

Family Outreach

News from Honduras

January 2008

News From Sperry Family - Happy Holidays!

Dear Friends,

We would like to say hello and greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that you had a blessed holiday season with family and friends. Here in Honduras most of the people enjoy their holiday by eating tamales, corn cakes swimming in sweet cane syrup, and sweet breads. Each family has their own traditions. Some do very little if nothing, because they have little money. A lot of people spend time traveling by bus or car visiting relatives.

We were able to share Thanksgiving with a family from Peru and another man from the United States. He has five children and was married to a Honduran woman who left him a short while ago. He and his children do not attend any church. The man's father was a member of the Mormon Church. Pray that we will be able to continue to witness to these two families.

For you children, most of the kids here in Honduras have a two month vacation during December and January. This is the time for coffee picking. Some of the children as young as eight years old go out to the coffee fields and pick coffee in order to make money. Many children have fun with friends and family while on vacation.

The Honduran children have

many things to keep them occupied. They may play soccer, marbles, jacks, or play with a jump rope. The Lord has blessed you to have been born into a family in the Untied States. You have more in your house and toys in your toy box than most children in the world. Remember to be thankful to the Lord for your blessings. Remember above all that the things you have are not near as important as what is inside of you. Have you invited Jesus into your heart? I hope you have. May God bless you as you grow. Our prayer is that you will come to know the Lord as your best friend.

Chuck is gone to a city in the North coast of Honduras called el Progreso. He will be there for three days. There has been a mission there for the past several years. It is now considered a congregation. Brother Juan Argueta has been giving church services when Chuck has not been present. Chuck goes there every two weeks for three days. Sometimes he may travel there to spend more time with the church families that live there. We ask you to pray for Brother Juan. He was put in the hospital with pneumonia. Brother Juan is the "father figure" of this group of saints. Pray that he will have a speedy recovery.

We have been sharing with a brother and his two sisters for the last year. They are young adults. Two weeks ago they announced at church that they would like everyone to pray and fast for their mother. They want her to be able to rejoice in knowing the gospel. We have been praying for her to have the desire and that she would come to the class that Chuck gives the family once a week. Last week their mother was present in the class. They have asked us to put them as a family on the prayer list. Please remember them as Gustavo's family. Pray that they will make the step to enter into the waters of baptism. Gustavo has brought another man to church who is now coming regularly.

At this time we would like to share a song that the Lord gave to our daughter Elizabeth. We pray that this will uplift you and give you hope in the race that is before you. May we all be partakers of the precious fruit from the Tree of Life that our brother Lehi saw ever so long ago.

(song is on next page)

God bless you,

Yours in Christ,
Chuck and Regina Sperry
and family

We're Soldiers in the Trenches - by Elizabeth Sperry

We are soldiers fighting in the battles, fighting in the trenches of life.
Not for ourselves, but for the truth, and for the Holy one Jesus Christ our Lord.
We've taken many blows. The foe is on all sides. It seems all hope is lost,
With the few that we have left we fight for all we're worth, waiting and trusting in the Lord.

Refrain:

We are soldiers of the cross, fighting with the angels of God,
knowing and trusting that the Lord will bring to us the victory.

Praying for strength to go on, crying for backup we don't have,
the church of the Lord is under siege.

People are falling and dying without the Lord.

We need men who will fight for the truth and not ignore sin.

Even when the road is hard, we will fight until the end knowing
we will win, for the Lord is on our side.

Refrain:

We are soldiers of the cross, fighting with the angels of God,
knowing and trusting that the Lord will bring to us the victory.



Sharing the Gospel in Honduras

While living in Honduras, I had the opportunity to teach at a bi-lingual school. I taught kindergarten, as well as choir for first through fifth grades and guitar to the Jr. High and High school.

