



## Mission to Latin America 2011 / 2012 Events

I had the privilege of representing Total Health at the Great Commission Latin America's Pastors' Conference this past week. By God's grace, the conference for all of Latin America was held in La Ceiba, Honduras! Of course, I took the opportunity to visit with our dear friends in Honduras.

### **blacksburg ABLAZE**

As a quick aside, for those of you who did not know, my family moved to Blacksburg, VA this summer to plant a new church there named Blacksburg Ablaze. That is why you will see that logo on my mailers instead of the Howell Community Church of prior letters.

### **Venezuela**

On my first day, I had a 3 hour layover in San Pedro Sula. By divine appointment I believe, I met up with Carlos Garcia and was able to have lunch with 4 pastors from Venezuela. They are very excited about what is happening in their country. With the recent announcement of Hugo Chavez's terminal cancer in connection with the next election in October 2012, Chavez has become much more open to churches. Previously he had been anti-Christianity and had supported the occult and witchcraft. It is amazing what happens when it becomes clear that we will soon meet our Maker.

With this new window of opportunity for the Gospel in Venezuela, they are praying for mission's teams from the US to come assist them with outreach and other development activities. Please keep them in your prayers.

### **Violence in Honduras**

When we last visited, President Zalaya had been removed from power and faced corruption charges from the Honduran Supreme Court. Well in the "be careful what you ask for category," a new President was elected in October 2009 and took office in January 2010. Under President Lobo the crime situation has deteriorated further. Honduras has the highest murder rate in the world – by a large margin (30% higher than the next highest in the world which is El Salvador right next door). Honduras has 86 murders per 100,000 residents; by comparison, Mexico has 18 murders per year per 100,000.

Six (6) people were murdered on Friday at the airport I flew into the following Monday. At the same time in an apparent coordinated effort simultaneously nine (9) more drug-gang related murders happened in a nearby jail.

Not surprisingly, as the US deports violent criminals back to Honduras in larger numbers, the violence in Honduras has grown dramatically. The economic climate of hopelessness and the

availability of drug money, ironically provided by America's insatiable craving for these drugs, is funding and creating the atmosphere for the violence.

Fortunately, violence is mostly isolated within the gang and drug cultures. In one neighborhood near our church, the drug dealers called the residents together in broad day light and warned them that if they are out between 10pm and 6am they are "fair game." If they stay in, they will be safe, because the "night is our time."

### **Government corruption and the Drug Trade**

In a recent article, the following was written about the brother of Honduras' new President:

In regard to the Honduran deputy to the National Congress from Colon, Ramón Lobo, brother of current Honduras' president, Porfirio Lobo:

Recently, the consul of Honduras in Panama, Alberto Castillo Hyde, considered Ramón Lobo's protégé, was detained for questioning when he tried to enter the Panama City International Airport without declaring a suitcase containing \$450,000 in cash.

Instead, he declared it was money for the Honduras' embassy in Panama, although he was not yet officially accredited as a diplomat.

Even President Lobo called for an investigation of the case.

Castillo Hyde has since denied any wrongdoing, also denying accusations of money laundering or links with drug trafficking activities. He revealed that he had accepted the post of honorary consul of Honduras in Panama on the recommendation of the Honduran President's brother, Ramón.

"I was called last year to Bonito Oriental by my uncle and godfather Moncho (Ramón) Lobo, and I was offered if I wanted to work to help my country, and I said, honestly, I accept it but without pay," said Castillo Hyde in an interview with the newspaper *El Heraldo de Tegucigalpa*.

Colon is the department (similar to a county) bordering that in which La Ceiba sits and of course has a very large coastline ideal for drug trafficking between Columbia and the US. And yes, you read correctly that this drug lord is also a member of the Honduran Congress. It is widely believed that it is Ramon Lobo's cartel that is taking out his opposition en masse with, at the very least, the government's awareness. So technically the "government" is eliminating the number of drug-traffickers.

### **Trips coming up**

- The Total Health Board mtg will be in La Ceiba is January 19-22. I am praying about the opportunity to visit our other clinic in Managua, Nicaragua the weekend before with Dr. Jay.

