

# DIVINE ADVENTURE

JULY 2016 | Newsletter #31 Matthew & Jennifer Allen U.S. 1.858.610.8890 | [mtnbikesd@mac.com](mailto:mtnbikesd@mac.com)

Greetings from sunny San Diego! We want to share with you, our dear friends and partners in ministry, some exciting news - *we are moving back to Honduras!*

Just to give a little recap: From the earliest days of our relationship, Jennifer and I felt a desire to share the Gospel in Latin America. We spent the first 9 years of our marriage here in San Diego and had our first two wonderful boys, all the while feeling a tug in our hearts towards missions. It was exactly a decade ago that we left San Diego to study Spanish in Costa Rica. Even at this time, our hearts were set on serving Christ in Honduras. The Lord in His sovereignty kept us in Costa Rica for 2 years (gave us Simon), then moved us to the Chicago suburbs for another 2 1/2 years. This "detour" was not in our plan (I'm starting to see a theme here [Proverbs 16:1]), but we are so thankful for the people He sent into our lives during this time to help us grow in faith and in the knowledge of the Word. The time there allowed some rich mentorship with the elders of New Covenant Bible Church, which prepared me for ministering to friends in Honduras.

It was during this time in Illinois that we were introduced to Melvin & Carol Zelaya, and it became clear that God was leading us to head to Honduras. In January of 2011, our family packed up and moved to Tegucigalpa to serve with Iglesia El Camino de la Vida. Our desire and prayer was to serve for a time as vocational missionaries, then to transition the majority of mine and Jennifer's responsibilities to the local body. Our long-term hope was to continue to be a part of the 4 churches, while working in a profession.... Essentially, our prayer was that the Lord would allow us to live and remain in Honduras as tent-makers.

We left Honduras last year after exploring some possible avenues serving as tentmakers and finding only closed doors. When we left we were sensing that it was time to step away from our roles and pursue employment elsewhere. The Lord graciously had a job lined up for me before we ever left Honduras, and we thought we would be settling into life in San Diego again, after having been gone for 9 years.

We arrived in San Diego last July, and immediately, the Lord provided an abundance of rich encouragement through His Word and through connecting with new and old friends at Pacific Hope Church. Jen and some of the boys were beginning to adjust. Despite loving the location, I also gained some insight through the change of vocation. I feel that the Lord has called me to continue to dedicate my time and energy to teaching his word. The Allen family as a whole has also identified that we are uniquely wired for life in Latin America.

At some point, Joshua asked us to return to Honduras to finish high school and graduate there. This was one of many factors that pushed us to our decision, and we saw it as an open door. International School Tegucigalpa - the bilingual, Christian school where our boys had previously attended - offered both Jennifer and I teaching positions for the upcoming school year. After much prayer and counsel, the Lord confirmed that He desires for us ALL to return to live and serve Him there.

I have been hired to be the high school Bible teacher and campus chaplain, and Jennifer will be an elective teacher and counselor for high school girls. This opportunity checks off all the boxes: some examples being visas, tuition, and living costs. Even better, our schedule as teachers will allow us to continue our involvement with Iglesia Cristiana El Camino de La Vida - serving the local church, supporting Pastor Melvin Zelaya, and acting a conduit between stateside and Honduran believers. This ability to be tent-makers is a tremendous answer to many years of prayer, and our hope is that you will praise God with us for this!

# Divine Appointments

Through plenty of fun times and plenty of hardships, God has revealed so much of His glory to us during our time in San Diego. Below are some ways we've experienced His grace over the last year, and some ways we hope He'll continue to reveal it in the future.

THIS YEAR

-Joshua had the opportunity to learn about work and was gainfully employed for nearly the entire year. He worked at Soup Plantation, and also has been working at First Free Church in Rockford, working in children's ministry.

-My work in IT provided for us in ways that we appreciate greatly. It was great to manage projects with results that can be more measurable than many aspects of ministry, and it helped provide me with clarity in my calling to be a teacher of God's Word.

## Work

-Our ministry platform and opportunity to touch lives has been greatly expanded. I will be teaching 3 grade levels, twice each, equaling 24 classes each week. Pray for relationship building and effective, accurate teaching of Scripture.

-Jennifer will be working full-time as well, which is a big change for our family.

-Samuel and Simon have had the opportunity to be ministered to by some amazing Sunday school teachers and classmates at church. They've enjoyed good teaching and worship (in English), and are refreshed to be going back to Honduras, serving the Lord on Sunday mornings and during the week.

-We are very grateful, for Pacific Hope Church has built us up in ways that no furlough ever could. We have seen so much fruit in the warmth and community of this body of believers here in San Diego.

## Church

-We've missed the church body at El Camino de La Vida, and we're excited to be back with them, experiencing life with its challenges and joys.

-Jennifer and I are looking forward to continue to serve alongside Pastor Melvin, Carol, and other brothers and sisters for the glory of God and the growth of His Church.

-We enjoyed renting a beautiful home near where we had lived before setting out on this adventure nearly a decade ago. Bike rides to the ocean, hikes in the mountains, and all the perks of America's finest city are an unforgettable treasure.

- We were also blessed to reestablish treasured friendships from long ago.

-However, two international moves in a year is not something we recommend to our friends!

## Home

-We will be moving back into the last home that we had been renting in Tegucigalpa. We really enjoyed this rural neighborhood and are excited to move back to this house. We will be buying it, fixing it up, and making it our own!

-Our dog, Neblina, has survived the strict leash laws in California and is looking forward to wild dashes through the mountains near our home.

-California public schools are a great opportunity to share Christ with kids and parents from around the globe, due to the large amount of cultural diversity.

-Simon completed 3rd grade.

-Samuel finished his first year of middle school.

-Joshua completed junior year to move on to his final year of high school.

## School

-Joshua will be able to graduate with his friends at International School. His first year in Honduras was 5th grade, and after a year away, he's excited to finish his senior year and continue serving back in his home.

-Now, we all get to go to the same school - Mom and Dad included!

NEXT YEAR

If the Lord leads you to join is in this new chapter of ministry, we would be grateful. In the next few months, we will have considerable moving costs. We also would like to invite you to invest in a ministry fund that we will use to participate in the life of Iglesia Cristiana El Camino de La Vida.

Give on-line @ [www.spanishworld.org](http://www.spanishworld.org) or via mail.



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\*All gifts are tax-deductible per IRS guidelines.

