

Honduras

Dear Friends,

A new year has begun. We thank the Lord for what He has done this past year and look forward to what He will do in 2004. Here in Honduras three new missions were opened this last year. Agua Azul Sierra, Meambar, and Laguna Seca.

Right now Chuck has cottage meetings with three different families here in Siguatepeque. Two of these families came to camp this year. He is working in Agua Azul Sierra and Meambar while Antonio Orellana is working in Laguna Seca.

The three-day family camp of 2003 took place in December. We got the idea for the theme of the camp, "The Purpose-Driven Life", from Rick Warren's book of the same title.

The theme's of the classes were: "Created to Please God", "Created to be a Part of God's Family", "Created to be like Christ", "Created to Serve God", and "Created for a Mission". The last class was not taught due to being replaced with a baptismal service on Sunday morning.

We averaged about fifty adults and fifty children each day of the three day camp.

On the first day, we had



eighty people total, on Saturday we had 120, and on Sunday we had about 100 people.

This past spring we finished a two-bedroom addition to use for camps and visitors from the States. We had ten people sleeping in it, as well as utilized it to cook meals in addition to our kitchen. Our house was used for classes and additional sleeping space.

An unmarried couple that Chuck has been working with for over six years decided to get married during the camp. What a joy it was to see them finally resolve that problem so that the wife, who Chuck carried in his arms to church when she was a baby, could once again participate in the ordinance of communion.

The husband and their oldest boy have asked to be baptized and Chuck will start baptismal classes with them the first week in February.

Three people were baptized during the family camp on a beautiful Sunday morning service. There were four brethren and two sisters visiting from the States - Vi and Chema Manzanares, Aaron and Megan Rhodes, Jon Tandy, and Chris Grohe.

Family Outreach may be contacted by e-mail and via our Web site. Come visit us on the Internet to find out more about Family Outreach, missions opportunities in Honduras, and to read testimonies from past newsletters.
E-mail: familyoutreach@earthlink.net
Web: <http://home.earthlink.net/~familyoutreach>

A look at home: America has been touched by war this past year. Men and women have sacrificed their time and lives in the Middle East.

We do not have easy access to news where we live. Chuck's brother Clint is in Iraq. Through an internet café we have kept in contact with him.

Yet here at home we are faced with another war – the fight for men's souls. Is it too hard for us to see the battle that we face?

Are we too caught up in the physical world, things, business, meetings etc? Has your armor grown rusty with disuse? Do you feel defeated?

TAKE HEART! Let us take up our cross and serve the Lord. We hope that the words of the following song minister to you as they have to us.

Let us serve the Lord and He alone on this journey of life. He says "My yoke is heavy, but my burden is light." The Lord loves you. His arms of mercy are around you. He needs you. How can you help Him today?

Yours in Christ,
The Sperrys

"There marches through the centuries, the martyrs of the cross, all those who chose to follow Christ, to suffer any loss. And though their journey led them through the shadow lands of death, the song of their commitment they rehearsed with every breath. Uncertain days now echo back that strong and urgent strain, to count the cost, take up the cross and join in the refrain.....I will serve the Lord, I will serve the Lord my God, and if God should choose and my life I lose, though my foe may slay me, I will serve the Lord." -Steve Green.



Prayer Requests

*Safety in Honduras.

*Safety on trip to United States --

The Sperry's plan to return to the United States soon, although the details are not yet determined.

*Complete healing for Chuck's finger, and for the unknown form of hepatitis.

Ministry Opportunities

Following is a partial list of current mission activities for the Sperry family. We would appreciate your prayers in this area, that the Lord's Spirit will guide His people to the fullness of the gospel.

Meambar - Chuck has visited with all the ministers of other denominations, and many have been receptive. Some are reading the Book of Mormon and have asked to learn more.

Agua Azul Sierra - Teaching gospel classes.

*Several pre-baptismal classes being held.

*Continuing spiritual growth in Siguatpeque branch.

