

# Peter, Marissa and Jayden SIMPSON

Making Disciples Among the People of Honduras



April 2016

I have been working on ways to help my church through its latest hurdle: expanding and remodeling our main building. One of the challenges in any mission work is help the local ministry thrive on its own, to grow from dependence on foreign assistance to self-sufficiency. A great number of churches have help from outside of Honduras when they build. But, if a church is to survive, at some point it must advance on its own.

The roof of the building where our church meets on Sundays needs to be replaced. The joke is that the old wooden beams were only being held up by termites and angels. While the roof is the priority, we are hoping to be able to expand the main sanctuary into some adjoining rooms during the process. So far we have raised a little over 25% of the \$45,000 project.

I have been interviewing a few of the older church members that were present during the construction of the original building. My desire is to tell the story of the work and sacrifice that it took to erect the original building. I want the current congregation to reflect upon the fact that for years the church has benefitted from that initial sacrifice and that now we have the opportunity to provide for the future generations of our church.





Please pray for the kids' intellectual and language development. Marissa is speaking more English and Spanish, but still is behind for her age. I am grateful for her current school situation even though it provides several challenges. May God grant her grace as she continues to grow.

Jayden is exploring, learning and making messes. As he nears 3 years of age he seems to be emerging from the "terrible twos," and not a moment too soon.

As far as the adoption goes, we are still waiting for the next step in Jay's abandonment proceeding. An announcement with his picture must be made in the newspaper requesting any family members to report to Honduran Child Services (DINAF). Similar announcements are made over the radio. This procedure is one of the attempts to find any of his biological family.

Now while that may seem a little daunting, there is not much of a chance that there will be a response. The act of abandonment was criminal, he was left in an empty lot. The picture will be a current one. And in the case that someone does respond, the nearly 3 years of ties to me will definitely be taken into account.

It seems like making this announcement should be so simple. Unfortunately, DINAF is still finding its feet after being created to replace the former governmental organization which was plagued with corruption.

During the end of January, several families in similar circumstances and I met with the director of DINAF. She reassured us that our cases are a priority and should be dealt with soon. We will see just how soon is "soon." Thank you for continuing to pray with us.



*Rich.*

Your missionary with

**World Reach, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 26155  
 Birmingham, AL 35260  
 205.979.2400  
 info@world-reach.org  
 www.world-reach.org

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