

# Family Outreach

News from Honduras

March 2010

Dear Brothers and sisters,

As you know there has been some unrest in Honduras since June of 2009. Our family was in a serious car accident on the day before the ousting of Honduran president Mel Zelaya. We believe that all Christians should be involved in their communities and take an active part in the political process of their country. Since these events affect our family and those with whom we live and share with, we want you to be aware of these events. You may go to the following web sites to educate yourself on the Honduran situation. <http://hondurasweekly.com>; [www.lagringasblogicito.blogspot.com](http://www.lagringasblogicito.blogspot.com).

Take a look at the following Picasa site. This is Chuck speaking- I was privileged to participate as an international observer for the presidential elections for Honduras. I was there in all of what you will see on the Picasa site. The guy that took the picture is the foreign affairs assistant to Congressman Mike Pence from Indiana. He, along with the Israeli ambassador and one of the richest men in Honduras, were part of our International Observers group.

Between all of us, we

saw over 1000 Mesas de Votacion in the 18 departments of Honduras. I did a small statistical analysis of the voters- 73 out of the 500 or so that we saw. I interviewed people both urban and rural of all ages and all economic levels except for the very rich, both inside and outside the voting places. In the rural area, two people told me that 100% of their friends and relatives were voting. The rest told me that 80 or 90 percent of their friends and relatives were voting. In Tegucigalpa, two people told me that 100% of friends and family were voting. Two told me that only 50% were voting, the rest told me that between 60 and 80 percent of friends and family were voting. In statistics, one usually takes the highest and lowest figures and throws them out. Then you take the rest and average them. My results showed that 75% of population voted with a probable error of 3 to 5 percent. The official figures were 77%.

A woman reporter for Al Jazeera tried three times to do a report, telling lies about what was going on. The first time, she was doing her report in English when a couple of us passed. We heard her saying that seventy percent of the



## Prayer Requests

\* Political state of Honduras, including new **President Pepe Lobo**.

\* **Chuck** will be returning to the States at the end of March - pray for safe travels, as well as for Regina and kids while he is gone.

\* **Maria** - baptismal classes

\* Marina & husband Rosalio and his brother Dionisio and wife Ceilyn interested in Gospel.

\* **Manuel and Elizabeth** and their congregation that is learning about the Restored gospel.

\* **Charles and Elizabeth** as they continue their college studies in the States.

\* **William and Katrina Baker** who are currently in Mexico. Please email [all4christkwb@yahoo.com](mailto:all4christkwb@yahoo.com) to be a part of their newsletter list.

Honduras are against the elections, so I stopped and waited to talk with her after her report. As soon as her report was finished, she left and I missed her. I figured that was it, but she returned a



couple of hours later and began to repeat the same lies plus a couple of new ones. For example, "There is a bloodbath in the streets: There are cars with men armed with submachine guns roaming the streets killing people."

We finally got tired of it and started yelling, "mentiras, liar, diga la verdad." It got pretty "hot". She is very, very short. The top of her head would only come up to your shoulder (4 1/2ft.). When she does her interviews, she has to stand on a box about a foot tall in order just to be up to my shoulder. She stepped off of her box and almost disappeared in the crowd. When she stepped down, she appeared to all of a sudden realize that she was completely surrounded by angry people, all of whom were almost 24 inches taller than her. She became afraid. We had over a hundred people in an area about the size of our living room. There were at least 50 national and international news stations there. I told the International Observers around me to "abre paso" so that she could leave. Everyone politely did, but were still yelling, "liar, mentiras." The last few pictures on the

following site are just at the beginning of the situation. <http://picasaweb.google.com/gball24060/HondurasNov09?authkey=Gv1sRgCLv4hrf0ssO6tAE#>

One of the International Observers with me was the director of International Affairs for Concerned Women of America, Wendy Wright. I told her that we needed to leave because things were getting a little dangerous. We left and on the way out, I told the hotel security that things were getting a little out of hand. They apparently were already on their way to take care of the situation. Al Jazeera didn't give up though. They waited until one o'clock in the morning when they figured that everyone would be gone and they sent the same lady back in to do her report. I and four other observers were the last ones there and were on our way out when I saw this woman beginning her report, again.

