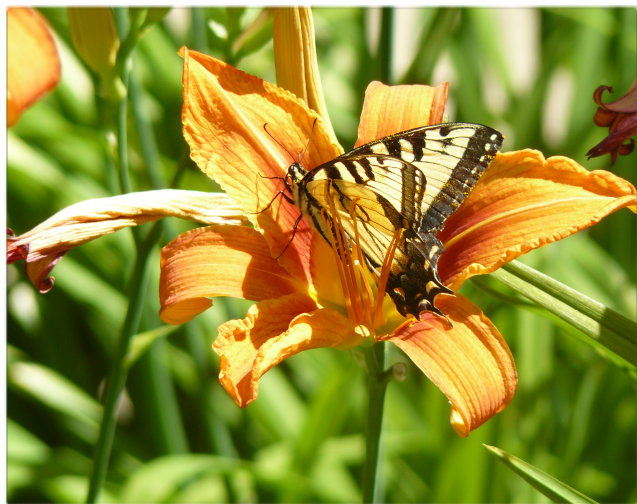


AUGUST

HONDURAN HORIZON

News, Stories, and Tales from Tegucigalpa

My sister-in-law, Bethany, saw this beautiful butterfly and encouraged me to take a picture. As many times as I scanned the flowers, I could not see it. Finally she took the camera and zoomed right in. I am so thankful for other sets of eyes in our lives. Think how much beauty we would miss!

from the field



here I go, again

Another year starts with less ado and more to do. Let me explain.

The first two years of ministry here were beautiful and busting at the seams with excitement and energy and... something inside of me that said it was mine. I struggled against the urge to take what God had faithfully started, and sometimes I lost. This year, I am more confident in God's sovereignty over all things. I am excited because I know He **is working**, not because I know He will use me. So, there is much work abounds and in His grace I take part!

five begin-agains!

1. The senior girls are excited for Bible study to start - which means I am twice as excited!
2. I took a break from reading and writing and it feels SO good to start again!
3. Micah Project - I've seen the boys and feel I've returned to another kind of family.
4. Guidance office - we will definitely be legit this year and this is professionally many steps up!
5. New staff - two words: united, blessed

vision

Love God. Love others.

My heart is to love the Lord with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love other (Deuteronomy 6 and Mark 12).

OTHER SETS OF EYES

Perspective is a trendy thing these days.

There is always an angle that, when discovered, causes post-modern, intellectual-types to scratch their chins and nod in amazement.

I wish we were less obsessed with perspective and more interested in Truth, because I do believe we can be blessed by what others see that we cannot or will not.

After a difficult year, this past summer was a healing balm to my weathered soul and a discovering of perspective. The first morning I woke at my parents' home, I made myself sit on the patio and feel the full shock of stillness. I was almost literally made to lie in green pastures and allow God to find rest for my soul.

I'd like to picture myself skipping into that pasture in a summer dress with a picnic basket in a "Sound of Music"

kind of way. But, I know the way I arrived was limping, confused, and weary. I am so thankful for the way God covered me with rest.

Sometimes, when we open ourselves to this covering, this God-designed rest, we are more willing to receive instruction, encouragement, and even rebuke.

Our realization that we are only qualified **in Christ** to do anything good allows us to release our selfish attachments to the ministries to which we've become so completely involved and hear from our brothers.

If a soldier leans over and says, in the urgency of the raid-battered trenches, to a comrade, "I am sure we will see victory." It's absurd and his "perspective" seems misplaced.

But, if a soldier says this same thing while retired around a campfire in the safety of a still night, the comrade receives it quite differently.

continued on page 2

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Maybe it was a good first impression or exemplary classroom work or perhaps a good conversation... whatever it was, the students featured in this section stand out.

Vivian is my neighbor. She walks to my house and I walk to hers. We bake together and muse over films and books. We questions things together and we laugh at all the silly ways the world doesn't make sense.

I admire Vivian for her courage to face brokenness in her life. Her eagerness to find Truth and allow me to participate in that search has led to a bond deeper than I can express. I am so thankful for her genuine heart and sensitive spirit. I also appreciate the grace she allows for all

Vivian Martinez

the ways I fumble around and mess up and look a fool.

If I want to be around someone who considers every angle, I'll call up Vivian. I hope and pray that this year we might examine some of the deeper questions together and that I might be an encouragement as she faces this broken life.

OTHER SETS OF EYES

Thankfully, God has designed times of rest, apart from the battlefield, to revive our spirits and to receive the message of His sovereign control over all things - even the messiest of battles. How much more so should we be encouraged to hear of **God's** sure victory?

