



## *Hal and Cheryl Large*

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

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My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Rarely does the hidden world, unseen by physical eyes but ever-present, have its cloak removed, to appear before us in all its splendor and horror. Such has been the world's experience during the past two years of unanticipated and unwelcomed shaking of what was assumed to be unmovable: our freedoms, our future, and our faith. The shaking revealed the strengths and the weaknesses of our life's foundation. There is a good purpose in every jolt, for it is God's hand that is shaking this world. It is God who removes the cloak to reveal the splendor and horror of the true condition of our heart. He is seeking us, shaking us, that we might seek Him and be saved from our sin. There is but one unmovable Rock on which to build our life. That Rock is Jesus.

In the midst of tribulation and uncertainty, there is a refuge and a fortress for us. King David, who knew of the evil of man and of this world, also found in God his salvation. He wrote in Psalm 91: "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.'"

Not everyone has found this "secret place" or is even looking for it. However, when the shadow of the hawk comes across the chicks in the open field, they run for safety under the wings of the Father hen. If not, they will die. David continues: "Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday."

I thank God for His salvation. I thank Him for His shaking, because it is His call to come to Him and be saved. In this present time of raging evil and tribulation, I cannot step out of the shadow of His presence or away from the cover of His wings. He spreads them over everyone who seeks Him. He reassures His chicks of His love and protection. His commands are to be obeyed. In my submission and obedience to Him, I find courage to live and not fear, to love what is good and to hate what is evil.

Since our return from El Salvador, we have also had times of shakings and change. We first established ministries to the local Hispanic communities through English as a Second Language classes (ESL), both in churches and schools. When it was apparent to us that our financial support from churches was disappearing, I applied and was accepted by World Reach to have a part time position with the mission. I sought employment as a substitute teacher in our local school district, and continued ESL classes during evening sessions, while ministering on weekends.

I was able to become a certified teacher for the Dual Language program of the Kennewick School District, teaching ELA and history in Spanish to sixth graders. This put me in direct contact with hispanic children and their families on a daily basis. I brought God into my classrooms, teaching my children they were made in the image of God and presenting to them, by what we read and studied, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We read, studied and discussed the books of Heidi and The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. I was able to connect with their parents, some of whom had been in my ESL classes. During six years I brought, by the grace of God, the life and faith of Jesus to these children - and to my fellow teachers and staff, while continuing to minister some evenings and weekends.

A fellow sixth-grade teacher, Ronda, who is in her sixties and retired this spring, called me in my classroom last year at the end of a school day, desperate. She was full of such anger, bitterness, and frustration for the overwhelming events in her personal and professional life that she was at the breaking point. She had turned to Buddhism, but she knew I was a believer and a friend. She said, "Can I come to your classroom after school today?" I listened to her with my heart and she asked me to pray for her. I prayed in the Spirit for her and at the end she said simply and sincerely: "I'm empty." All the rage and desperation were gone. She was at peace, and she left. The next day, her co-worker (they are science teachers), a Christian, wrote to me asking what had happened to Ronda. The change was dramatic. Ronda wrote to me later: "I can no longer run from the God I denied."

In February of this year, I retired from teaching. I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and appreciation from students and staff. Former students heard I was retiring and looked me up at school or spoke to me when we met in the community. Fellow teachers told me they were emboldened to speak openly of their faith in the classroom and to stand for godly values. It has been a most rewarding experience for me personally and I am so grateful to God for having opened that door of ministry.

All during my time at the Kennewick School District, I was involved in personal ministry to Hispanics, both in my community here and in El Salvador. Now that I am retired, I hope to continue that ministry. We have a Zoom meeting with a Salvadoran pastor and his family every Sunday with praise and teaching. Cheryl has a group of ladies she is in contact with each week. My heart still burns for God's call on my life to minister to the Spanish-speaking community. I am praying for the next open door that God will show me. I am also in a time of transition in regards to my parents.



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World Reach  
P.O. Box 26155  
Birmingham, AL 35260-0155



One of the main reasons I retired from the classroom was to attend to the needs of my parents. I was continually being called out of the classroom to go to the emergency room or to attend to a need that they had. My father has advanced Alzheimer's disease and is in a specific care facility for his condition. My mother has advanced Parkinson's disease, and lives in a separate care facility. I am the only sibling who lives in the area. In the last month, both my parents entered into hospice care. Many days are filled just caring for them. I am also trying to put in order our little two-acre "hobby farm" with our goats, chickens, and gardens. I just turned 70 this year, so in many ways this is a transitional time - a shaking. However, we are called to dwell "under the shadow of the Almighty". (Psalm 91)

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for receiving this letter all the years of our service to the Lord and praying for us and our family. I hope to be sending one out more often. One can never "retire" from ministry. It is our call to God and to His mission. I will continue to pursue Him and follow His call on our life. I ask you to pray for me as I consider where God would use me specifically here and abroad. I ask for your prayers as I attend to my parents' needs as well. In every transition I know one is called into the presence of God for good. As David states in Psalm 91, "I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.'"

Yours for souls,  
Hal Large