



## *Hal and Cheryl Large*

*Ministering to Hispanics in the Pacific Northwest  
World Reach, P.O. Box 26155, Birmingham, AL 35260*

*December 2022*

Cheryl and I have just returned from a three-week trip we took to the Balkans, to visit and be an encouragement to Herbert and Patricia Handal, who are ministering in a predominantly Muslim nation. We also visited Francisco and Martita Berrios who have a counseling and pastoral ministry in Rostov, Romania. These are lands which our daughter and son-in-law, Jon and Kelly Simpson, have visited often, usually staying for three months, to assist Herbert. They are out in the community making friends and opening opportunities for Herbert and Patricia to follow up.



Herbert and Patricia have been wanting us to visit them for a long time. The Lord used Kelly to pray and push that we might make the trip. I taught both Herbert and Francisco in the Miramonte Bible Institute in El Salvador over 40 years ago, married Francisco and Martita, and was very involved with Herbert in pastoral ministries. After we left El Salvador in the early 1990's, Herbert was a key pastor to invite us back to the country to continue ministering there. We are all getting up in years and it was very important to Herbert and Francisco for us to be able to see and experience what God has been doing and continues to do in the lives of "faithful men" (2 Tim. 2:2) who received God's Word through our ministry in El Salvador so many years before.

Herbert is a very special servant of God. His family came to El Salvador originally from Bethlehem, being Catholic Palestinians. He brings to his very difficult task a devotion to Christ, a love for people, and an understanding of and appreciation for the Muslim culture. He is uniquely gifted with a knowledge of medicine, a head for business, the heart of a disciple-maker, and the patient faith of Abraham. Following God's open doors, he established a clinic in the village of his landlord. Hearing from a friend about a school director who was not so tied to tradition, he visited the director to see about bringing teams to help with the physical needs of the school. A friendship bloomed, resulting in Herbert's receiving an extended permission to live in the city because of his friend's daughter-in-law, who worked at the government office. Herbert's friend eventually received Christ.



My son-in-law, Jon Simpson, was able to make a friend of a shopkeeper in the city, who eventually began meeting with Herbert to study the Bible. Through this family, doors to an entire village have opened to Herbert. He wisely assisted the family to start a business producing honey, and just recently was able to obtain a house in the village that by the grace of God will become a retreat center. Miracle follows miracle in the opportunities God gives. There are English classes

for university and high school students and projects in the community. These classes and activities provide ministry opportunities for teams from El Salvador and the United States, which are a big part of the impact the gospel makes in people, one life at a time. While we were there, a team of six were visiting from El Salvador. They were people we knew from years ago and very dear to us. They plan on returning next year with more teams, especially Christian doctors who Herbert knows, and who could very well capture God's vision for this city and provide additional support for the many projects planned.



While Cheryl and I were visiting, we met so many different people who Jon and Kelly had befriended during their past visits to the city. We had dinner with a medical student, visited a



pharmacist friend, went with Herbert and the school director to visit and help provide wood to a widow, and had a meal in the home of the family of the shopkeeper Jon had befriended. Herbert has called Jon and Kelly "my billboard" walking through the city.



Herbert ministers with two other families on the "team". One family is from El Salvador and plans to work in the future with the gypsy community, called "Romas". The other family is from the United States. Cheryl and I had the opportunity to dine with each family and share our hearts and experiences with them, encouraging them and ministering to them in Spanish and English. On Sunday, I preached in English at the public service the team sponsors, to which other missionaries of the city came to worship, as well as friends of Herbert who visited from a neighboring country and worshiped with translation.

Halfway through our three-week visit with Herbert, Cheryl and I went with Kelly for a five-day visit to Romania, having been invited by Francisco and Martita Berrios. The Hope Baptist Church in Rostov, where Francisco is one of the pastors, has doubled in size from a year ago. On Sunday I had the privilege to preach in Spanish while Francisco translated into Romanian! The worship was full of spiritual joy and hope, honoring Christ. Two people gave their hearts to Jesus. The brothers and sisters were open and warm. It was a very encouraging experience for me personally. We were able to spend a few days reminiscing and catching up on their lives and ministries, as well as visiting some very interesting and beautiful sights. It was a time to speak into their lives with counsel and prayer.



We then returned to Herbert and Patricia for a few more days of ministry together. Cheryl taught Patricia and the other ladies how to make soap, a craft they were wanting to learn. I preached again at their service, and we were soon on our flight back to the States. We returned committed to

PO Box 26155 Birmingham, AL 35260-0155 • 205.979.2400 • [info@world-reach.org](mailto:info@world-reach.org) • [www.world-reach.org](http://www.world-reach.org)

continue to assist both families as much as we can, as they both are approaching the same decision we made 12 years ago, to return to their children and grandchildren in the States and continue to minister to the Lord. We will give them all the support and counsel we can.

I am praying for God's leading in our lives for the future. Here at home, there are still opportunities to be a servant to the Lord in the Hispanic community. I am also praying for God's leading to the specific ministry He has prepared for me here. We continue our weekly Zoom meetings with a Salvadoran family. Cheryl continues her discipleship ministry with ladies. Thank you for your prayers for us. We are well. It has been a very difficult year for us in many ways. Both of my parents, who I was watching over and caring for, passed away in July. They died within three weeks of each other. Cheryl had a terrible bout with what appeared to be COVID. However, the Lord has given us the assurance of His providential care. We are trusting Him for all things, including our immediate and distant future. May God bless and keep you always. We are

Yours for Souls,

Hal and Cheryl Large

