

## Building up the Church

Since kicking off 2014, we have seen non-stop action in building up God's Church here in Honduras. Here are a few bullet points on all that the Lord has allowed us to be a part of:

### January

- Worked with a team from WI, IL, and IN to build a bathroom facility at the Tegucigalpa church. The team also spent some intentional time doing evangelism and teaching with the kids in the south.
- We broke ground (and a lot of it!) at the Tizatillo site, future home of El Camino de La Vida Tegucigalpa! The first step of this big project was to terrace the land and erosion control to prepare for a firm foundation!



### February

- Together with Melvin and 2 pastors, we conducted Biblical training seminars on Daniel 1-3 in both Casitas and El Renuevo.
- We enjoyed a little shindig celebrating the 10-year-anniversary of the Tegucigalpa congregation.
- I was installed as an elder in the church of Tegucigalpa, which is a joy and a privilege to serve this body of believers as a 'local' and not just a missionary from a foreign land.
- Work began on the construction of the first of 3 retaining walls at the Tegucigalpa site.



### March

- Together with Melvin Harold and Joshua, I started a study on the Gospel according to John in the Tizatillo neighborhood.

This is an exciting new challenge as we get to know the neighbors around the future church site and desire to proclaim the Gospel in this community.

- We are planning to travel to Pastor Nixon's hometown, high in the mountains, to share some school supplies donated by Madison Christian Church. Pray that this will be an effective time of tangibly sharing Christ's love with a remote and unchurched community.

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Acts 20:28

## DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

For the past three years, we have lovingly referred to the Casitas church as "Thursday church", given the weekly road trip to preach there. Starting in January, the decision was made to allow for more time of worship and preaching to take place. Now, I preach each Tuesday, the Zelayas go on Fridays, and Joel and other local men preach and lead worship services on Sunday. While this requires additional resources, we are seeing dramatic changes in the life of this church already.

### Highlights

- Melvin and I are both working with a small group studying basic doctrines and Biblical eldership on Tuesdays and Friday. The group is asking great questions and is taking Scripture memorization very seriously.
- Joel Sanchez is diligently taking time to prepare sermons from the book of James to instruct God's people each Sunday. To see God equipping this young man to preach is a tremendous answer to our prayers.
- Alfonso is a middle-age man who is participating in elder training. As he learns God's Word, it is obvious that changes are taking place in his life. This is change that only the Holy Spirit can bring about.
- The women are working to organize some ministries within the church, including a nursery to help minimize distractions from toddlers while God's word is being preached.

## Jen's Corner

After stepping back from ministry a bit during my 4-month teaching gig, I am grateful to have the time again to pour into the women and children of our 4 churches. During the 2014 seminars, while the men are meeting with Matthew and Melvin, Carol and I have the privilege of launching a Bible study with the women. Last fall, the women were given a small Bible study book on Colossians, which we encouraged them to read and go through on their own. Now, we are leading all of the women through this study for the next 8 months. Many of the women have difficulty reading or are illiterate, so it is good for us to study Colossians together. Also, most of them have never been part of a formal Bible study in order to understand how to personally dive deeper into Scripture. I was so encouraged to see that attendance was high for our first study! Please pray with me, that these women learn to study & apply God's Word in a way that is transformational.



I am also grateful for specific women who are stepping up to serve in the church. Hermana Ruth is one example. Now that Matthew flies solo to preach in Casitas on Tuesdays, Ruth has taken on the responsibility of teaching the kids, of which there are many! I can only go with Matthew when the boys' school schedule allows, so Ruth is an answer to prayer. She has been part of the discipleship group for awhile, and recently we were able to give her a MacArthur Study Bible. She was thrilled, and is now using it to prepare lessons for the kids. Praise God for how He is deepening His people's faith and love for others, as evidenced in the life of Ruth.

Also, Matthew & I are once again leading an English-speaking couples' study in our home. Through June, we will be reading through *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*, by Paul Tripp, with 3 young couples who all teach at our boys' school. It is a great way for us to hone our skills in Biblical counseling and encourage others' to live out this concept in their daily lives. I am passionate about mentoring married couples who want to honor the Lord and am thankful for the opportunity to do so!

Support gifts\* to help us continue our participation in building the Honduran Church can now be sent to United World Mission. You can give on-line at [www.uwm.org](http://www.uwm.org) or via mail.



United World Mission  
PO Box 602002  
Charlotte, NC 28260-2002

\*All gifts are tax-deductible per IRS guidelines. We are grateful for your investment in the work God has called us to do!

## The Prayers of the Saints

- Praise God that He brought 16 people to the first Bible study near the new land. Pray that we can build relationships and effectively teach the Word in this neighborhood.
- Pray that the seminars would be used to continue to build up men who can faithfully lead their families and the churches in ways that honor God. Praise God for the fruit we see in Joel's life, who is now preaching on Sundays!
- Pray that as the women of our churches study Colossians, they would recognize the supremacy of Christ and His Lordship over all, and that this study would produce lasting change in each woman's life.
- Praise God for His provision for our family and the ministry here. Please continue to pray that needs will be met, for us personally, for the construction of the church, and for the seminars and other ministry costs.
- Praise God with us for His grace in the lives of our boys. Continue to pray that Joshua, Samuel, & Simon will long to know Christ more and will learn to love people fully.
- Pray for health and joy for our families in the states.

## TEAM Work

Interested in lending a hand? We are praying for the Lord to bring together two construction teams to come serve in 2015, helping to build the Tegucigalpa facility. Please contact me if you feel led to organize a team.

If you are not able to come down, perhaps you would consider a financial gift to purchase construction materials.

**We'd love to hear from you!**

Matthew & Jennifer Allen

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