I told those who with me that I wanted to hear what she had to say. When she saw us, she fouled up her report and had to start over. A second time she fouled up her report. A third time she fouled up her report. Finally, she got it right, and she didn't have a single lie or error in her report. After she had finished, I told her that I appreciated the truthfulness of her report and that what she was saying previously was untrue, but thanks for telling the truth this time. There is a lot more that took place, but by and large it went very smoothly and the day was a blessing.

We ask you to prayerfully remember Honduras as the

newly elected president Pepe Lobo takes his position. Pray that he chooses what is right and best for Honduras.

#### **Update on Truck:**

We are still finding repairs on the truck. I just put it in the shop last week. It was there for a week. The cost for repairs is now close to \$3,000.00. We could not find a diesel truck newer than a 2002 for that price. Remember that the government has a regulation that no trucks older than 8 years can enter the country.

#### **A trip to the United States**

In July of 2009 our two oldest children returned to the States to go to college. A month later Regina and our youngest son, Joshua, arrived in the States to take care of some medical needs. They were due to come back the end of October, but more time was needed for Joshua's surgery and Regina's needs. The medical appointments were mostly finished by mid January. They were both ready to come back home to Honduras January 26.

On Monday morning, January 18, Regina woke up with vertigo. She had a rough week and spent two more weeks recuperating. As a result of the vertigo they had to postpone the flight one more time. Why did this happen? Did someone need their seats on the airplane? Was there someone here in the States that Regina or Joshua needed to witness to? We may not know the Lord's plan for this situation, but one must be content and have the peace that He is in control. So many times we want our own will to be done. There are times that the Lord says "Wait".

## POEM - WAIT (Russell Kelfer)

Desperately, helplessly, longingly, I cried;  
Quietly, patiently, lovingly, God replied.  
I pled and I wept for a clue to my fate . . .  
And the Master so gently said, "Wait."

"Wait? you say wait?" my indignant reply.  
"Lord, I need answers, I need to know why!  
Is your hand shortened? Or have you not heard?  
By faith I have asked, and I'm claiming your Word.

"My future and all to which I relate  
Hangs in the balance, and you tell me to wait?  
I'm needing a 'yes', a go-ahead sign,  
Or even a 'no' to which I can resign.

"You promised, dear Lord, that if we believe,  
We need but to ask, and we shall receive.  
And Lord I've been asking, and this is my cry:  
I'm weary of asking! I need a reply."

Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate,  
As my Master replied again, "Wait."  
So I slumped in my chair, defeated and taut,  
And grumbled to God, "So, I'm waiting for what?"

He seemed then to kneel, and His eyes met with mine  
and He tenderly said, "I could give you a sign.  
I could shake the heavens and darken the sun.  
I could raise the dead and cause mountains to run.

"I could give all you seek and pleased you would be.  
You'd have what you want, but you wouldn't know Me.  
You'd not know the depth of my love for each saint.  
You'd not know the power that I give to the faint.

"You'd not learn to see through clouds of despair;  
You'd not learn to trust just by knowing I'm there.  
You'd not know the joy of resting in Me  
When darkness and silence are all you can see.

"You'd never experience the fullness of love  
When the peace of My spirit descends like a dove.  
You would know that I give, and I save, for a start,  
But you'd not know the depth of the beat of My heart.

"The glow of my comfort late into the night,  
The faith that I give when you walk without sight.  
The depth that's beyond getting just what you ask

From an infinite God who makes what you  
have last.

"You'd never know, should your pain quickly  
flee, What it means that My grace is suffi-  
cient for thee.  
Yes, your dearest dreams overnight would  
come true, But, oh, the loss, if you missed  
what I'm doing in you.

