

Our Dear Brothers & Sisters and Friends,

**2015 September/October**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,  
in Christ;  
**Ephesians 1:3**

We had two more quiet months of September and October here in Olancho.

## Parades and Festivals

September is a month of many parades and festivals, most importantly being Honduran Independence Day. All schools are off and Catacamas has a huge parade with most all the schools participating. They have banners, bands, and dancers. It is a fun time for the parents and spectators and a memorable time for the participants. Por Los Niños does not participate as a school, but the older children participate with their high schools. Of course there are many fireworks and rockets that are fired off, sometimes late into the night or starting early in the morning (e.g. 4 AM).



*Marion, Alejandro, Yulissa, Erick, Enia, and Mauricio*

very strong! Dwight was pleased.

William, the Director of the school, showed me the new costumes that were made for our newly formed dance group. They have been working hard every Friday afternoon for months and are doing well.

## Joanne's Work

In early September, Joanne made a 3 day excursion to the capital city of Tegucigalpa to help another missionary with organizing her paperwork. Teresa can not believe how quickly Joanne can organize and that she actually likes to do it. The majority of her time has been spent in miscellaneous ministries such as clothes and medicines for a family with new twins and fulfilling the role of grandmother to Andrew. She also helped Rebecca in her preparations to return to Texas.

## Church at CERPEA

About twice a month we at the El Colegio congregation hold a worship service at CERPEA, an addiction center here in Catacamas. We take turns teaching, preaching, and leading songs. This week Ismael, a blind brother, did the

## Por Los Niños

The students are finished in school for the year and, for the most part, did well. Little Keydi, a first grader, has struggled with all the interruptions and holidays and just doesn't have much motivation to work very much anymore. Dwight has hopes that with more maturity and confidence in her ability she will improve as has her sister Norma, a second grader, has done.

Update on Keydi: She finished the year



*Keydi listening to a group of other 1st graders*



*Ismael preaching*

preaching. He does a great job teaching from the Braille Bibles we have been able to supply him. He has a beautiful deep voice, a good knowledge of the scriptures, a deeply grateful heart, and a joyous spirit. He is also able to show his appreciation for our Lord working in his life in the stories of the obstacles he, and by extension, all of us face.

### **A Request for Help**

Roughly six weeks ago God brought an unusual and urgent need to our door, for which we are asking your help because we simply cannot cover it ourselves: We are seeking \$15/DAY (\$450/month) for a limited six months to cover soy formula for a newborn twin.

We have known Santos Isabel Hernandez for the entire seven years we have been here. He is a church leader in the mountain community of Las Camilas, two hours from Catacamas in Cuyamel. Santos has been an overnight guest in our home on many occasions, when appointments or business in Catacamas have kept him too long to make his return bicycle ride safely. He is a farmer and grows beans that he sells. Three months ago, Santos' wife delivered

twin girls; their sixth and seventh children! But health and emotional issues have prevented her from producing enough milk for the babies. In addition, one of the infants is suffering from health complications of her own and is not thriving as the other twin is. We are providing regular infant formula for the healthier baby, but one of the health issues of the smaller twin is lactose intolerance requiring a soy formula that is extremely expensive here in Honduras.

Bean and corn farming can barely cover the large family's daily needs and falls drastically short of such an urgent and expensive need. We realize that \$450/month is extreme for any budget, even in the U.S. We are asking that people prayerfully consider committing to a portion of the monthly need for the six month period or to a one time gift for the family. If you can help, please note on your check to "The Least of These - Honduras" that it is for Santos Hernandez and send it to our wonderful treasurer, Bekah Ray, at 3806 Turkey Meadow Ct, College Station, TX, 77845.

