

u... HIGHLIGHTS ...



u CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

CHILDREN SPONSORED TO DATE: 76
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A CHILD,
JUST GO TO THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE:
WWW.MEHONDURAS.ORG/CSP

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u Teams hosted by MEH this summer:

- Tupelo, Mississippi
- Rusk, Texas
- Gap Mills, West Virginia
- Jylland, Denmark



u WHAT'S UP WITH THE COFFEE SALES?

COFFEEONLINE - SALES DOWN
MANOS DE CAFÉ - SALES UP

**WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR
YOU TO BUY OUR
COFFEE?**

Westcott Newsletter

I HOPE YOU LIKE OUR NEW LOOK.
THIS SYMBOLIZES CHANGE AND THAT'S WHAT WE
SEE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

*I have been asked many times "What is it like to be a missionary?"
The answer continues to get more exciting and complex as we press
on toward the future.*

Looking to the future today...

It will be four years this September that Viola and I arrived here in Honduras with our suitcases in hand, lots of hope, faith and anticipation of God using us. We have gotten pretty comfortable since our early days of killing tarantulas and chasing mother-size cockroaches. As some of you may remember, our first years were a test of our faith and many opportunities to work on character building. (Character building lessons never seem to end.) Now we sit comfortably in our American-style home, administrating several of Manos Extendidas' mission programs. Real comfy at this point!

However, there is a stirring going on inside of me that just can't be shaken. It's like a whirlwind forming beneath my wings. I can see change coming on the horizon. It's a path I believe the Lord is setting up for us to walk on. It's a road we have not walked before in our journey of faith and obedience to Him. It's a little un-nerving and exciting at the same time. We are so settled and comfortable. Now uproot?

We do not have plans in place to make any move at this moment but only to pray and seek His face. I turned 50 years old earlier this year and the adventure is just beginning. We became grandparents this year as well.



Just_a_Thought

Ever think of going on a Sabbatical...from everything...to take time just to focus on you and what your life is all about? I say FROM everything because what we are trying to do is to get away from our routine responsibilities and get somewhere quiet so we can hear our own thoughts and of course hear the voice of the Lord. You don't have to be under the pressures of cross-cultural missions to have a need to get away for awhile. Sure a holiday does something for you but a SABBATICAL! Go on, go for it! Now your talking...



What I'm seeing from my research on burnt-out missionaries...

In this section of our newsletter, I will be giving our readers some insight into my findings on Missionary Attrition as I discover them from my various readings taken from two surveys conducted by the World Evangelical Alliance Missions Commission (WEA).

WEA launched a comprehensive study called ReMAP II earlier in 2003. While their previous research called ReMAP I (Reducing Missionary Attrition Project) focused primarily on missionary attrition and especially on personal reasons for their early return, ReMAP II centered on the flip side of the coin...what are the organizational factors that contribute to the longevity of missionaries?

Early on in my readings of the ReMap I report, I found myself looking up the word "attrition". Of course most of our readers probably know the definition but for the few of you like me who are somewhat limited in our vocabulary, here is the definition according to dictionary.com.

Attrition is:

1. a reduction or decrease in numbers, size, or strength.
2. a wearing down or weakening of resistance, esp. as a result of continuous pressure or harassment.
3. a gradual reduction in work force without firing of personnel, as when workers resign or retire and are not replaced.

Sorry, I don't mean to beat the definition to death but we just need to get that point. The way I figure it, nutrition is the opposite of attrition. One nurtures and provides sustenance and growth; the other slowly starves one to death. ReMap 1, from my point of view, successfully addresses the reasons this is such a serious problem in the world of missionaries worldwide.



Victory Christian Centre
Our Sendina Church

The issues that contribute to attrition are complex. Too complex to identify a simple solution that will fix all those affected by it's sting. For my purposes, I will be addressing the seven top reasons for attrition that was identified in the report, and hopefully during the course, shed some light on what you and I can pray about.

Seven Areas of Attrition:

1. a clear call from God
2. supportive family
3. spiritual health
4. cultural adaptation
5. good relationships
6. pastoral care
7. financial provision

A CLEAR CALL FROM GOD

Not everyone understands the dynamics that an individual or couple goes through to convince themselves that they are called by God. To stand in front of a church and pastor, and claim that you are called is somewhat presumptuous some would say...that you are better than the others, that you have this special thing going on with the Lord. You have been set aside to do the work of the Kingdom in a far off land - in cross cultural missions.

Well...yes, you have been called!

On a personal note, passing the test, the one the Lord put us through, qualified us for the mission we are in today. It is certainly a personal challenge to work out the calling the Lord has on ones life, and not all will answer that call. OK...fine...being a little crazy helps, but not if it means rushing into a foreign land and burning out. You have to make sure the church is behind you, covering your back.

The pastor and church leadership have to take a greater measure of responsibility when they acknowledge a person's call into missions. Dialogue, prayer, counsel and brute honesty are the ingredients that helps one along the path, allowing them to come to grips with a sure calling from the Lord. However, the bottom line often times is that it is that person's call personally. They are convinced themselves. And when someone says, "I have heard from the Lord", who am I to say anything different.

As you can see, proving one's call prior to the mission field can be a time consuming task, one that we, the church, too often fail to exercise.

Our personal thanks to Pastor Harold Andrews for taking the time to dig into our lives. He not only encouraged us, but also had us wait until he sensed we were ready to respond to God's CALL.

Praise & Prayer Requests

As always, our heart is filled with praise and thanksgiving for all who partner with us day by day with your prayers, finances, and words of encouragement. God bless you. We could not do it without each one of you.



- Divine protection from Dengue fever, a virus that is spread by mosquitos. There has been a concerted effort among government, health organizations and the general public to gain control over this growing problem.
- We need more laborers for the mission. i.e. the Child Sponsorship Program, and Manos de Café which is a fundraising project to purchase food for the children.
- Thanksgiving to the Lord for the safe arrival of our first grandson, Daniel Carl. He is our second grandchild. Our granddaughter, Ava Leona, was born in January. What a blessing it is to have grandchildren!



Hope (Wish) List

- Car repairs (Westcott's)
- Good vehicle (Manos)