There was only one Christian there at that school, though the majority did have a religious background such as Catholic, Jehovah's Witness, etc. Angie taught preschool, so we were together a lot, and had opportunities to pray together and share testimonies of the Lord. She was a great encouragement and blessing to me there in the school. At the end of the school year the Lord opened the opportunity for me to share about the Book of Mormon with her. She only knew that Chuck and Regina believe in the Book of Mormon but aren't "Mormons." One day we were sitting together working on final grade cards for the school year, and Chuck and Regina came into our conversation. I told her that I believed in the Book of Mormon also and asked her if she had ever heard about the book.

She shared about meeting a LDS missionary, and she told me a few of the things that she didn't agree with. I then told her that the Book of Mormon and the LDS Church are two different things and that the "Mormons" don't follow some of the doctrines that are in the Book of Mormon. I continued on with sharing what was actually contained in the Book of Mormon like grace, the atonement, Christ's visit to the Americas, etc. She was really interested and said that she'd never heard that before. I also shared with her my own testimony of the Book of Mormon.

I had my scriptures there with me that day and gave her my Libro de Mormon when she stated that she was interested in reading it. Later I was able to give her Chuck and Regina's numbers if she had any questions about the Book of Mormon or the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

At the end of the school year the teachers always go on a special trip to celebrate the end of the year, and this year they decided to go to a water park in San Pedro, over two hours away. I had not participated in fun activities earlier in the year because of helping with the church etc. Angie talked me into going. That night I found out I would have no transportation to the school because Chuck was taking the truck to witness out of the area. No one would be able to pick me up so early in the morning. So I prayed for the Lord's will to be done - that if I was to go, He would provide everything, and that I'll also be able to witness of Him.

The next day, though planning on talking with someone and getting transportation worked out, I completely forgot to mention anything to anybody. Later in the afternoon, Angie came to me and said she had already arranged a place for me to stay the night and a way to make it to the school in the morning to meet everyone. She even apologized for not asking me before hand. So I shared with her how she was an answer to my prayers, because no one knew that I wouldn't have a ride. The young 21-year-old computer teacher, Elsie, had her own house and welcomed me to stay the night with her.

That night over at Elsie's house, we started talking, and she shared a little about her life and family. She didn't go to church at all, and didn't know what church to go to because they all had different doctrines. So I told her about a young man in the 1820's who had the same question, and how he read James 1:5 and prayed to the Lord in the middle of the woods and the answer that the Lord gave him. We also talked about the importance of reading the scriptures and finding out the truth and what the gospel really is.

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Field is Ripe, Harvesters are Few

In late September I was privileged to travel to Honduras, as God prepared the way before me. I took a month off from work so that I could go. God's hand in this was evident even in my preparations. I'm self-employed, but He helped me arrange all my business affairs, leaving them in the hands of one of my trusted employees. He provided for my family's needs, especially my wife Julie, who was already hard-pressed with family cares. God moved upon the hearts of the members of the Missionary Branch congregation, prompting them to pray for my family and me around the clock. I was freed to go, and I went!

I joined the Sperry family in Siguatepeque, helping out whenever I could. It was a particularly busy time for them, because many of the seeds of faith that they have been diligently planting for years finally came to fruition.

During the course of this month, Brother Chuck and I assisted with several ordinances. Charles, the Sperry's oldest son, was ordained a priest. We baptized and confirmed five people, two in Siguatepeque and three in el Progreso. On both occasions, storm clouds hovered overhead, and a few drops signaled the threat of a heavy deluge, but God held back the rains just long enough for the services to take place. Afterwards, it poured!

