ministry team at the church in Casitas.
- Pray for Josué (from Casitas) as he graduates from high school and accepts the challenges of attending seminary classes at the Master's Seminary in Siquatepeque
- Pray for the neighborhood where the Tegucigalpa desires to begin a work of evangelism and discipleship this year. We want to build relationships, see many come to repentance, and incorporate new believers into the church family
- Pray for Melvin, Carol, and the Zelaya family that God will continue to use their example of servant-leadership to build up the Church
- Ask the Lord for His continued provision for the ministry here and Gospel work around the globe
- Pray for the Allen peeps as we are continually being taught and sanctified by our loving Savior
- Continue to lift up Donna, my mom, as she struggles with pain management associated with cancer in her spine.

As we conclude an amazing year of learning and ministry here in Honduras, we are overwhelmed by the generosity of God's people. Thank you for your loving and faithful support of the work God has called us to do. Merry Christmas to you and your family!

-with much love,

*Matthew, Jennifer, Joshua, Samuel, and Simon*