

the Divine Adventure

ADVENT 2016 | Vol. 32 | the Allen family | U.S. 1.858.753.6050 | mtnbikesd@mac.com



Pursuing a Calling

Changing vocations is an interesting experience that few get to experience. To some, big life changes like we've made might seem crazy or impulsive. I admire my Dad(s) for their consistency & dedication to their work. Dad Heiberger has successfully grown his family business for nearly 40 years, and despite numerous appeals to retire, he continues at the helm of the company. Dad Allen retired after more than 35 years as a pharmacist with Walgreens, and I am thankful for his example of consistency in this profession.

Despite enjoying my work as an IT project manager in San Diego last year, the Holy Spirit really convicted me that much has been invested in my spiritual preparation for ministry. My life is not my own. Therefore, my conviction is that I ought to spend this season of life preaching the Word of God. This vocation (which literally means calling) is my calling.

I believe God has lead me to teach & preach in different capacities and contexts during different seasons of life. For now, I have the opportunity to teach Bible to high school students in Honduras. It is a privilege to be in a country and in a school where students are taught from God's Word in order to prepare them for the challenges of adult life. Daily, I interact with more than 200 high school students with the earnest desire to introduce them the the Living God through His written Word. Many of these students are here at one of the nation's best bilingual schools for the academics and only take Bible class to fulfill the requirement. They do not yet have a relationship with Christ Jesus, and their attitude toward the Gospel is indifferent at best.

I share this with you for two reasons: **First**, I would ask you to pray for us in our new roles.

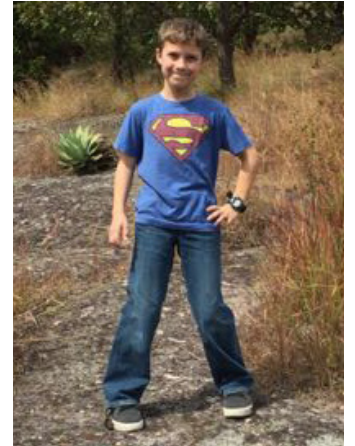
This new season of life in Honduras is very different for Jennifer as well, who finds herself in her first full time professional role in 12 years. Jennifer is doing a great job as the high school counselor - providing prayer, support, and intervention for students facing family challenges so difficult that words can barely describe the heaviness. I see that she is being used by the Lord to speak truth into the lives of students who find themselves at spiritual crossroads and who lack sources of godly counsel. In addition to the 10 hour work days, Jennifer is responsible for helping our own sons with their studies and care. Please pray for her as the new work/ministry routine requires stamina that only the Lord can provide.

Secondly, I share this with you so that you might prayerfully consider your own calling. How is God using you where you are at right now? Our prayer for you is that Christ might use you mightily and that the Holy Spirit might move and direct you to pursue more passionately **your calling**.

The Boys are Back in town...

All three of our boys have readjusted well and are thriving. The Lord has been so gracious to show evidence of growth in faith in each of them in distinct ways. Please pray for this to continue and that they would love and serve others faithfully.

Simon – He has wanted to put Daddy's special trumpet to good use, so twice a week he meets with the school's band director for private lessons. Simon loves learning the trumpet, getting back into Taekwondo, and being reunited with the Fab Five of 4th grade (a great group of Third Culture Kids). Please pray that Simon will be rooted and grounded in faith and will grow in His love for God's Word.



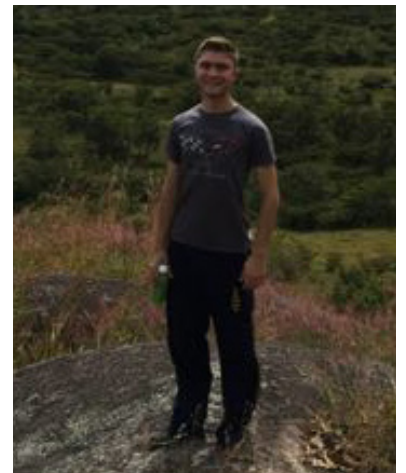
Samuel – Samuel has such determination and does his job as a student with excellence. He has reignited his close friendships

here and has had regular virtual 'hang-outs' to maintain fellowship with friends in California, Illinois, and Germany. Despite being the quietest Allen, he has shown how his faith is growing – surprising us several times by praying aloud in church! Please pray that the Lord will guard Samuel's heart and mind



from all the temptations that are common in middle school.

