

**ALVIN ANDERSON
MAY 2007**

11 YEARS AND COUNTING UPWARD

I truly stand in awe and gratitude as I observe the progress God has given us during the past few years. On April 10th, Nelly and I celebrated 14 years of marriage. On May 24th, we will celebrate 11 years of living and ministering in Honduras.

In the beginning, it was just Nelly and me with a vision, and an income of \$550.00 US dollars. Now, we have a ministry with a staff consisting of 10 Hondurans, and 8 North Americans, (not including Nelly and

myself), some paid and others voluntary; a growing vision; and an average monthly income of \$5,000.00.

Today, our ministry also includes outreach to street children and the operation of a trade school that teaches various skills to under privileged kids. The facility is located on the edge of the ghettos of downtown Tegucigalpa. Several months ago we moved into an additional building just for worship services. Our church has a strong discipleship pro-

gram designed to teach all who attend to live out the Christian life. We also minister to needy and abandoned children incarcerated in government shelters. We operate two daycare centers whereby dozens of needy children are cared for, fed, loved, and taught life skills that we pray shapes the foundation of their lives. Since the beginning of our living in this country, our home has been a refuge, correctional shelter, and/or rehabilitation center for over 60 small children and troubled teens.

ONLY THE BEGINNING

Many times I am asked by visitors to describe my normal day. All I can say is that our ministry is like being out in a canoe on a lake, rescuing drowning people about to go under for the third time. They ended up in the water for various reasons, but that is not what matters, they are drowning and must be rescued. Thus, there is always an emergency.

Recently, fighting broke out among the girls at the correctional center and several escaped after setting fire to their mattresses. For two days, I was asked

by the director and workers to intervene because they could not control the teens. (I brought 15-year old Paula under control with the simple fatherly use of my belt). Never have I seen so many girls desiring to end their own life. Four of the teens had cut their wrists; a few of them had cut both wrists and had to be taken to the

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clinic.

Also, I have teens from impoverished neighborhoods coming for counseling because they feel like

nothing but trash!

While America was struck again by the senseless murder of more than 30 students, Honduras faces the ever-growing destruction that sexual abuse is causing to her children. One year ago I was involved in the counseling and recovery of Cathrine, an 11 year old who became a mother after being abused by an uncle. I will soon be counseling 9 year old, Cindy, who is about to have a c-section to deliver her baby girl. She has suffered three years of sexual abuse by her father, which her mother consented to, and kept secret in order to “protect” her husband!

THE VISION AND THE MISSION

When will this madness end? When will we see a difference? The answer is found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is for this reason that we preach Christ and Him crucified and raised from the dead. Someone asked one of our daughters if she was going to be a missionary like her mom and dad. That person later told me that they were astounded by the

answer. She said, “I already am a missionary!!” My family and I know that we are called, and that we are serving right where the Lord would have us. We expect to be here many, many more years, serving with you. We believe Honduras is our home but that we will be reaching across all sides of the borders around this country. We could never

do any of this without your help. Please continue to pray for us, and with us, that God may be glorified in the fruit brought forth by our joint labor. **OUR BLESSINGS TO YOU!!**

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