

Newsletter of Jim and Teri Riley, missionaries working in disciple making & church planting in Honduras, Central America

Tegu

North Coast Edition

"Rainbow" Eucalyptus tree stands near a church in Margarita.

Talk

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We have baptized four people from the Discovery Bible Studies in the first 5 months of this new work.



Seeking the Lost

The Battle for Easter

Screams echoed through the Hospital overtaking and outpacing the official news of Geovany's death. The Hospital should have been quiet and all-but-empty on the Saturday night before Easter.

That afternoon when the young man walked into the hospital, the passenger of a motorcycle accident, it was obvious to all that he had been drinking. No one could tell right away that he was also bleeding internally. His liver had been split into two pieces by the cement bridge he had collided with. When an ultrasound showed the hemorrhaging, a code blue was sent over the radio and our new neighbors sprang into action.

Saturday afternoon found us relaxing at the house having just sent our team of couples back to Tegucigalpa. 24 hours earlier, on Good Friday, we had baptized four people. We had no idea that the young man at the center of the emergency was the brother of one of those new Christians. An hour or so later, the neighbor boy came to report that his dad, one of the two surgeons, had not returned from the hospital. Jeni and Jesi had already gone down to see if they could help. So we decided to go see how things were going if only to bring news to Jimmy's friend.

In the E.R. we found missionary youth and hospital staff hastily donating blood for the ongoing surgery down the hall. As every one in our family is type A+ Teri and I joined Jeni in line to donate. In the end, they collected 12 and used 11 pints of blood to try to save Geovany. This far out in the country the hospital's blood bank is its families and employees!

At some point a call went out for a family member to come and witness to the young man as the surgeons had done all that they could do. Geovany's 17 year-old sister, Wendy, who had been baptized the day before, walked in with her mother and shared the hope of Christ with her brother who had attended our studies but not regularly.

Easter Sunday afternoon we drove to the cemetery in a line of 26 vehicles and trucks. By the time we walked over to the burial site, with about 300 other people, friends of the family had placed the coffin in a cement box and were working quickly on the cement cover. I left the mother, sitting distraught on a nearby crypt and worked my way to the father and read to him from God's word, over the sound of shovels and gravel.

The stakes are high. The battle is not over; our enemy does not want to give up any ground to the Good News of Christ's Kingdom.

More Discovery Bible Studies

The addition of Rony and Cinthia to our team has added to the number of studies we can do at one time. Last week our team met in 25 homes here on the coast. The goal is to discover what God says in His word about how Jesus paid the price so that people can come to trust the Creator as their Heavenly Father. 101 people participated in these living room or front porch Bible studies that emphasize applying God's word to our lives.

"WhatsApp" in Tegucigalpa?

Keeping tabs on the church in Tegus just got easier. *Noticia de Reino* [News of the Kingdom] is an ongoing, smart phone conversation between members of *Roca de Refugio* [Rock of Refuge] in the neighborhood Nueva Suyapa.

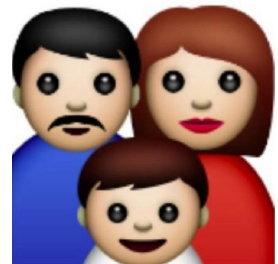


Like in most WhatsApp groups, people share music, images and short videos, but unlike any group I've seen, people in *Noticia de Reino* build each other up, hold each other accountable, and pray for one another. Topics range from family life, to tips on defending the faith, to logistics for Wednesday night discovery home Bible studies.

Gabriel, who is one of the preachers and who started the group, has found it to be a practical way to keep people informed, encouraged and involved in what is happening with the church. We participate in the conversation as time permits. I just sent a prayer request for Rony's surgery and five people responded in under two minutes.



Of course, this tool can't replace face to face interaction. However, I believe this online interaction actually helped to move a very important conversation from the back burner to the fast track. I'm still not sure whether it started at the marriage retreat in April or if it spun off of conversations about an upcoming wedding at the church in Tegus. For some reason, the couples that have been married at church began posting their wedding pictures. That led three or four other couples with kids to start making plans for a joint wedding project. With so much talk of marriage, the youth have started their own groups, but return to check in and comment.



Making Disciples & Teaching

1st Gatherings

Tuesday, April 14, most of the Bible study groups met at the house in the middle of the village. Music and a potluck dinner helped make the evening special for all. After the singing, we broke out into four groups. 16 men and teenaged boys met in the driveway. 15 young ladies crowded in the living room. 16 women sat in a circle of plastic chairs in the front yard, and a group of 40 children prepared a drama in the side yard.



