

DIVINE ADVENTURE

February 2015 | Newsletter #28 Matthew & Jennifer Allen U.S. 1.858.779.1040 | mtnbikesd@mac.com

Team Work

In early January, two churches from the States joined together to build at the church site here in Tegucigalpa for a week – First Free from Rockford and Stonemill from Atlanta. This team was rather unique, in that most of the team was made up of Hispanic-Americans or current/former missionaries or pastors! The team also included my Dad and several lifelong friends of ours. This was the first team we've hosted that had so many Spanish speakers. God used them mightily to encourage and witness to the group of hired Honduran workers that they worked alongside.



One Honduran-American team member from Atlanta had the unique opportunity to reconnect with family whom he hadn't seen in many years. His unbelieving father and sister traveled 6 hours via bus from the North Coast. Along with the rest of the team, he was able to share the Gospel with them and give testimony to what the Lord had done in his own life. We love to witness how God orchestrates meetings such as this family reunion – not a ministry opportunity that we had anticipated, but what a blessing it was!

A new season in the adventure...

During my time preaching and teaching at Casitas, I have come to appreciate the Apostle Paul and his philosophy of missions. I love Paul's heart as the Spirit of God moved him from city to city to strengthen the Church. With each move, Paul felt the joy of seeing the Church grow, the emotions of saying goodbye, and the desire to leave behind elders & teachers to continue his work.

Paul wrote to his brothers in Thessalonica: *"For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked day and*

night, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the Gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct towards you believers. For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom glory. And we thank God constantly for this, that when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted in not as the word of men but as what it really was, the Word of God" (1 Thessalonians 2:9-13). These words explain the beautiful paradigm of what we have been able to experience here in Honduras.

We realize that Gospel work is never done, and we see God building up leaders and godly men like Luis, Nixon, Ernesto, Joel, Josué, and Melvin Harold. These men are being used to continue patterning the 4 precious churches of El Camino de La Vida after the Biblical instructions laid out for them. As such, we understand Paul's thanksgiving in leaving behind maturing believers as he sought to go where God led him next.

In Scripture, we see Paul being led to move from one place to another, sometimes depending on others, and other times, working hard to support his Gospel work. Paul addressed the Thessalonian church about their testimony in working hard and living generously. *"But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one"* (1 Thessalonians 4:10-12).

With this in mind, Jennifer and I feel that our season of ministry living here is drawing to a close. I see the Lord directing us to a new role, supporting others who are being readied to preach the Gospel. We see that God is leading our family to leave the growth of this precious church in the hands of the brothers here and leading me to return to my vocation.

In the coming months, we will be transitioning many of our ministry functions to our Honduran brothers and sisters and preparing our family to return to the United States. Our plans are still in the works, but we will likely leave Honduras in June. Stay tuned for details, and please be praying for all that lies ahead in the next few months.

Pastoral Training



The 2015 Pastoral training work is beginning and Pastor Melvin, together with other elders from the Tegucigalpa church, are planning monthly conferences. I will be teaching in the first sessions of this new year, but this work will continue after our return to the U.S. The focus this year will be on the minor prophets of Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Obadiah. In addition to careful exegesis of these precious books, the students will be using a book entitled *Warning, Justice, and Restoration*, which is a commentary written by Cornelio Rivera. Cornelio is an Old Testament scholar of Honduran heritage who is the voice of the El Camino de La Vida radio broadcast. Please be praying that the pastoral conferences will be used to remind the brothers who preach here that God's character must be clearly portrayed as both just and merciful. Praise God that He gives us not what we deserve, but is merciful in saving sinners!

While the men are studying the prophets, the women will be delving into the gospel of John. They hope to finish up by mid-September to prepare yet again for the Ladies' Day Event in October. Even with our upcoming move, Jennifer and her mom desire to put together a team to continue this tradition that has become a highlight for the ladies of all four churches.

The Prayers of the Saints...

- Pray for Hermana Daisy, a single mom in the Tegucigalpa church. She recently got her children back from foster care and is struggling to care for their physical needs. She loves the Lord and does a great job teaching them, but she has no income and was abandoned by her husband.
- Pray for the transition times ahead for each of us. New job, new school, and new opportunities to minister to others.
- Pray for Iglesia Cristiana El Camino de La Vida as they prepare to send us off and continue the work of preaching, teaching, and living out the Gospel.

Thank You!

We cannot thank you enough for participating with us in building up Christ's Church in Honduras. You have prayed for us, encouraged us, and given generously. Through your generosity, God has allowed us to be used as a conduit to connect literally hundreds of people with the needs, challenges, and spiritual gifts of the Honduran church. Some have come down for just a brief time, but have left with a lasting hunger to be evangelists, missionaries, and to live out their faith with greater zeal for Christ.

We would humbly ask for your continued financial support through July 2015. This will be a tremendous blessing to our family, allowing us time to look for employment and to move some of our household belongings back north with us.

But our journey with Iglesia El Camino de La Vida is just beginning! While our family will be moving back to the U.S., our commitment to this ministry is for a life-time, and we pray that you also will not forget God's people here in this beautiful country. Our desire is to personally give monthly to El Camino de La Vida, and we invite you to prayerfully consider doing so with us. We have seen during our 4 years here that God is using Melvin, Carol, and others to share Christ in very tangible ways. In fact, they have taught us so much about pastoral care, Biblical counseling, and building up the church. Their financial needs are great, and we have lived with them, seen their dedication to the Lord, and their faith in His provision. For us, it is a precious opportunity to KNOW their hearts and to be able to come alongside them financially.



Support gifts* to continue supporting our family through July 2015 can be sent to United World Mission. Likewise, we invite you to continue giving to support the pastoral team of El Camino de La Vida.

Give on-line @ www.uwm.org or via mail.



United World Mission
PO Box 602002
Charlotte, NC 28260

*All gifts are tax-deductible per IRS guidelines.