

Honduras Happenings

September 2017

*Joseph's master took him and put him in prison,
the place where the king's prisoners were confined.
But while Joseph was there in the Prison,
the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and
granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.*

Genesis 39: 20-21

Saludes de Honduras!

We pray this letter finds you enjoying God's blessings and sharing the love of Jesus with those He puts in front of you. We thank God for His love, care and mercy.

We have settled back into our life here. We would say "our routine", but there doesn't seem to be much "routine" in our lives. Most nights, we look back on the day and say, "Wow, didn't see *that* coming!" Life here surprises us often, causing us to run to God. This is a good thing.

Sometimes we are reminded that life here is very different from life in the USA. One of those times was last month, with our friend Omar. Omar is a pillar of our church, La Viña. He has a generous heart and his love for Jesus shines through his smile, his love for others, and his heart for helping. He is a great teacher of the Word, using outlines, audience participation and some humor to walk us through Bible passages when he is asked to preach. His children, grandchildren and in-laws attend our church.

Omar owns his own company. He builds houses. From what we understand, several weeks ago Omar arrived at his construction site and found construction materials dumped there. These materials did not belong to him, so Omar and his son-in-law, Oscar, went to the police to report the items.

Evidently, a truck full of bridge construction materials had been stolen the day before in a town half an hour from here. When the police arrived at Omar's site and saw the materials, they arrested Omar and Oscar for stealing the items.

The news story that day was "Criminals arrested in less than 24 hours!" The news stations ran video footage of Omar and Oscar, standing handcuffed in front of the stolen materials. The look of humility in Omar's eyes was heart-breaking.

The two men were put in jail while the police sought evidence of their guilt.

This happened on a Tuesday. Visit days at the jail are Saturday and Sunday. The family didn't know much of what was going on. Lawyers were hired, but the law

doesn't work here like it does in the states. As we stormed the gates of heaven on Omar and Oscar's behalf, we also prayed that God would use them mightily in their situation. We thought of Paul and Silas singing hymns while imprisoned and we were comforted knowing Omar's faith was strong.

The following Sunday, Greg went with several members from the church to visit the Oscar and Omar at the jail. There were at least 25 people visiting them. We learned that the two had painted the walls of the room where they were kept. (Praise God that they were kept apart from the general population.) They had also fixed a toilet that was not working. Just like Omar – blooming where he is planted!

Omar and Oscar were released **two weeks** after their arrest – even though the truck driver who was robbed of his truck told police within two days after their arrest that they were not the men who robbed him. All charges have been dropped.

"...the Lord was with him..." In talking to Oscar, Omar's son-in-law, after church services the following Sunday, we asked, "Are you OK?" With tears in his eyes, he said, "You know, God really worked on my heart while I was in there. I used to be mad at everyone. I would get mad so easily. But God has taken away my anger. I'm not even mad at the police who arrested us. I have peace in my heart. I am a much happier person now."

Two weeks after his release, Omar gave the message on Sunday morning. He taught on the story of Joseph. He talked about how, even though Joseph was in a bad situation through no fault of his own, God was with him. He spoke as someone who had lived through a similar situation and had witnessed the same God at work. We were humbled.

Our prayer is that you feel God's power and presence on your mission field, wherever and whatever that may be.

May His name be praised throughout the nations.

Greg and Janet

Fun fact #1: Evidently, riding on smooth roads in the US for an extended period of time causes your neck muscles to lose strength. Shortly after arriving back in Honduras, we traveled 3 1/4 hours to visit one of the former residents of Buen Pastor. 2 and a half hours of that trip (each way) was over dirt/gravel/potholed mountain roads. The next day, we took doctora Erika and the medical clinic up the mountain to El Resumidero – one hour each way on dirt/gravel/potholed roads. That night, we both needed muscle relaxers for back and neck issues!

Fun fact #2: The day we drove for 6 and a half hours, was an 80 mile drive – 40 miles each way!



Our drive included crossing this river.

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Praises:

- Nancy has begun her classes at the University. She is doing well and is excited to be a college student.
- Our missionary friends, the Agostos, who returned to Puerto Rico in June, have survived two hurricanes. They are still without power and water but God is providing and they are ministering to others in their community.
- We continue to be amazed by how God is using “even us” in furthering His Kingdom in this place. We are honored to serve.

Prayer Requests:

- Please continue to pray for the Youth of La Viña Church, that they will continue to grow in their faith and understanding of who Jesus is and the sacrifice he made for us.
- Please pray specifically for the spiritual well-being of the Buen Pastor moms.
- Please pray for us. Since returning, we have experienced some sad situations concerning people we love and care about here. The kind of sadness that takes the wind out of your sails and hope out of your heart. Please pray that we will continue to put our hope in Jesus, not in the things of this world. Sometimes life is just plain tough.

If you have specific prayer requests, please let us know. We would be honored to pray for you.