In the cloak of the warm Iowa sun, I received these words from my comrades of the good fight. I drank in the instruction, encouragement, and even rebuke knowing that my Gospel-readiness would depend on these

lessons learned alongside the quiet stream of rest.

In the same way, I came back with a refreshed vision for my time here in Honduras - that I might serve as the "other set of eyes" for some of my brothers and sisters serving here courageously for the cause of Christ.

As the urgency increases for the Gospel to be spread, so does the danger and it is my hope that I can be sensitive to God's leading to know who might be resting and in need of this Truth:

In the end, God wins.

THAT'S WHAT I READ...

trying to learn from those faithful who have gone before

"We must shake off our fear of this world -- the cause of Christ is at stake, and are we to be found sleeping? ... Christ is looking down at us and asking whether there is anyone left who confesses faith in Him."

-from a letter written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer to Henry Louis Henriad, the Swiss theologian who headed the ecumenical World Alliance. Bonhoeffer would lead the movement called the "Confessing Church" that broke away from the German Church in Hitler's rise to power.

what I do

guidance counselor positive reinforcement

This year I am so excited to announce the addition of Bryan McNeil to the Guidance Office! He and his wife Kimberly moved here with their three girls from Seattle, Washington to serve at Pinares. Bryan brings over 10 years of experience to the department and I have been learning so much already. I can't wait to work together this year to serve the students in the best way!

service coordinator Hands and Feet

Over the summer, I was in communication with MariaJose about the plans for the service organization in the high school. Her passion and vision were contagious and before I even returned, I was excited to serve her and support the plans God had given her to grow a heart for service at the school. Pray with us that we would seek Him and know His plans will succeed!

mentor Bible Study/Discipleship

We have already had our first Bible study and with a great turnout! I could hardly tear the girls away from the materials I brought. Finally, after three years, it seems we might have reached a place where we can dig into the Word together, share in fellowship, and ask the hard questions.

servant Manos Extendidas, Micah Project, AFE

I can only say I am excited to see what the Lord does this year!

photo galleries

3

Instead of the bullet points that have started to fill this space, I am excited to share some of the pictures that capture the last couple months. I am so thankful for the time I was able to spend in the quiet countryside at my parent's home and also in the company of friends. God, in His grace, allowed me a beautiful time of refreshment and fellowship. Here are some of my photos during that time.

PHOTO GALLERY for june



photo gallery-july and august



prayers and praises

- PRAISE for the beautiful and restorative time spent with community over the summer-truly a blessing I'll not forget!
- PRAISE for a new staff that is united in purpose and vision this year. We are seeking the Lord both as a community and in personal quiet times. The atmosphere is one of great expectation and for this I am so grateful!
- PRAISE specifically for Jenna Jaunich, who was added to the Spiritual Life department. Her excitement and energy is a huge blessing and the students are responding to her genuine heart to serve them.
- Continue to PRAY for wisdom in knowing how to battle the crafty and deceptive ways of the devil. Pray for Truth and the authority of Scripture to be our guide.
- PRAISE for the generous contributions of my faith family in Atlantic! I am able to enter this year with a working car and with all the materials (including baking supplies for hosting my girls!) I need. Thank you so very much for the ways you bless me! I am humbled and encouraged by your support.

contact info

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www.musingsinmontage.wordpress.com

Check the blog for frequent posts - I try to write something daily or at least on a regular basis.

If you want to send mail, send it by Airmail and packages MUST be under 4 pounds. Packages over 4 lbs. can be sent by private carrier.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT

I'm going to try to publish what I've raised and how it is spent - wish me luck and please give me grace! If anyone has a simple missionary budget template, let me know! This current summary begins after the mission dinner, so it does not include the church support out of the annual budget.

I know it might be confusing, but it is easiest for me to explain my income in this way: with the salary given by the school, I am able to make payments on my school loans and pay for utilities. In making those payments, it is impossible to be involved in life and ministry. I am ever-grateful for your support in making this possible.

DATE	RAISED	SPENT	CATEGORY
7/13/10	\$850		
8/1/10		\$75	books and materials
8/11/10		\$50	travel expenses, extra baggage
8/24/10		\$250	car repairs and gas
9/1/10		\$100	paint for office and general supplies for the year
	Balance	\$375	

If you feel God leading you to support me financially, you can make a check out to Evangelical Free Church with my name in the memo line.

If you feel led to support me through prayer, there are prayer cards available at the church or also by mail (please email me if you are interested).

If you feel led to support me through the ministry of mail, please see the address above!

*Address:
Evangelical Free Church
East 22nd Street
Atlantic, Iowa 50022*