

Our Dear Brothers & Sisters and Friends,
 Yes, it has been hot here. Several days this month the weather forecast for us was over 100° F. We don't think it got that high, but it has been in the 90s most of the month. After one of the hottest days with high temperatures, high humidity, and lots of smoke in the air from fires all around, it rained in the night. Not just a little, but at least two inches. The rain was nice and the air was gorgeous the next day. So we think that the rainy season may be early this year (usually starts in mid-May and it is raining on and off as we write this newsletter.) And far better than that, mango season has started early. Whoop!

2013 April



Photo taken out our front door. Fires burning on the hill near our house just before the 2" rain.

A Trip to the Embassy and Tegucigalpa

On April 4 we bussed into Tegus (Tegucigalpa) and stayed with our special friends Noé and Gloria Perez so that we could be at a 9:30am appointment at the U.S. Embassy. It was nothing serious nor special; just need for a notary in English which is not available in our neck of the woods. We learned some interesting things through that process; such as you can't take a camera nor a cell phone into the embassy with you. Conveniently, there are men standing right outside the Embassy doors who have found their market niche. They will hold your items for you for a fee. They put the items into numbered Ziploc bags, give you a corresponding tag with the number, and also record your name, description of items, and bag number on a ledger. It is apparently a good enough business to keep three people pleased with the income.

After the Embassy we taxied to PriceMart (the Honduran twin to Sam's Club) and met a fellow missionary there who was allowing us to use her membership card to buy bulk supplies for our group coming in June, and for real American cheese. Teresa blessed us greatly by taking us to several other places during the day, like to get Dwight's broken glasses repaired, to look for a 6V flashlight battery, and even to her house for a chef salad lunch. It was interesting that the power was out in Tegucigalpa that day, because we have never known the power to go out in Teguc. before. Teresa said it has been happening weekly of late. We were back on the bus and heading home before 3pm.



Serving the Lord's Supper at the combined worship under the trees

Combined Worship

We had a combined worship this quarter hosted by the congregation at La Mansión. It was held in a beautiful park-like area shaded by a number of tall trees. Since the rain we mentioned above occurred the night before, the weather was perfect. About 500 were in attendance from about 15 different congregations.

Power Outages

We have been having an unusual number of power outages; they have even affected the capital city of Tegus. Dwight has canceled classes a number of times this month and Joanne has been fortunate not to have had any late assignments. We learn to plan for and accept the outages.



The piggies circling Joanne's feet while she is on the phone.

Joanne's Pet Piggies

The little piggies being raised by the community of Barrio San Isidro seem to have accepted Joanne as their mama. They love to hang around her and come running to her from anywhere in the green area when she calls, "Piggy, piggy." to the great delight of the residents of the barrio. They don't do this for anyone else. The only problem is that they like to lick her toes! I guess that's how they show piggy love.

More on San Isidro

Work in the community is exploding! The youths gathered every day for a solid week to prepare the area for a bulldozer to level a soccer field, and

then dug 39 post holes 3' deep to secure the 20' metal fence posts. The fence posts are in and the cement is drying while we wait for the solderer who will secure additional posts along the top of the row. Then, two lengths of 8' tall chain link will be joined by soldering iron rods, before the new 16' tall chain link fence is hoisted up and soldered to the top posts on the fence line. The youths also hauled 8 truck loads of dirt to level the church building area where a playground will be built by the group coming in June. Before the dirt was hauled, men in the community had leveled a line and constructed a retaining wall for the leveled area. A new depression for a tilapia pond was also dug this month, in the lowest area of the community property. The men are now in the process of constructing a cinder block waterway under the access road between where the water enters the property and where the tilapia pond is located so that the water does not collect on the wrong side of the road nor wash it out. Then, as soon as the rainy season begins again within the next few weeks, a line of coconut trees will be planted along one fence line, and 15 other assorted fruit trees will be planted throughout the property.



The lagoon before the side walls are installed.

Something Fishy at Jícaro Gordo

The congregation at Jícaro Gordo has taken a deep interest in the tilapia pond at San Isidro. They are plagued with a terrible mosquito problem because of a ditch that stays filled with water behind the church building during the 6 months of the rainy season and for some time afterwards. So we suggested they turn it into channel lagoon - an idea Brian Ray and Dwight talked about when Brian was working with the tilapia lagoon last summer. They members of the church have dug out a 42 ft long lagoon where the ditch was and will soon install the concrete blocks for the vertical sides and dam. As soon as we get some good rains we will introduce the baby tilapia. Tilapia love mosquito larva.

Classes Continuing

Dwight's computer classes at Por Los Niños and at our house are proceeding well. He is very excited and thankful to God how much better the students at PLN are doing with their basic math skills. The book of Acts class with the preTeens during Sunday School is still a struggle. They are not used to doing much learning during that time.

Joanne's Doctorate

Joanne is on the down hill slide of her final public health course. Her first dissertation chapter has been accepted by her Chair as complete, and the first sections of her second chapter have also been accepted as complete. However, she has decided to take a formal break from the dissertation process over the next quarter as a consequence of the large group we have coming in June, followed immediately by an extended trip to the U.S. She has registered for her last residency process, which will be in Houston from June 26-30, and has purchased her plane ticket for that trip, which will include a five week visit by her with our children in BCS. The administrative break from her dissertation process has the potential to postpone her completion into the beginning of 2014.

Visitors

We are looking forward to having a group of student nurses from Oklahoma Christian University work in San Isidro this next month. They will be working mainly with Predisán, a medical clinic here, but during a couple afternoons will be working with the community. The group will also be our guests for dinner one night during their visit. Marion Drew Rich, a grand-daughter of our dear friend, Flowayne Drew, will be with the group. This is a special joy to us.

Prayers

Please pray for our continuing safety. Pray for Joanne's continuing motivation in what is probably the most difficult chapter of her dissertation. Pray that Dwight can touch the hearts of his Acts class so that they can see the incredible glory of God's plan for His church and desire to emulate those great heroes whose faith in our Lord Jesus and their obedience to the Holy Spirit led them to turn the world upside down.

Thank you for your interest and care in our work here and your concern for us. May He bless and keep you in His hands, Dwight & Joanne



The Lidio flower blooms this month.