

OCTOBER

HONDURAN HORIZON

News, Stories, and Tales from Tegucigalpa



It felt only fitting that a photo of a boat would accompany an article about the Savior being the pilot in my life.

Even more fitting is this little fishing boat named, "Sophia," which means wisdom.

from the field



and so it goes...

In this, my third year in Honduras, you might think I would be more on my "A game." You might assume I know my way around the crazy streets, have resolved all car issues, and can filter student to make an organized mess. Well, your assumptions would be extremely hopeful and I would ask you to aim... lower. If your expectations include my bumbling with language, making a fool in front of students and parents, and jumping from one crazy car story to another... then I would measure right up!

'tis the season - THANKS

- growing deeper relationships
- laughing uncontrollably
- baking with friends
- worshipping with the Micah boys
- watching passion light a fire in students' eyes
- mornings/afternoons of conversation over coffee
- sweet peace because God is faithful!

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).

JESUS, SAVIOR, PILOT ME

Maybe it's the early darkness in the evening or the brisk whip of the breeze. Maybe it's my imagination of ocean in the air or maybe it is because at this time of year we are all looking for a safe harbor. For whatever reason, my soul's compass is scanning the shoreline.

One of my favorite hymns in this season of life has become "Jesus, Savior, Pilot me." Whether I'm careening across a placid coastline in the early morning or waging war against waves in the middle night, my heart is heavy with need.

At times, it feels like I'm bailing out water in the middle of a downpour with a colander. Other times, I rush the bow to flail my arms wide, trying to take in all the beauty at once. What fails to change with emotions or season or temperament, is need.

If I've learned anything in my (just recently celebrated) twenty-six years

and in my two and a half years here in Honduras, I have certainly learned life is unpredictable. In so many ways, this unpredictability thrills me, like what a ship's captain must have felt at the start of a journey. This uncertainty also leads me, sometimes gasping for air, straight into a greater dependence on the One who holds all things together.

Reading through 1 Samuel has trained my eyes once again to see God's faithfulness illuminated against whatever treachery the high seas might heave my way. What I find so beautiful about both the song and the story of King David is very simple: history.

Every single day David crept about in the wilderness, hiding in caves and seeking refuge in foreign cities, God hemmed him in with *history*. From the intimate times in the mountains as a shepherd to the lop-sided duel with a giant, God's character remained perfect and unchanged. As David feared for his life and spears flew just shy of his ears,

(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.

Hilda, an eighth grader, waltzed into my office the other day and said, "Miss Nichols, I really like your blog."

Now, if there is a way to make me feel like a million bucks, it would involve showing up unannounced, like something I do, and mention my blog. But, that's not all. Hilda went on to compliment so many things about me that I didn't know what

Hilda Elvir

to do. I was literally struck speechless and almost felt awkward by the flattery. In her genuine, sincere, sweet way, she pronounced each compliment so matter-of-factly, all I could do was say, "You, my dear, are marvelous and I think we should hang out more often!" She's amazing.

JESUS, SAVIOR, PILOT ME

he was keenly aware of his need to depend on God and trust He would be faithful.

My favorite lines in the hymn are several verses down,

"Though the sea be smooth and bright,
Sparkling with the stars of night,
And my ship's path be ablaze
With the light of halcyon days,
Still I know my need of Thee;
Jesus, Savior, pilot me."

What David learned in his desperate days he brought with him into the calmer, halcyon hours. This lesson was a simple one of *history*.

In the same way that our need of a Savior never changes, God's place as Savior is forever.

God is ever behind and before us, not contained by time or our

understanding or physical place. God is altogether outside of the evil crashing up against the sides of our vessel, yet intentionally and intimately involved in our safe passage and final destination.

It is history that reminds us of God's gift of our beginning breaths, of our failure and God's faithfulness, of our rebellion and God's invitation to repentance. It is history that boasts the best and only hope in view of our ever-pressing need... a Savior.

I love these stories we carry around like mental felt boards, ready at any moment to reassure us of both our heritage and our inheritance. When we are caught unaware amid boisterous waves or settled back on our haunches, it is history that assures us that no captain ever possessed more power to truly say, "Fear not, I will pilot thee."

what I do

guidance counselor Honor Roll, programs, people

We are headed into second quarter with a record number of students on the Honor Roll list, which makes bosses happy! We are working on starting up some new programs and continue to make our presence known in the classrooms. I continue to find the most joy when I sit across from a student and trace back from the branches of anger and resentment to the roots of fear. I am not joyful because they are afraid, but because I can walk alongside them in their fear and point them to their only comfort in Christ.

service coordinator Hands and Feet

We successfully slept outside with anyone getting pneumonia! More importantly, we had an AMAZING event where social classes faded into the background and worship, fun, and fellowship happened to the glory of God. In addition, we raised almost \$2,000 for the Micah Project!

mentor Bible Study/Discipleship

Unbelievably joyful. Everything is certainly not going right in this category, but I could probably commiserate now more than ever before with mothers who love their kids so fiercely it's painful. Painful and beautiful!

servant AFE, mission trip

I'm so excited to get the Christmas boxes set up for AFE this year! We have mobilized the teachers and are more organized this year to go all out! I am so blessed to be used as a vessel for the Lord to bless others! I am also starting planning for the March mission trip. It's going to be an absolutely amazing time!

