

# Good Samaritan Baptist Mission

## *Going Home!!*



It had been one year since Stephany and I left our home in Comali, San Marcos de Colon, Honduras, to have my regular check up with the Oncologist. Feeling sure that we would only be away 2 weeks, we only packed a few things. When the cancer doctor told us, "Your cancer has returned," the emotions I felt are indescribable. One thing that has given me peace throughout the year of 2014 is the fact that I know without a shadow of a doubt that I am a child of God and that He knows all about this and has a purpose in what is happening in my life.

An entire year of chemo, radiation, chemo pills, but my heart ached to go back to Honduras. I was receiving calls almost daily from pastors and church members telling of God's blessings and many groups were visiting the field, and here I was staring at 4 walls and praying the Lord would let me return. In all of our 40

plus years of mission work, we had never been away from the field for an entire year.

November 19th, 2014, God answered our prayers and the prayers of thousands in Nicaragua and Honduras. In spite of the doctor telling me it was dangerous because of my immune system to make the trip, I felt peace in my heart and Stephany was counting the days.

In this letter I want to tell you about our trip. We were met at the airport by authorities in "high places" and we went through immigration and customs in about 10 minutes. It seemed like everyone was waiting for us.

We spent two nights in Tegucigalpa to renew my residence, being pushed around the supermarket in my wheelchair, buying groceries for the large group of 34 coming from the states on Saturday. We even went to a large toy store to buy toys for the Opportunity Christmas children.



On Friday, we left for home in Comali. I had heard no talk or plans of anyone being there to meet us but as we neared our home we saw people on the highway in front of our house, then our school band started playing. All of our high school seniors, plus several teachers and friends, all with balloons and welcome signs were waiting for us. Not many of our people have ever seen me cry but my emotions fell apart. I cannot explain how I felt. It made me think of Heaven and how that reunion must be like one day.



The group came in on Saturday and every day was filled with blessings. Most had come because their Opportunity child was graduating but there were activities planned day and night. I didn't go to all the services and baptisms but I was able to go to every graduation. I had not felt so good in months. I had more energy, I had no asthma and no problems with my breathing. I usually got up very early, sat on my front porch and just rejoiced in God's beautiful creation.

The pictures will tell the rest of the story. 10 very, very special days the Lord gave me.

Sunday morning, Nov. 23 - Over 2000 people in attendance at our Bible Institute graduation. Eight pastors were ordained and as all the pastors from Honduras and Nicaragua marched in, I thought of Bob's prayer some 44 years ago when he looked out the window and saw thousands on their knees following behind idols. He said, "Lord, what can one man do to reach multitudes living in complete darkness?" He said it just seemed like the Lord answered by saying, "One man can't, but an army can." We saw that army of pastors on that Sunday, November 23rd and more are graduating every year.



Monday, November 24th - 84 children graduated from 6th grade. It was a beautiful service and Pastor Stan Berrong from Glen Haven Baptist Church, brought a challenging message to the parents and friends who filled the auditorium.



Tuesday, November 25th - I could write a book about this day. We visited the High School when all the seniors were practicing for their graduation. Bro. Stan and I both spoke to the Seniors. Later a Christmas party was held for the elderly (thank you all who helped make this possible). They sang "One day at a time" which touched all of our hearts. At about 5:00 pm, we had our first kindergarten graduation of 34 children. Instead of calling a pastor to pray, a 5 year old opened in prayer. Then one of the 5 year olds welcomed everyone and to our amazement, another 5 year old translated in English. It was a long day for me but I went to bed with joy in my heart.



Wednesday, November 26th - The group visited the church in Duyure where 12 young people were baptized. Wednesday night was a special night held on the basketball court at our high school where our marching band and drama team performed. Then came the fireworks. It seemed the whole town was there - even people standing on rooftops.



Thursday, November 27th - The group visited our school and feeding center in Condega, Nicaragua. Then they had a service in the church at Yalaguina. Tim and Jody Preston prepared a delicious Thanksgiving supper with about 75 people feasting on turkey and all that goes with it. All of our office workers and some of the sponsored children and their families enjoyed this Thanksgiving meal.

Friday, November 28th - Another baptism in Yusguare, Honduras with 18 baptized. Then the big event that night with 101 students graduating from high school. Everything was so beautiful that I don't have words to describe.



Saturday, November 29th - The group leaves - everyone physically exhausted but spiritually revived. Stephany and I left a few hours later to Tegucigalpa to spend the night with Stevie to fly out on Sunday. It was so sad for me to leave but I left thanking Jesus for the precious week He gave me and PRAYING if it be His will that soon I can return.