The Family Outreach mission board is incorporated as a Missouri not-for-profit religious organization, which it's primary purpose being to support and sustain missionaries and their families. Please contact us if you or your family are interested in participating in a similar missionary endeavor.

Trials in Honduras

As some of you may have heard, the Sperry family has recently had a serious incident occur that could use your prayers. We would like to give you an update on this situation.

At the end of December, there was a twenty-two year old neighbor man who was throwing large rocks at the Sperry's house and breaking the tiles on the roof. Chuck approached this neighbor, asking him to pay for the damage he had done to his house. The man attacked Chuck, and when he swung his crutch, a screw from the crutch ripped through Chuck's little finger.

Chuck's finger was very severely damaged, and he ended up with stitches after the finger was put back into place. There was some concern about the tendons that had been damaged, but Chuck can still move his finger about 95% and curl up his finger about 85%. He is doing water therapy to try to strengthen the movement in his finger.

The man had been on drugs and was sentenced to detention, but he later escaped and has made threats against the Sperry family.

Later, Chuck became sick with hepatitis. The doctors have not been able to determine what type of hepatitis it was. He was in bed or in the hospital for three weeks. Chuck was concerned that he may have picked it up when he was getting his finger taken care of, or from a reaction due to his medication.

These trials, and a number of other things have happened since Chuck started visiting Meambar for ministry. He feels that there may a connection with the trials and his visiting Meambar, as he felt strongly led that there was a work to do in that city. They ask for your continual prayers for the ministry in Meambar. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Family Outreach

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If you are currently receiving this newsletter by mail and would like to receive it by e-mail instead, please write or e-mail us to let us know. This will help keep our postage costs to a minimum.

E-mail: familyoutreach@earthlink.net

Financial Report

Summary of 2003

Family Outreach - Regular donations made to FamilyOutreach

\$10,855.00

Sperry - Donations addressed directly to Sperry family

\$1,550.30

Special projects - Donations to Family Outreach, designated for specific purpose

\$600.00 (tuition assistance for Honduran student, family camp)

Other - Sperry personal income other than from donations, excluding occasional work in Honduras

\$1,207.83

Total income: \$14,213.13

Expenses

Bank fees & charges

\$196.44

Newsletter - Copying and mailing costs

\$193.62

Disbursements - Money disbursed to Sperry's for living and missionary travel expenses

\$13,996.06

Special Projects - Money used for projects other than Sperry family support

\$628.05 (tuition assistance, and tarps for camp tent)

General - Reimbursements to individuals for expenses related to the mission, and general expenses for organization

\$878.19

Total expenses: \$15,892.36

Report from the Treasurer

Financially, this year was a struggle for Family Outreach. For the majority of the year, donations were well below expenses, and at one point we were dangerously close to running completely out of funds. However, the Lord has always provided, and this year was no different. In December several donations were received which helped give us some breathing room. We trust that He will continue to provide as long as there is ministry to be performed in the mission field.

We do not like to ask for money, and we simply continue to ask you to pray how the Lord would have you use your surplus -- whether to support this or other ministries. Please continue to pray for the Sperry family, for the missionary work in Honduras, for those who may receive the gospel, and that we will have adequate funds to do whatever the Lord would direct during this year. Ideally, we would like to find some means of helping the Sperry's become self-supporting, while not taking away from the time required for the mission work, so that we do not have to depend on donations from the Saints. It may even be that some other family may choose to go into full-time missionary work, and we would like to be able to support such efforts if the Lord allows.

We would remind our readers that Family Outreach is incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in the state of Missouri. Donations made to Family Outreach are tax-deductible as charitable contributions. All those who made donations to Family Outreach during 2003 should have already received a summary of their contributions for the year. We thank each one for their support of this ministry in both monetary and non-monetary ways. We pray for the Lord's blessings on you and your family during this year as we labor together for our risen Christ.

Jon Tandy