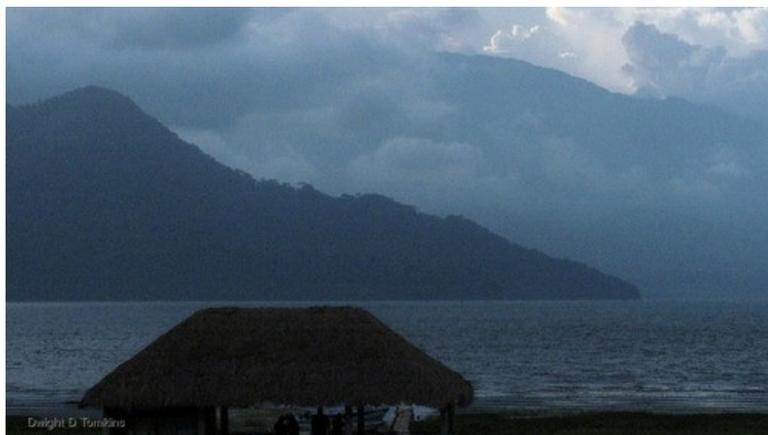


*The Hernandez babies*

Note that while Las Camilas is two hours by 4-wheel drive east of here, Santos makes the trip (up or down) in 2 hours on his bike. Dwight has often wondered how well he would do in the Tour de France?

### **Lago Yojoa**

During the week of Independence Day there were numerous other festivals, including Day of the Teacher, so we took a trip to Lago Yojoa, the largest lake in Honduras and which sits north of Siguatepeque on the road between Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. We were able to find a nice hotel with a beautiful view of the lake and a swimming pool for Andrew. Unfortunately, the lake has been poisoned (mostly by mine tailings from the mountains west of the lake) so it is not safe to swim in or eat food from the lake. We have passed it many times in our travels to the north of Honduras and had often wanted to spend some time there.



*Lago Yojoa*

## **To Texas**

We are going to Texas (Lord willing) Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> to spend the Thanksgiving holidays (and our daughter Lydia's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday) with our children and grandchildren.

## **Prayers**

Please pray for Santos Hernandez and his family. Please also pray for our plans for November and December. Dwight is still waiting to confirm plans for teaching in the National Penitentiary in the Tamara Valley north of Tegucigalpa. Pray for our trip to Texas.

Love, Dwight and Joanne Tomkins

## **Living in Honduras - A Day Trip to Sam's Club**

Andrew is in PreK-4 for five hours each morning. Yet, a trip to Sam's Club (owned by the Walmart corporation but called "PriceSmart" here) takes too long to complete in that amount of time, so Joanne has to take him out of school for that day. In November they made the trip on a Wednesday:

At 7:30am they took a large cooler and a rolling suitcase in a taxi to the bus terminal. The bus departed at 8:15 for the four hour trip to the capital city of Tegucigalpa. When they arrived at 12:30 and claimed their "luggage" from under the bus, our usual cab driver in Tegucigalpa took them to PriceSmart. Since it was already after 1pm, they left the cooler and suitcase with the baggage check at the door and walked right across the street to a large mall for lunch at Quizno's. (In Catacamas our only "fast food" places are fried chicken and a buffet-style restaurant.) It was already 2pm by the time they finished lunch and got back to PriceSmart.

When they finished shopping and checking out at 4:30pm, Joanne called our cab driver. While waiting for him they loaded all of our purchases: 6 pounds of sliced American cheese, two pounds of butter, two pounds of green grapes, three pounds of bananas, three pounds of bacon, whipped cream and a Red Baron cheese pizza into the cooler; 24 rolls of Charmin, a box of saltine crackers, Italian salad dressing, ranch salad dressing, four poly bags of cereal, animal cookies, and Pledge furniture polish into the suitcase. The 55 pounds of dog food and the box of three gallons of bleach didn't fit in the suitcase and were loaded separately.

They got to the bus terminal slightly after 5pm. The final bus to Catacamas leaves at 5:30pm. They got back to Catacamas at 9:30pm and Dwight picked them up in the truck because they had so much stuff. Fourteen hours after leaving, they were finally back home just before 10pm and very tired. Is it any wonder we don't make this trip more than once every three or four months?