"So, be silent, my child, and in time you will  
see That the greatest of gifts is to truly  
know me. And though oft My answers seem  
terribly late, My most precious answer of all  
is still . . . Wait."

Our home in Honduras was broken into on Feb. 10. Our neighborhood has been plagued by a gang for the last several months. Chuck saw two members of this group robbing a house and reported it to the police. The police caught one of these men and put him in jail for one day. They let him go because they said they did not have enough evidence. They are now mad at Chuck and hold him accountable for their trouble. Usually one does not leave their house unattended due to high crime. Today, however, all of the family was at the church building helping with some maintenance projects. While gone the gang cut the fence, broke open the back door. They messed up the house and stole some things. We ask you to pray for protection for the family and the neighbors. Pray that the police find these guys and that they will be prosecuted. Thank you and God bless. En Cristo, Chuck and Regina Sperry

We are OK. Had a good trip. The last flight to Honduras was 2 1/2 hours late. We arrived at 3:30am. The earthquake in Haiti had been felt here and Chuck replaced some floor tiles for some friends in the church. We purchased groceries from a big grocery store in the city and then headed home to Siguatepeque. Today was market day. Chuck and Tikva went to purchase the fruits and veggies. I have spent most of the day going through the suitcases and putting things away. The house was nice and clean. There are still a few things that need to be put in order from the mess the robbers made. All the kids are taller. The only one that I can look down at is Joshua. All three of them did an excellent job with responsibilities while I was gone. Thank you for your prayers, Regina

# Family Outreach Financial Summary for 2009

by Jon Tandy - Treasurer

Family Outreach is a Missouri not-for-profit organization, dedicated primarily to supporting the efforts of families serving in the mission field. We believe there is a need for long-term, sustained missionary presence that cannot be adequately filled by missionaries going to a country for a few weeks at a time. We continue to support the Sperry family in Honduras, where there continues to be many opportunities to share Jesus Christ and to give classes on the gospel.

We are thankful for the continued support of the Lord in this ministry, and the faithfulness and generosity of the saints that helps us to continue the missionary outreach. We recognize that even though the economy appears to be starting to show signs of recovery, many families are still struggling. We thank you for your support as the Lord may lead you, through prayer, financial assistance, sending a note of encouragement, etc. We do pray and encourage you and your families to be engaged in whatever good causes the Lord may be calling you to, for the sake of the gospel of Christ, in particular supporting the local branch.

Below is a summary of Family Outreach income and expenses for the year of 2009. There were a few donations specifically earmarked for the support of Dan and Ruthann Norman, who spent time this year in Mexico and Guatemala, which were used for that purpose. Dan and Ruthann used to serve as members of the Family Outreach board, and have a great desire to see the gospel proclaimed in Latin America. The Sperry family make their own independent accounting to the Family Outreach board with their income and expenses, which has been printed in past newsletters.

## Income

Family Outreach	\$16,352.00	Regular donations made to Family Outreach
Special projects	\$500.00	Donations to Family Outreach, designated for Norman family
Other	\$300.00	Reimbursement for financial assistance given in 2009

**Total income:** \$17,152.00

## Expenses

Bank fees & charges	\$60.00	
Newsletter	\$243.05	Copying and mailing costs
Disbursements	\$16,224.99	Money disbursed to Sperry's for travel and living expenses
Special Projects	\$500.00	Distribution to Norman family
General	\$40.05	Post office box rental

**Total expenses:** \$17,068.09

**Starting balance** \$3,413.10

**Ending balance** \$3,497.01

We ask that you continually remember to pray for those families who are in the mission field and that you consider their financial needs. If the Lord moves you to help support them financially, you may send contributions to:

**Family Outreach P.O. Box 22, Independence, MO 64051**

\*Please do NOT send donations to Rachel Gard or return address, thanks!