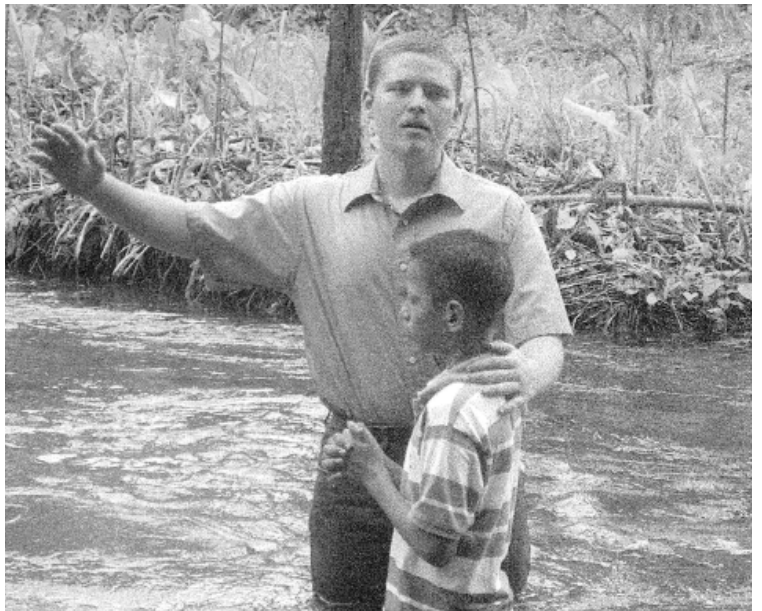
Hardly a day passed without some opportunity to minister. I met many fine people who came to classes, to services, wanting to know more about this Jesus who saves us from our sins. We sat in the home of a young woman who told us of her struggle to commit her life Christ. Yet before I left Honduras, she said she hoped I could come back next year to witness her baptism. The Lord is working to stir up her heart.

Most of the Hondurans are very poor. Partly because of this poverty they are very dear to the Lord, but also because they are a people whose forefathers prophesied concerning this land, and received promises that the day would come when the gospel of Christ would go forth, bringing this people out of darkness and into the light.

In the village of los Dolicious, I saw a family of three who received with gladness the Restoration message that Brother Chuck taught. They wanted to learn more, and they asked Chuck to return to their village to share with them again. This is God's work; who will thrust in with their faith to help with the harvest?

I saw looks of keen interest on the faces of those attending a pre-baptismal class in the city of el Progreso. There's been a reviving there among the family of Juan and Doris Arguenta, longtime members of the church. With more visits, more instruction, the small group there will grow.

One thing that Brother Chuck expressed many times as we traveled together was the need for more laborers to help with the work. Because of his pastoral duties in Siguatepeque, where he holds church services four times a week, Chuck cannot extend his ministry to distant locations as often as he would like. Yet the need and the interest is obviously there. We must pray as Jesus commanded, that the Father would raise up more laborers, for the field is ripe but the harvesters are few.



Charles Sperry - newly ordained priest performs a baptism

Sharing the Gospel in Honduras - Continued

We talked about creation versus evolution. She asked why the world is so horrible and destructive. So I explained the commandments of the Lord and how if we keep the commandments there are promises of health, wealth, peace etc. There are commandments for individuals, families, organizations, as well as governments. When we don't keep the commandments we have poverty, disease, killings, and fear. Then I told her about Christ coming and dying for our sins, and what it takes to be a real Christian and follow Christ. There was so much more that we shared about that night and she was eager and listening. I pray that the Lord will continue to bring her to Him and that she will accept Him as her Lord and Savior. ~Katrina Campbell

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for Charles our oldest son who is preparing to go to college.
2. Pray that the Lord will move the people to serve Him with all their hearts.
3. Pray for our oldest daughter Elizabeth who is teaching English as a second language to a group of kindergarten children, that she will be able to share the Lord Jesus with them.
4. Pray that God will send us men who will be strong laborers for Christ.
5. Please keep brother Juan in your prayers.
6. Pray for the various people who we have been sharing with.

We ask that you continually remember this family in your prayers and that you consider their financial needs. If the Lord moves you to help support them financially, you may send contributions to:

DONATIONS - Family Outreach P.O. Box 22, Independence, MO 64051

***Please do not send donations to Rachel Gard or return address, thanks!**

Email: familyoutreach@earthlink.net webpage: <http://home.earthlink.net/~familyoutreach>

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