



Greetings from Guatemala! Hal & Cheryl Large

Dear Praying Friends,

God is faithful to His Name: Creator, Holy, Good, Almighty, Merciful, Righteous, True. He is Love. He is Just. He is Life. Because of the Love of the Father, we have a Savior, Jesus Christ. Because of our Savior, we have grace. Because of the Holy Spirit, that grace comes to us through repentance and faith (2 Corinthen 13:14). We live "in Christ".

I did not completely understand God's purpose or plan when I came to Guatemala. All I knew was that He brought us here for life and not death. And that life comes "in Christ" through the communion of the Holy Spirit. In Christ, I have Christ's life, through the death of my own life, in the flesh.

Since April, Benjamin, the pastor of the little congregation near our home, which we had joined, could no longer attend to Christ's flock. His leg was amputated because of diabetes. He was still called by God to pastor this flock, but he was physically unable to be with God's people. He asked me to care for them until he could return. Under the Spirit's direction, I began to preach the Word, Sundays and Wednesdays. God led me to Romans chapter eight, which became a wellspring to teach God's people what we have been given "in Christ". We learned that, even as Christians, our soul/spirit/ heart must dwell in this physical body of flesh, in which the law of sin and death also dwells (Romans 7:18-21). We are released from its corrupting influence when we physically die. However, "the law of the

Spirit of life, in Christ Jesus, has set me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2). "In Christ", we can now, in obedient faith, "not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:4). God, in Jesus, "condemned sin in the flesh" (Romans 8:3). Jesus condemned or broke and judged the law of sin and death. In Christ, I can now, walking in the greater "law of the Spirit of life, in Christ Jesus", fulfill the "righteous requirement of the law" (Romans 8:4). I do this, not by trying harder. I do this simply by walking with Jesus in His Spirit, abiding in Him, resting in Him. For almost eight months, twice a week, I have brought this message to God's people. It has transformed my own life.



When Benjamin asked me to teach, I was clear with him that God had also given me a ministry to perform with my wife, Cheryl. Her health has deteriorated to the point that she is unable to care for the preparation of food and the keeping of the home. I am her caregiver. I am called to provide for her physical needs. She rarely has the strength to travel anywhere by car or even sit in a normal chair or climb stairs. She is in constant physical pain.

And so, I prepare a message and, twice a week, bring it, by the Spirit, to God's flock. We pray for the recovery of our pastor. I also care for Cheryl. This is our life, and it is good, "in Christ". Cheryl is in constant fellowship with God the Father, in the grace of Jesus, through the communion of the Holy Spirit. She is at peace. She ministers His Life and Word to friends and family daily. I can minister God's Word to a little group that would have scattered if God had not brought us here. God has, in His mercy and love, opened His Word to me for life in Him, in Christ. It comes to me by dying to myself and to the law of sin and death, which dwells in my flesh. It comes to me by living in the Spirit of Life.

Benjamin is now able to use crutches, as he builds his strength in preparation to be fitted with a prosthesis. It is a long, hard process, He is facing it with faith and hope in God. This month, he will return to the pulpit for the first time since April. However, he must continue to live at home with his parents in Guatemala City, until he fully recovers. I ask for your prayers for him and for God's people here in Chimaltenango.

In October, we celebrated the baptism of three dear members of our congregation.



Keila, who received Christ last year, and her mother, Julia were both baptized. Also, Byron, who was married to his young wife earlier this year, followed his Lord in baptism. The church celebrated this day, with many family members joining us, for a morning and afternoon retreat. In the service, which was held before the actual baptisms, the gospel was presented clearly to all who were present. That is why we came together for public baptism. That is why the church meets each week: to grow "in Christ" and then to preach the gospel by our life and word in our community.

Thank you for your prayers for us. In December, the church will have a special celebration for the children of our community and their families. May God be glorified as we walk in the light of the glory of Christ.

We are Yours for souls,
Hal and Cheryl Large

Would you partner to provide the support we must raise for the mission of World Reach to serve in Guatemala?

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- Make a check payable to World Reach and mail to the address below with a note indicating your preference for supporting "Large ministry"