On July 5th we started holding weekly services for worship, communion and prayer. These are held on Sunday afternoons at the Christian Bilingual School where Teri teaches third grade. This special time each Sunday is for the new believers and those who are about to embark on the journey with Christ. Pray that this new group of believers would grow into the fullness of Christ.

Resurrection of Marriages

Over the Easter weekend, we hosted our fourth marriage retreat for the Church in Tegus. This time, the couples came all the way to Loma de Luz. The retreat felt more like a mission trip at times. They assisted us in several home Bible studies and enjoyed an evening of getting to know the couples in this new work. We gave a few main sessions and assigned "homework" [some time spent face-to-face, off on their own, communicating]. We had four baptisms during the retreat, one couple from Tegucigalpa and one couple from the home studies.



Our 1st Wedding in Maradiaga

Friday, June 26, we signed the marriage certificate as witnesses to Wendy and Alan's civil wedding. In Honduras, couples must first marry in the mayor's office. Then usually that weekend they have a church wedding. As there is no church building in Maradiaga, Wendy and Alan, with the help of the community, cleared and decorated an empty lot in front of Wendy's mom's house. They set up



around 100 chairs that filled with adults, while the kids and others stood around the sides and the back. Many friends from the hospital helped with photography, chairs, the cake, the lights and sound system. Jim shared images and responsibilities of marriage from Genesis two and Ephesians five.



In the Heart of Honduras

Family & Team Update

Jimmy our youngest, age 11, really enjoys playing with his many new friends. They have regular game nights where they play several variations of hide and seek after dark. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights he plays the drum box in the home Bible studies. On Wednesday night he helps lead a Bible story, a game and art time for as many as 12 children.

Josh's stamina is back to normal. Our 16 year-old is playing on an American football team in La Ceiba twice a week. Josh also enjoys playing basketball, soccer, and lifting weights with the young men from around the hospital. His wounds from the chest tubes and fractured scapula have healed nicely. Recently, two very small particles of road made their way to the surface of Josh's chin. Our neighbor, Dr. Peter, took them out for him. Josh also helps one day a week volunteering in the maintenance department of the hospital.

Jeni recently enjoyed two weeks as an assistant to a very busy dentist. They saw over 100 patients and 3 missionary families. Other days Jeni continues to learn and help in the emergency room and general clinic with Dr. Peter. She resumes classes online at Lincoln Christian University in August.

Jesi has learned so much here at Loma de Luz. Inspired to continue the academic side of her quest to become a missionary physician, Jesi will return to the US on July 30th. Several times each week Jesi walks 10 minutes down the very steep hill to the hospital. We thank God for healing her foot and toe. She received three teeth for her titanium implants last month and they look great. Jesi continues to rotate in the wound care department of the hospital, helping others heal from their injuries.

All of our children have made friend here in the communities. They have proven to be a huge help in facilitating the home Bible studies. We are so proud of each of them.

Jim is getting ready for knee surgery the week of October 19. Meanwhile, he continues to lead Bible studies in the communities and at the school with the construction workers. He also returns to Tegus once a month to preach and encourage the second church plant.

Teri continues to teach 16 third graders every morning. It is quite a challenge after teaching only four kids all these years. She enjoys seeing the third graders progress in their English as well as their understanding of Jesus.

Praise & Prayer checklist:

Praise the Lord with us for:

- God continues to heal Josh and Jesi!
- The open doors and receptive hearts so far in our studies in Maradiaga, Lucinda and Balfate.
- Rony's healing after his lip surgery
- Belinda, Rony, Cinthia and Celfi, all from the Tegus church, are here to assist in the work.
- God's continued provision for our family.
- The new Christ followers here and in Tegus.
- We finally bought land near Tegus for the future Riley Home/ Team House / Retreat Center.

Please pray with us for:

- Jesi and Josh's complete healing.
- July 30th Jesi returns to Joplin, Missouri to study. We will miss her greatly!
- Unity among our team here.
- Teri's patience and stamina as she teaches these third graders.
- Strength within the marriages here and in Tegus.
- Groups of new disciples to make new disciples.
- The women's conference on September 11-13 and the team of women coming from the States and all over Honduras.
- That God's will of us would be extremely clear as we make decisions for the next year.
- The hospital's finances.

Support Team

Checks for the work can be made out to Nortonville Christian Church with Honduras Mission in the memo and sent to:

**Nortonville Christian Church
PO Box 347**

Nortonville, Kansas 66060

Thank you for allowing God to use you! Your prayers and financial support help to make this endeavor for Christ possible. God is at work here! Thanks for being our faithful partners in the Gospel!

Jim & Teri Riley