

Our Dear Brothers & Sisters and Friends,

2014 October

And Paul said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains."

Acts 25:29

Truck Trouble

We are thankful for the Mitsubishi dealership in Tegucigalpa, that can get to the "bottom" of a technical issue and resolve it quickly. Our 2008 truck stopped registering speed and mileage a few months ago, which seemed strange for a vehicle with less than 24,000 miles on it. Joanne made a vacation weekend of the necessary trip into the capital, and left the truck with the dealership. Unfortunately, Dwight was not able to make the planned trip because of a sudden cold. But he was able to make the trip the following weekend, to visit immigration (next topic) and to retrieve the truck. We were a bit nonplussed and even surprised to learn that the velocity cable had been "apparently chewed by a dog or a rat". We have since moved the chain for our dog, Caramel, to a safe distance from under the motor of the truck! [grn]

Residency!

As some may recall, it was a year ago next week that Joanne gave our passports and residency cards to a missionary organization that could "renew our residency cards within a month". Our four year cards were due to expire Dec. 15th ... and did. But complications over a change of ministry oversight (we were under the Mission Point Resource Center [MPRC] when we first got our residencies), and changes in regulations (which frequently happen in the Honduran government without any forewarning or apparent justification) resulted in a one delay after another until now. Finally, on Friday, Oct. 17th, we spent nearly 3-1/2 hours at immigration going from one counter/window/office to another and eventually ended up having our finger prints, photos, and signatures electronically registered for our new cards! The only scary part is that the final clerk took our old residency cards. He assured us that we would have the new cards within 30 days, but if that happens it will be among the first times such a promise has come to fruition. The best news is that this will be our last "temporary" residency cards. Next year we will be permitted to seek permanent residence in Honduras, if God allows.

A Dangerous Place

During our last trip to Tegucigalpa we also made a point to find a new ceiling fan for one of the bedrooms and a new electric shower head for one of the bathrooms. As a result, Dwight has discovered a store that he describes as "very dangerous". He was enthralled with the prices and wide selection of electronics and computer repair equipment at Laroche & Cia (similar to a Lowe's). He was able to replace both voltage regulators and surge protectors which were destroyed in our electrical explosion last month. He thinks we should take the trip to Laroche once a month!

Fair is in Town

October is fair month in Catacamas. The carnival normally starts on the 3rd and runs for 10 days, but there are many other activities as well. This year the parade was well attended. Actually it was packed. This is the time when ranchers will show their finest horses. There are always a good number of fancy stepping horses some of

which appear to be Peruvian Pasos, if you are familiar with that breed.

School

The last week of school for the year is finished at Por Los Niños and exams start this next Monday. Dwight thinks the year didn't last long enough to teach all he wanted to teach, but the improvement he has seen in all his students, especially his most at risk students, has brought him great joy.



Mauricio and Emily Fabiola have a much brighter future ahead of them because of the love and care of the children's home at Por

Los Niños



Prayers

Thank you for your continuing prayers for our residency difficulties. Please pray for our travels during this next month as we hope to work in different locations. May your November be full of thanks for the blessings that our Lord has given all of us.

Love, Dwight and Joanne Tomkins

Learning to Speak "English"

It has been our pleasure to have Dr. Katherine Fawbert staying with us since Sept. 14th. Dr. Fawbert is a pediatrician from London who is volunteering a total of five months at one of the local Christian medical clinics. As a consequence of her location of origin, we have had an opportunity to hear English spoken properly. For those of you who wish to improve your English, here are a few common phrases:

--"I fancy..." means, "I would like to have...", as in "toast for breakfast".

--To "splash" is equivalent to the North American "splurge", as in "I splashed for a cab home" (which was more expensive but much faster than waiting for a ride with a later worker).

--The "loo" is British for the "bathroom", which should not be mistaken for the "toilet", which is called by that name.

--To "have a lie-down" is to take a nap, or to rest.

--"Pants" are underwear, "trousers" are pants.

And of course it goes both ways. When she returns from the clinic she greets us with a "Howdy" and she has almost, but not quite, taken up saying, "fixing to".

Katherine will be returning to England next week, Nov. 8th, to witness the wedding of her only sibling, and then to travel to Peru to climb Mount Machu Picchu and walk the Incan Trail. She will return the first week of December for the second half of her stay at our house. Dwight has already requested some good English tea upon her return.



Andy (with Susan, l) expressing what she thinks about exams.