# News From the Ozarks

by Elizabeth Sperry

I have been blessed to have the opportunity to attend College of the Ozarks as many of you are aware. I know beyond any doubt that God has placed me here to share and be a light.

Last semester I felt the urge to transfer from my current workstation, front desk at the hotel, to bell staff. I had the opportunity to work closely with a few that were in that area and had enjoyed the work.

I don't know why but I felt a desire to share with one young man in particular on bell staff. Then when I found out he would be transferring from bell staff to dorm maintenance I thought "well, I guess that God has something else in mind."

A week before classes were out Brady came in to work and was very upset. He told us that he had been told that the Dean of work had accidentally taken on too many people for dorm maintenance and so they were not going to take him. I felt really bad for him because I know he was excited to get out of bell staff, but at the same time I told God that if he was doing this so that I could share with him then to please make it so we worked together. When I got my work schedule for this semester I saw that I was going to be working with him for both of my weekly shifts.

A few weeks ago he and I were talking and we started talking about religion. Brady told me that he didn't know why but he just wasn't interested in going to church and doing all of the religious stuff. The thing he said that got him was that he knew it was important, but he wanted to have fun and fit in. He said that going to church wasn't fun and so he had just stopped going.

Brady said in contrast that I was doing all of that stuff and that I was such a good person. I told him that in no way was I any better than him or any other person out there. I had sins and struggled with things that some people couldn't even imagine. That surprised him. I also told him I was sad that he didn't want to change. He is beginning to open up. I am praying specifically that I will be able to share about the many things God has done for me and my family.

He has walked in on me at times while I am singing and cleaning toilets. He really doesn't understand why I would want to do that kind of work and be so happy about it. This is just one of the things that God has done for me and I would really appreciate prayers for Brady Renner. He needs God in his life.

This semester I have been given so many opportunities to witness or serve that I am becoming excited about what God may have in store for the rest of my time here. Thanks for all your prayers. They are working. **(Elizabeth Sperry PO Box 1166, Point Lookout, MO 65726)**



## Financial Report - Sperry Family

# Update from Honduras

by Tikva

Many things have been happening lately. Almost every night we are someplace sharing the gospel with them. There are many doors open and many others opening. **The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Matthew 9:43**

There is a young lady named Maria that has been attending church with us for the past two years. Several weeks ago she asked if she could start taking baptismal classes. She has her classes once a week on Sunday afternoons. Maria has two sisters that go to the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Their names are Marina and Suyapa. Marina, her husband Rosalio, and Rosalio's brother Dionisio along with his wife, Ceilyn have all been taking classes about basic doctrines in the church for the past two months. They don't attend

church with us yet. We hope they will soon. Prayers are needed.

I'm not sure how many of you remember Mirian. She left to El Progreso about four years ago because of work. Prior to her move Mirian had been receiving baptismal classes. She now lives a couple of blocks down from our house and is once again receiving classes, this time with her companion Genaro. They have four children whose names are Wendy, Edwin, Angel, and Carlos who was born about three weeks ago. None of them are baptized yet, but they are a good family that want to know more about the gospel.

In the last newsletter we mentioned a Pentecostal pastor named Manuel and his congregation. We still have classes with them and they are going well. Prayers would be welcome for this church to accept

the gospel. Though Manuel and his wife, Elizabeth, are waiting until their congregation is ready they are convinced that the gospel is true and want to be baptized.

George Cole, a man who lives close to us, has started attending church. He has a wife and three children. He has not been able to come to church for the past week because he has a blood circulation problem called erysipelas. He limps badly and it hurts whenever he walks.

Most of the people that attend church are youth without their parents. We as a church have started fasting and praying for the parents that they will attend church along with their children. As of yet the parents have not been coming but we hope that very soon they will. Please keep all of these people and the ministry here in your prayers.

**Family Outreach  
Rachel Gard - Newsletter  
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