



Hal & Cheryl Large
Serving in Chimaltenango, Guatemala
July 2024

Dear Praying Friends,

I am greeting you from our new home in El Tejar, Guatemala, just outside the city of Chimaltenango, about 15 miles (and 45 minutes by car) from the capital city of Guatemala. We arrived at the end of January. As we have moved to a country and city totally new to us, we are currently in the process of making a home here (we're still in culture shock 😊); getting residency; setting up banking; utilities; licenses; making friends; getting to know churches; choosing a church to be part of; connecting with pastors and leaders; encouraging and praying with those growing in Christ; and learning to abide in Christ, His Spirit, holiness, and fear. It's the race that God has set before us to be run with endurance, looking unto Jesus, by faith, in Spirit, joy, and hope, knowing we are in the last days.

We are walking with Christ, being transformed into His image by hearing, reading, and meditating in His Word, repenting, believing and learning. We are forming close relationships with our pastor, Luis, a man my age, with his wife, Lili, and their two grown children. Their son, Tito, is also a pastor in the church. Tito, with his wife, founded and direct a Christian school, which they began by tutoring children who lived at the city dump. Luis and Lili's daughter, with her husband, founded a home for girls, wards of the state. These girls are being cared for and healed by the power of the gospel of Jesus. The church, which Luis started 17 years ago, Iglesia Senderos de Amor (Paths of Love Church), is founded on obedience to the Word and the practice of daily prayer. It is a community of people "Blessed to be a Blessing" as is their motto. It serves weekly in the hospitals, provides meals to the aged, visits homes, has weekly evangelistic events, and is being a blessing in ways I am still learning about. Six daughter churches have been started. Luis and Lili opened their hearts to us and, listening to the Spirit's voice, we invited them to our home, desiring also to be blessed and to be a blessing to the people in our new home country.

We are doing the same with Ramiro, a contractor I hired to build a rainwater harvesting system for our property. We both recognize the miraculous circumstances God used to bring us together. Two years ago, Ramiro came back to Jesus after 14 years walking lost and wayward. He is passionate and consumed by the desire to follow Jesus with his whole heart, evangelizing, serving, growing, repenting, restoring, and walking in the Spirit of God. Ramiro and his wife Olivia were baptized last year and married in the church last January after living together for 15 years. We went to their house to visit and again to celebrate Olivia's birthday, where we were able to meet her family and share the gospel of Christ. They come to our home, and we go to theirs that we might be a blessing and encouragement to each other.





We are also getting to know our neighbors who know the Lord. We visit and pray with them, and give and receive encouragement and instruction from the Word. Our daily prayer is to walk in the Spirit of God as His servants. It wasn't our plan, but it certainly was God's plan to bring us to a small expat community of six homes, built on a coffee finca overlooking Chimaltenango. Each family is involved in Christian ministry of some kind here in Guatemala.

- One is a widower of 85, Wilfred, who has been associated with a Bible Seminary in town, established 100 years ago.
- Another is a widow, Deidra, with two teenage daughters, who administers a large ministry involving a Christian school, medical clinic, church, and English Academy.
- Kirk and his wife, Michelle, are our immediate neighbors. Kirk, with his son-in-law and daughter, has a ministry receiving over 20 short-term mission teams each year from the States. In coordination with local pastors, the ministry provides basic housing, VBS programs, food distribution, and clinics during the week the team is in town.
- Terry, who lives in the house right below us, is retired and spends six months a year in Guatemala and six months in his home in Mobile, Alabama. He hosts many special events in his home in support of local churches in the area.
- Finally, Paul, who is also from Alabama, is 91 years old and a widower of the lady whose son now owns and runs the coffee finca.

We come to this community of believers, sharing with them the same challenges of life, which can only be overcome by an authentic faith and walk in Jesus. We, who have been blessed in Christ, come to be a blessing to our neighbors who share a knowledge of our Lord Jesus.

We have also had the blessing of receiving in our home different friends from El Salvador and family from the States. Our daughter, Kelly, with her husband, Jon, have been here visiting. Last week our daughter Christy and granddaughter Natalia was here for a week. Next week, dear friends from El Salvador will spend a few days with us. We hope our home can be a place of spiritual refuge and refreshment in the Lord. We have been blessed so much according to our spiritual and heavenly inheritance in Christ, that we might live in the life and authority of Christ and be a blessing here on earth. We all know how the world is being broken under the weight of sin and death. It is our prayer that we might see and hear the cry of souls and as servants of Christ, live and speak the gospel.

Thank you for your prayers. Please pray that we may be a blessing to others as we are in this process of plugging into the new life to which God has called us. There is no mail service in Guatemala. We have no mailing address. However, you can write us at hlarge@world-reach.org or call/text me for free using WhatsApp at +502 3059 4668. We are:

Yours for Souls,

Hal and Cheryl