



WORLD REACH®

Taking Christ to the Nations

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Hal & Cheryl Large

Serving the Lord in Guatemala

Dear Praying Friends,

Jesus never promised us a life without suffering, pain and sorrow. On the contrary, he has promised that all his followers will suffer persecution. "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you." (John 15:20) Jesus is not only speaking of those with flesh and blood, but also of the wicked and unclean spirits of darkness. We often read the descriptions of the Christ's suffering in Isaiah 53: "despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief"; however, it is the privilege and experience of Christ's followers to suffering the groanings of a lost and corrupted world and that of our own body of dying flesh. "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy." (1 Peter 4:12,13) Christ was perfected "through sufferings." (Hebrews 2:10) So too are His followers. It is the opportunity to die to ourselves, to embrace the cross in fact. The harassing neighbor, insulant child, impatient spouse, and arrogant demeaning boss are all instruments of God to bring us to humility. Into our heart, broken to the place of meekness, God will pour out the abundance of His grace for our obedience and eventual exaltation in the time He has appointed. By a choice of faith, a prayer of help and a confession of weakness, we are perfected in our practice of Christlikeness. "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.'" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

The thoughts I have been sharing with you have much to do with the events taking place both in our life and in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. The excruciating pain that Ramiro, of whom I wrote last time, has no cure by medicine or medical care. Ramiro is a man of 38, who worked extremely hard as a mason since he was 13, wearing out the disks of his spine, which now resembles that of an 80-year-old. Man can do nothing to help him. But he embraces, in steadfast faith, God's promise of daily grace for the perfecting of his faith, as he is drawn into the loving embrace of His Savior. His joy does not come from any other source than the peace of submissive obedience to the will of His Sovereign Lord. He labors daily in the evangelistic ministry to which God has called him as he works to support his family. It is God who receives the glory, even as he suffers.

Benjamin Santy is the pastor of the little church that we attend. He too is 38 years old, single, a musician, architect and pastor. He is also diabetic. Sometime during the month of March, his big toe was injured. He spent almost three weeks trying to cure the injury until he returned to his parent's home in Guatemala City the first part of April. By this time the infection was very severe and was not responding to the doctor's treatment. He finally went to the emergency room of the public hospital on the 18th of April. The next day his leg had to be amputated above the knee. The grace of God literally descended upon Benjamin. He is trusting God to work all things for good according to the purpose God has for his life. Each time I speak to him by phone, he is living in hope, surrendered to God and looking for how his life might be used for His glory. He has already been used to bring another patient to faith in Jesus. He is encouraging others who have lost hope, having lost a leg, to find life and purpose in God.



Benjamin is now living with his parents in Guatemala City, an hour and a half away from where we live in Chimaltenango. However, the members of the church are constantly communicating with him and supporting him. They are stepping up to take more and more responsibility for caring for the church and reaching our community with the gospel. A special evangelistic event, a dinner conference for couples, which had been planned with



Benjamin, was prepared and executed by the church members. As Benjamin lay in the hospital, the young people decorated the church, set up tables and served the meal. Couples known by the members of the church were invited. The special speaker was welcomed, and a book table of Bibles, hymnals, and Christian literature was set up. The gospel was

preached and each couple was invited to dedicate their lives to God and to each other. Over 50 people were in attendance, including Benjamin's parents, who attended while their son was recovering from surgery.

Two weeks later, the young people, who meet on Tuesday evenings, had a special evangelistic event, meeting around an outdoor fire for a time of song, testimony, and sharing the gospel.



Again, the whole church gathered in support, and many unsaved people were present. On the last Saturday of May, the church will be going door-to-door with tracts and invitations for our neighbors. In times of prayer in each service. We are seeking the Lord in submission and faith, brave and bold in the Spirit's filling. I am

bringing the messages on Sunday and Wednesday until Benjamin returns.

Benjamin will need six months for his leg to heal enough to be fitted with a prosthesis. It may be months until he can travel to Chimaltenango from Guatemala City. Members of the church and friends visit him in his parents' home, and we are calling him and praying for his physical recovery.

Thank you for your prayers for us. We are here according to God's call and ask for your prayers that we be filled with the Holy Spirit to speak bravely and boldly by Him.

We are Yours for souls,

Hal and Cheryl Large



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