- ☒ March 4 or 5<sup>th</sup> – I will be performing Ernesto and Daya’s church wedding. Many of you “know” Ernesto from the times when he translated the purity talks with Stephanie and me. We have stayed incredibly close through the years and now they are just family. They were married in a civil ceremony last March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- ☒ August 2012 mission team – We are also planning on taking a team to Latin America again this summer



Ernesto y Daya

### **Matching Grant 2010**

I was remiss not to let you guys know about our matching grant last year (anyone who knows me knows that the last 2 years have been a whirlwind from which Honduras suffered the most neglect.) With that matching grant, we were able to raise \$49,500 in December 2010. With that extra money, we opened the clinic in Managua for daily operation by hiring Dr. Walter Bonilla – see photo below. In addition we added a full-time RN for La Ceiba (Briselda Antonia)



**Dr. Walter Bonilla and Family –  
Managua, Nicaragua**

### **Matching Grant 2011**

As 2011 comes to a close and we look at being able to continue to support La Ceiba and Managua, our vision is to start looking for the next city where we could launch a primary care clinic that holds out physical and spiritual HOPE for its neighbors. Therefore, we will be having another matching grant campaign this year.

Unlike some ministries where only 60-70% of your donation goes to helping the people in third world countries, with a Total Health donation during the matching grant time, 200% of what you give goes directly to help those in need – there are NO US-based overhead expenses. All overhead is provided by volunteers. In fact, there are many Honduran volunteers involved as well and in La Ceiba, the local community contributes 37.5% of the cost of operations out of local contributions (the local church and patients themselves)!! So you really get 300% return on

your donation. For that we see around 16,000 patients a year in La Ceiba alone. Amazing – just like the loaves and the fishes.

### **Special Limited Time Offer**

But wait there's more – for this year only, if you act now, we will double our offer. For every dollar you give, I will match you dollar for dollar, thereby essentially turning your \$1 into \$6 of on the ground assistance where it is needed most. In addition, we will include free shipping and handling with ever donation (just email me and request a self addressed stamped envelope).

Sorry, I couldn't resist



You can buy your own stamp and envelope.

But seriously, we have huge visions for how many people can be reached with medical services and the good news of Hope in Jesus Christ across some of the most hopeless and dangerous parts of The Americas, and we need your help to make that happen.

### **Full-time Dentist - Dr. Esperanza**

Also since we last spoke, Dr. Esperanza has become a full-time dentist in La Ceiba.

We had to initially subsidize his work and of course give him space and equipment, but now he is total self sufficient!

Dr. Esperanza offers free dental care when needed, but also has enough paying customers to break-even – praise God for that. We will be talking more about increasing the self-sufficiency of each site at the board mtg.



### **The Clinic**

The clinic continues to grow and expand. I will have a more detailed update on the Clinic and Dr. Suly's efforts to pull in local specialists to volunteer at the clinic after my January trip. But we are up to 16,000 patients for the last 12 months! What an incredible impact.



### **The church – Iglesia Gran Comision – La Ceiba**

The church has continued to grow. Two downtown service were added this year. As a result, the number of people in the church has doubled. The safety issues of bringing people out to the old church each Saturday night coupled with the ease of attending the downtown (closer) church have been major factors in its growth. Also due to safety issues, they have cancelled their annual Christmas pageant. With over 100 people involved and practices running from 7pm-10 or 10:30 5 nights a week, it was just not safe for that many people to be out on the roads that late. On a humorous side note: the sheep from last year's pageant were just let go near the church, and they have multiplied, so there are a flock of sheep roaming the parking lot.



### **CNI – Children's Program**

The CNI program has also continued to grow, now they have 108 children there every day. Rebecca Irias has taken over as director of that program since she returned from the Toledo, Ohio where she did an internship with a large church there. Rebecca has a staff of 6 working with her there.



## **Total Home**

Since this program began 4 years ago, over 54 homes have been built, mostly for the families of the children in the CNI program. As you can imagine, the impact on a family like this is enormous. Through the years, I shared with you Amalia and Frenando's story of the before and after they received their new home. What a dramatic difference. I saw Amalia at church last Saturday night, still and incredibly sweet girl.



## **Trip this summer – August 2012:**

I could go on and on, but I will follow up with more as our trip approaches. As every year, we only go if you send us. We think it is so important to have your heart supporting us fully, that it is with great enthusiasm that I ask you to support us again financially this year.

*Gifts to support missionaries sponsored by Total Health are tax deductible. Checks must be made out to **Total Health**. You may list Honduras Mission Trip or Dr. Suly's support in the check memo. Addressed to 613 Leisure Lane, Blacksburg, VA 24060*

*All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.*

Galatians 2:10 (Peter to Paul)

*“Heal the sick who are there and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is near to you.'*

Luke 10:9 (Jesus sends out the 72)