

# Heaven's Reach Ministries

News Letter September 2007

Showing, Teaching, and Releasing Gods Love

Wow, I can't believe we've been in Honduras for a month already. It has been a mixture of emotions. The first week was fantastic. We were blessed to work alongside a wonderful group from Victoria, TX, led by David Maddux (who has been instrumental in obtaining equipment for the hospital in La Esperanza.) We did 3 days of medical in which we saw 300 people the first day. Medical clinics are in great need here. We also were able to help the team put concrete floors in a family's home.

One of the things I'm doing here is working with the hospital, finding out their needs and trying to meet those needs. The hospital has 90 nurses and a handful of doctors. It is the closest hospital for hours and provides care for approximately 100,000 people. The hospital has little to no funding and very few of the people being treated have the money to pay for the services. The team put on a fabulous nurses banquet to honor the nurses for all they do. The nurses loved it and were still talking about it when I got to visit a couple of weeks later.



The second week of our adventure here was going to San Pedro Sula, one of two major cities in Honduras. We were gathering things for our house that we have rented. We originally were going to try to build a staff house for Mercy International, so that when we leave another couple called to work with Henry and Cindy could move into it, however, as of yet that funding hasn't been available. We did find a nice 3 bedroom house about 1/4 mile from the mission house. It is a cement home with tile floors. We can't brush our teeth with or drink the water here so we buy a lot of bottled water, but it is a very nice Honduran home.

The Third week was, well full of tears and asking God why are we here. The teams are gone, the translators are back in school, most of the staff has returned or is returning to the United States, and the staff that

remains are busy with their own ministry duties. It was a very lonely time as well as a time of many adjustments. Here we are in this beautiful country with such a call on our lives, but we don't speak the language. When the teams are here there are ample translators and ample time to do the work we feel we are called to, however, I have never felt as helpless and alone as I did this particular week. Haley is missing her first week of high school, her only friend in the country (Mariah) is preparing to leave for the states, and she is crying everyday and asking to go home.

As I walked home from the farm (another adjustment, we went from being a 3 car family to a no car family) I asked God "what have I done and why are we here"? There isn't anything harder than wondering if you have ruined your child's happiness for the sake of a dream that wasn't happening. But, as I got home and sat down on my couch, Dean arrived home from town in a truck with Melvin and Mercedes (a local couple). Melvin and Mercedes had seen Dean in town and insisted on giving him a ride home. God spoke to me and told me that 'Mercedes' is why we are here. See one of the things we bought and brought with us was a tiny tip to a machine. This tip was merely \$289, but it had the potential to save Mercedes life. She and ten other women had been diagnosed with cervical cancer and/or other abnormal cells on their cervix with the high risk of getting cervical cancer, yet they could not get the medical treatment needed because this tip was too expensive for the hospital and clinics here. They were just having to live with the diagnosis not knowing if treatment would come or not. God spoke to me that we did and do have a purpose here. So, it was time to quit feeling sorry for myself and get on with what I'm here to do. It may not have been going the way I had intended it to, but it was going as God knew it would.



By the end of week four Haley had been asked to sing with the worship team in our youth service and although it took a lot of prodding by Flor (a Honduran Intern on the farm) and a lot of prayers from me and others, Haley agreed to. She practiced for hours with Flor and a couple of teenage girls from the youth group. All the songs are in Spanish making it that much more difficult, but she learned 3 of the songs and sang with the worship team on Sunday for youth. This was more than an answered prayer for me for Haley to get involved, you see Haley is very shy even in the states and although she loves to sing, outside of choir in school, she'd never consider getting up in front of people to sing. Turns out she's been praying for God to help her with her shyness, that I'd cook more, that we'd have more time together, and various other things. Through this experience she realized that God might have brought her here to answer those prayers. She is making friends now and has a

wonderful young lady coming over in the evenings to teach her Spanish now. I'm not saying she doesn't still want to go home, but she isn't crying every day anymore!!!! God is awesome!

Dean, my fearless husband, hasn't batted an eye at any of the changes; he is going to town almost daily to learn where things are, to talk to the people, to learn Spanish. Where I'm in the books trying to learn Spanish, he is using his broken Spanish with the people and learning more and more everyday. He is also working on computers at the farm, setting up a computer lab for staff and students.

I've only been able to go to the hospital twice since the first week I was here, however, it has been productive and although, I'd love to be there everyday, I'm getting to spend more time with Haley, cook more, and learn Spanish. We have had the opportunity to experience some Honduran culture. Sept 15<sup>th</sup> was the 168th anniversary of the Honduran Independence and we were able to go to the school and see a special program and then Haley got to go into town with some of the youth and see the parade.

The hospital is my comfort zone, learning the language and culture bring me out of that comfort zone, allowing me to grow as a person and more importantly build better stronger relationship's, that will allow me to spread the gospel and change families for the glory of God!

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Prayer Request:

1. Haley
2. a 4-wheel drive vehicle
3. our learning Spanish
4. support (we only have 1/3 of the support needed to remain in Honduras)
5. the Lords will in our ministry and family
6. Justin (my 18 year old son left in the states)

If you would like to be on our prayer team please reply to this email and let me know. Also if you are getting the paper news letters and would like to only get these please send me your address where you are getting the paper news letters and I will mark them as being sent by email.

Count on your for our support. Without your prayer support we could not be here. And also thank you to those who are called to help us financially.

Thank you and God bless you all,

Dean, Melissa and Haley