Joshua – Despite the stress of a full load of classes, community service projects, Knowledge Bowl competitions, and college applications, Joshua is glad to be back at IST for all of the senior year festivities. We are grateful that he has rich fellowship and friendship with several God-fearing



young men and women here. Please pray for Joshua to have wisdom in all of the decisions about college and the future that weighs on him. He is hoping to attend Moody Bible Institute in downtown Chicago!



Partnering with us in Ministry

During this stage of ministry, we are grateful to the Lord for His provision to cover the educational costs of our boys and to meet our needs. Of course, we also desire to invest in the local ministries that we are a part of. We invite you to come alongside us and partner with us in several needs that we have identified here.

1. Church construction: It's been over 4 years since the local church purchased land on the outskirts of Tegucigalpa. Through your generosity, we've been able to make some advances preparing a very basic site for our congregation to worship the Lord. Significant finances and work are needed to move this building effort forward. Would you pray about helping us organize a construction team to come down and work? Or would you pray about donating financial resources to build a meeting place for the preaching of the Word in this needy community? **Designate gifts to Spanish World for "Tegucigalpa church".**

2. Ministry costs: Our family has a ministry account to help us purchase things we need that our basic salary does not cover. This includes Bibles & books to use both at church and school. It also helps to cover the increasing costs of travel, both within Honduras and to see our loved ones back in the U.S. Presently, we desire to raise \$400 per month to allow us to invest in people and projects that God has put on our hearts. Also, we have a wish list on Amazon which lists resources that would be very beneficial in helping us in ministry here: https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/320VE9NRKQTOJ/ref=cm_wl_list_o_0? **Designate gifts to Spanish World for "Allen ministry funds".**

3. Local workers: The workers are few, and the men that God has raised up to preach the Word are dedicated to the task. The local body of believers is not yet capable of supporting all the monthly costs of caring for its shepherd. Would you prayerfully consider monthly support of Joel & Josué in Casitas? Or would you be willing to help meet the support needs of Pastor Melvin as he continually trains the elders of all 4 El Camino de La Vida churches? **Designate gifts to Spanish World for "Honduran workers".**

Finally, I want to express our family's thanks for the prayer and communication that you direct our way. We are grateful to hear from you and your family, and are encouraged to know when the Lord puts us on your hearts. Likewise, please know that we pray for you!

Spanish World Ministries
P.O. Box 542
Winona Lake, IN 46590

Give on-line @
www.spanishworld.org

* All gifts are tax-deductible per IRS guidelines.



Divine Appointments

Our return to Honduras has been full of examples of God's faithfulness in every aspect of our lives. Our children have re-adapted well, we've been blessed with installing ourselves in our own house, and the process of assimilating ourselves to our new ministry at International School has been fruitful. Only by God's grace could our family have adapted to a year of such incredible change. For certain, God's people have been used in mighty ways to serve, care for, and encourage our family.

For this reason, picking one divine appointment to share with you is tough. But, I'd like to share with you a glimpse of how God is allowing our family to work as a team to share Christ with the people He has placed in our path. This divine appointment begins with Joshua's first job at Souplantation last year. He was diligent in this work and maintaining his studies. He also tucked away some of his earnings to administer as he sees fit. Unbeknownst to us, Joshua purchased quite a few study Bibles to share with his friends here at school. Joshua discerningly gifted a handful of them to his friends who seem to have a hunger for God's Word. These study Bibles started showing up in my junior and senior Bible classes.

This has allowed me to identify some of the students who have a genuine interest in learning Scripture. As a novice teacher in an environment where many of the students simply take the mandatory Bible class with no interest or even hostility towards God's Word, spotting students with a desire to dig deeper is so encouraging.

These Bibles serve as a reminder that, in a crowded classroom of seemingly indifferent students, God is preserving a remnant who hunger for His Word and long to know Him.

wish love from

Honduras...

Merry Christmas

from the Allens!



Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher...

II Timothy 1:8-11