On Monday, I started chemo again. My doctor sent me to a lung specialist, who just happened to be a member of Roopville Road Baptist Church who supports us monthly. He says the radiation has damaged a part of my lung and on the 18th I go for a scan to see the extent of the damage. Personally, I think the cool mountain air in Honduras would be the best treatment. I had no problem breathing in Honduras.

## *PROJECTS AND NEEDS*

**SAMARITAN RADIO** - I don't think anyone of us fully understand the impact the radio ministry is having or the outreach. On our way from Tegucigalpa to San Marcos, we were listening to a program called Hour of Prayer, where one phone call after another comes in from people asking for prayer. One call was from a man wanting to be saved. The pastor talked and prayed with him, and the very next call was from another man and I will never forget his words, "COULD YOU TEACH ME HOW TO PRAY. I HAVE NEVER PRAYED". Thank the Lord for SAMARITAN RADIO and for all of you who are helping us to send the Gospel into parts of at least 5 Central American countries. Samaritan Radio needs more support!

**KINDERGARTEN BUILDING** - In November I had the blessing of attending the MLC Ladies Retreat in Pigeon Forge. These precious ladies led by Mary Lynn Crider began the project of a kindergarten building close to our Grammar School and High School in San Marcos de Colon. These ladies have opened up their hearts and their pocketbooks to help us with so many projects and they have done it again by raising over \$15,000 so that our kindergarteners will have their own building. They donated the money last year for us to open the kindergarten and pre-k where 64 children have been taught in two borrowed classrooms. Now more applications are being received and we don't have room for all these children. We already have the land and the \$15,000 but we need more funds to be able to start this construction. If you could only have been present at our first kindergarten graduation, you would have seen just what one year has done in the lives of these little children. Whether talking or singing about Jesus, it comes from their little hearts. We don't have a firm budget yet, but we estimate that it will cost at least \$50,000 or \$60,000.



*New 320 foot radio tower going up in San Marcos de Colon, Honduras*

**NATIONAL PASTORS SUPPORT** - Just as prices are constantly rising in the United States, the same thing is happening in Honduras and Nicaragua. I could not believe how prices have gone up since I was there a year ago. It becomes more and more difficult for our pastors to be able to live on the support they are receiving. The new graduates will be starting new churches and this takes money for transportation and for their families to be able to live. We would like to see every pastor receive at least \$250 a month but very few of our pastors receive this amount. We have a Pastors Fund where the money is divided out at the end of each month to those who do not receive direct support. If the Lord should touch your heart to give to this fund, a pastor and his family would be blessed or if you want to correspond with a specific pastor, we would be happy to send you a picture and history of a pastor who needs your support.



We want to introduce to you Bro. Tim and Cindy Harris, faithful members of Lupton Drive Baptist Church in Chattanooga, TN, where Bro. Randy Bell pastors. God has put a love in Bro. Tim’s heart for Samaritan Radio and his desire is to visit churches and present the needs of Samaritan Radio and also other ministries of GSBM. Bro. Tim is willing to go anywhere and share his burden with you. God has touched his heart to be our representative here in the US. He will remain active in his own home church in Lupton Drive, but will be willing to visit any current supporting churches to update about the work or any new churches that would be interested in learning about GSBM. Above is Bro. Tim and Cindy’s prayer card if you would like to contact them.

In closing, I want to say once again that without you, our faithful prayer and financial supporters, this ministry would not be possible. I thank the Lord for you and it gives me great joy to know that one day you will be rewarded when you see all the souls in heaven who have come to know Christ because you have helped a child, a national pastor, the radio ministry, an elderly person, or someone like the man who called in to the radio station wanting someone to teach him how to pray. God keeps GOOD records and He knows the desires of our heart.

I know that many of you have suffered in 2014. You have lost loved ones or have been diagnosed with cancer or suffered some other tragedy. The only way we as Christians can get through these times is to “Trust in the Lord.” He knows what we are going through and He promises never to leave us or forsake us and He does answer our prayers in His time.

Our desire is that you have a wonderful Christmas and your hearts will be merry, knowing that you have brought so much happiness, joy and peace to others.

**JOAN TYSON AND FAMILY**

Salvation and Baptismal Report for Jan - Nov, 2014

- \*Honduras
  - Saved - 789
  - Baptized - 280
- \*Nicaragua - (thru Oct)
  - Saved - 1264
  - Baptized - 192
- \*Christian Schools
  - Saved - 66
- \*Samaritan Radio
  - Saved - 2445

Total Saved - 4564  
 Total Baptized - 472

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