

Dear Friends,

I am feeling a little like Charles Dickens these days: “These are the best of times and the worst of times”! On some levels (the overall situation in Honduras, for example), it seems as if the powder keg is about to burst, while on others (little Daniel’s amazing progress), the power of Jesus overflows. The result is the never ending search for the peace that passes all understanding.

I have been reading some very good books lately, speaking of “the best of times.” I always feel guilty about buying books because I have so many. However, I just got a small stack with our most recent group, and am feeling thankful that the Lord helped me choose so well for what my soul needs right now. For a long time I had been thinking about getting David J. Bosch’s *A Spirituality of the Road*. His *Transforming Mission* is a standard text for those of us who can’t breathe without our passion for mission. *Spirituality of the Road* is much shorter, but I almost put in on the same exalted level as Amy Carmichael’s *God’s Missionary*. While I don’t know that there needs to be a specific spiritual formation for missionaries, I do know that it has been helpful for me to read these books by missionaries for missionaries, especially since both Amy and David are confrontational in their call to us as cross cultural ambassadors of the Gospel:

*The temptation the missionary faces is the same as the one faced by Jesus: to be a popular Messiah, fitting the expectations of this world. In 2 Corinthians, however, Paul argues that true Christian spirituality is not to be found in the superhuman and the miraculous, but in the commonplace . . . Likewise, the criteria for missionary service and spirituality are not in magnificent and romantic accomplishments, but in ordinary daily existence. So Paul opposes the impressive arsenal of his opponents with down-to-earth weapons: patience, truth, love, weakness, service, modesty, and respect. Under no circumstances should people be bulldozed with the gospel, for it ceases to be the gospel when foisted upon people. It is possible to be unaggressive and missionary at the same time. It is, indeed, the only way of being truly missionary. (D. Bosch)*

Bosch’s text for this book is II Corinthians. I highly recommend the study for those who want something to challenge and encourage your calling. I have been dovetailing this study with a reading of Dallas Willard’s posthumously published *Living In Christ’s Presence*, and also his *The Allure of Gentleness*. They are perfect complements. Both Bosch and Willard eschew theological/doctrinal debates in favor of an incarnational lifestyle, plainly and consistently offered to a world that is hungry for peace and sincere love, integrity and holiness – followers of Jesus who speak with hands and feet, not seeking to have the right answer to every question, but rather to welcome all who are thirsty to God’s table.

On the home front, it continues to be a challenge to keep up with my wonderful, active, growing children! Daniel has made tremendous strides. He was actually eating French fries from a bowl the other day! And instead of hiding under a blanket, he now tears towards me in his walker and crashes into my chair, throwing his arms upward to be picked up and played with. ☺ He is a beautiful child:



Lety is still plugging away at her GED online preparation. Sallie and Lucy are on summer vacation, and grumpy about Mom's insistence upon a summer reading program. Elsa is in school (Honduran calendar) and doing very well. Mirza is at the top of her class, and Leila's grades have improved considerably this year. Sammy is finally getting some language! His favorite song is "Noah's Ark," in which each person chooses an animal to imitate. He has ALWAYS chosen the "pio-pios (chicks)," but last night he clearly called out, "burro!" We were all amazed. ☺ Mary is six months pregnant and struggling with gestational diabetes, but has been a real trooper about her insulin injections and special diet. We are a busy household, but I just thank Jesus every day "for holding everything together"!

On the ministry front, it is even harder to keep up with all that is going on. A few days ago we received in our safe house an 11-yr-old MOTHER of an infant baby. She had been sexually victimized by her stepfather since six years of age. He is now in jail, and she is finally FREE. Our safe house girls are doing so well! Two of them will be honored at our annual "quinceanos" service and celebration this Saturday. At fifteen, they have suffered deeply, but they are on a new path now. We are so thankful for their courage. Also being honored are Dulce and Leila.

We have over 250 children and young people in our school in Flor del Campo this year. An anonymous donor has made it possible for us to purchase another lot so that we can continue to grow our daycare and school. The new boys' cabin at the children's home is well on its way to completion, thanks to our summer teams. We have received several new children this year, so we are in need of the space more than ever. Some of the new children appeared in our celebration of "Indian Day" yesterday:



And big news at our chapel is that we have new pews!! Sorry to be so materialistic, but we really needed them:



Well, I could go on and on, and probably already have, but this is a bit of our news.

Thank you for your prayers and support. This Saturday I'm traveling to California to attend the Servant Partners' All Staff Gathering, which is held every two years. I'm always anxious to leave my family, but it will be good to hear what the Lord is doing around the world through SP, to worship and pray and study together. To sleep. Hahaha

Much love in Jesus,

Suzy