THAT'S WHAT I HEARD...

trying to learn from those faithful who sing

If it doesn't break, if it doesn't break, if it doesn't break

If it doesn't break your heart, it isn't love

No, if it doesn't break your heart, it's not enough

It's when you're breaking down with your insides coming out

That's when you find out what your heart is made of

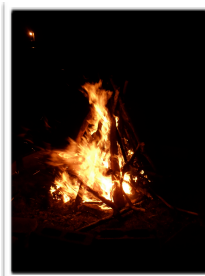
- from Switchfoot song, "Yet"

photo galleries

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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 October



Micah Project

I am constantly amazed and blessed by the work God is doing in and through the Micah Project. Here is a little blurb about some recent happenings, taken from their website: www.micahcentral.blogspot.com

This has been a busy and encouraging two weeks here at Micah Project. At the end of the last week, we were blessed to attend an informational event about street kids hosted by local bilingual private school. The school's aim was to teach their upper-class students about the realities of street life while looking to break through some of the class barriers that exist here in Honduras. It was a wonderful time of sharing and learning. The weekend just got better, as on Sunday we celebrated the baptisms of six of our guys! It was wonderful and encouraging to witness so many of our young men take an important and publicly proclaim their devotion to Jesus Christ!! Here are some highlights:

* The six baptized Micah guys

Miguelito, Axelito, Nelson, Miguel Fugon, Joel, and Yeison were all baptized two Sundays ago - and we had a large celebratory party that evening in the Micah house!! However, we also realize that our enemy will try to destroy these young men after they have much such a bold proclamation of their faith in Christ. Please hold each of them and their faith in prayer over the course of these next few weeks. We have already seen a large change in their lives! Also, please pray that us of the Micah staff have the wisdom to wisely guide and mentor each of them as they seek to become more like Christ!

* Axel Lopez and Cristofer

Both of these young men have had a very difficult year and are currently living outside of Micah House. Please lift both of them up in prayer as they struggle with myriad voices and influences telling them how they should live their lives. Please pray they will experience broken repentance that drives them to Christ and we will see the kind of change in their lives that allows us to bring them back into Micah and once again start their journeys forward.

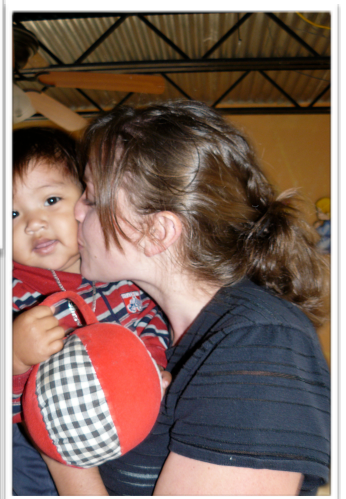
* Our Barrio

Crime continues to be an issue here in Barrio Buenos Aires, even to the point of forcing us to change our approach to personal security as we move about our neighborhood. Please pray for safety for us and the other residents of our neighborhood. Please also pray that we can be good witnesses of Christ in the midst of this darkness, that plans for Micah 2.0 would continue to move ahead smoothly and that our guys would remain safe in the meantime.

Written by David Hawthorne

Amor y Fe y Esperanza

I'm so excited to start the planning for our Operation AFE gift drive this year. Among the staff at Pinares, we are setting a goal to cover almost 140 students and their teachers at Amor y Fe y Esperanza this Christmas with our prayers and gifts. Here are some pictures from last year to get you excited for the joy that is to come!



prayers and praises

- PRAISE for a wonderful night at the SLEEPOUT - lessons learned and lives united in Christ!
- PRAISE for God's faithfulness in willing hearts - amazing conversations with students who want to step out and make a difference.
- PRAISE for the first steps of mission trip planning - may the Lord's name be praised even now!
- PRAISE the Lord because Louis (my car) is still working. Every day I am thankful for this blessing.
- Please PRAY for obedient hearts in students and staff to listen and respond to God's voice.
- PRAY for the ministries being blessed by God's movement through donations in the States.
- PRAY with me for specific girls who I am meeting with regularly who may or may not be children of God, but all need to be drawn into His presence. Please lift up these names: Victoria, Vivian, Alejandra, MariaJose, Daniella, Adriana, Elena, Diana, and Annelise.

contact info

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Blog:

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

Here I will publish what I've raised and how it is spent. The numbers are rounded because of exchange rates, but should give you an idea of what your contributions have been used for this month.

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 very basic living expenses. In making those payments, it is impossible to be involved in life and ministry. For this reason, I am ever-grateful for your support.

DATE	RAISED	SPENT	CATEGORY
10/1/10	\$850		
October		\$300	car maintenance, gas, new battery, emergency kit
10/8/10		\$150	student gatherings at my house, discipleship, personal outreach
10/12/10		\$200	Bible study materials, groceries
10/15/10		\$250	(year) gym membership
10/30/10	\$150		E. Free church support
	Balance	\$100	

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*