

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Dear Family and Friends,

It is a New Year and we are grateful that it has been a New Year marked by peace and a return to “normal” here in Honduras. After two months of political unrests, protests, road blocks and uncertainty, we are focused once again on the day to day challenges of health care in Honduras.

We are excited to report that Iker was accepted for Open Heart Surgery in Missouri. It was a challenge as political issues continue to affect our patient’s health care. His initial visa for the U.S. was rejected. After contacting senators in the U.S. and accompanying his and his parents for a second paid appointment, his visa was granted. Upon arriving to his first evaluation in the U.S., Iker experienced a severe drop in his oxygen levels, leading to an emergency shunt placement. He is stable and doing well, but this will mean a 7 month wait for his definitive surgery and yet another trip to the U.S. Embassy. We appreciate your continued prayers.

Due to the political unrest that continued into January, a very important Cardiology Brigade was postponed. I currently have 7 children awaiting evaluation for surgery. Please pray that these young children will remain stable as we wait for rescheduling of this team’s arrival.

This month, I was privileged to join several hundred physicians from all over Central America in El Salvador for a weeklong conference of continuing medical education. The conference gave us updates on the many of the issues I treat daily at our clinic. The patients who arrive at my office daily are challenging and these education update assure I can give them the best possible care.

Juan Carlos will be traveling to El Salvador this next month for a similar conference in Anesthesia. We are grateful for the financial provision to attend these conferences that help us to provide quality medical care to our patients.

We are expanding the specialist services available at our clinic, with a Neurologist now joining us twice a month, an Ophthalmologist, ENT and Dermatologist. We are hoping to work with the Neurologist to begin offering EEG testing for patients with Epilepsy and Retinal Eye Scans to be evaluated by the visiting Ophthalmologist.

We are praying for wisdom as we evaluate potential projects for the coming year. We have several dreams for this coming year which we are trying to prioritize. There is a need for an ambulance to transfer patients both to the local hospital and the capital. We hope to expand the laboratory to include more detailed electrolyte testing, testing for renal disease and clotting diseases.

We will be expanding the outpatient portion of the clinic this year, as we have more physicians requesting clinic space but are currently full. Our plan would be to expand the inpatient space the following year. We have also been investigating the possibility of purchasing a CT scanner. There are many exciting things in the future to improve the service we provide for the people of Olancho.

Please pray for Henry, a 16 year old patient of mine who will be undergoing open heart surgery with pacemaker placement this Tuesday. It has been an uphill battle for the children's home where he lives to secure funds for the pacemaker which runs \$5,000 and permission from the children's court authorizing his surgery. We are praying for a successful surgery that will allow Henry to have a long and active life. Currently, he cannot walk more than a block at a slow pace before stopping. Due to his heart condition, he nearly died of cardiac arrest after deciding to race a house mate to the light post 50 feet away. It is a challenge to keep a teenager down, and we are praying that after Tuesday, it will no longer be necessary.

I would like to ask for continued prayers for Roldan. He has had some new health complication of late leading to the need for two blood transfusions. There is a new Internist at the dialysis unit who I have known for several years. I am hoping that the presence of a detail oriented physician will help to keep him more stable.

Juan and I celebrated our 8<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this January. As usual, my husband outdid himself, by surprising me with a recreation of our wedding reception decorations and wedding cake, on a smaller scale of course, at a local restaurant. I am blessed to live life with this amazing man, who loves the Lord with all his heart. He is an amazing husband and father to my children.

End of quarter grades here in Honduras always feels a little like being called to the principal's office as you try to squeeze into one of the kids desks. But I am happy to share that both Abigail and Tom are doing well this school year. Tom has adapted very well, despite the mid-year change. I am grateful for amazing teachers who work faithfully to teach my kids.

We are all looking forward to Holy Week, or Easter Week. It will be a much needed week of rest together for our family. Please pray for safety as we travel to southern Nicaragua to rest and be with family. Pray also for those who will be covering the clinic during our absence.

I would like to ask for your prayers for my uncle in the U.S. who has already had several surgeries this month for what we know now is melanoma. He is scheduled to begin chemotherapy this week. Please pray for healing for him, and for peace for him and the entire family.

I want thank so many of you who have supported us financially this last year, some monthly and others with one time donations. Without your donations, we would not be able to do what we do every day. Your partnership with us in Honduras, allows us to serve everyday those who need us most. Thank you for your prayers and for lifting up our family on so many occasions. It is a challenging road God has called us to walk and we are honored walk it together with you.

In His Hands,  
Sheree Lynch, MD

Prayer Needs:

1. Wisdom for future projects
2. Financial needs for the clinic and personal support
3. Iker's return visa

Praises:

1. Iker's initial surgery
2. Continued education for Juan and I
3. Health for our family
4. Safety during much political unrest and uncertainty.

Personal Financial Support:

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