

RBW Reports

RBW Missions

Running into the Darkness . . . Or not?

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I'm writing this on Halloween, the day I hate most of the year. I hate the commercialism and hoopla around a "holiday" that honors things that are unholy at best and satanic at worst. Yes, I know all Christians don't hold such strong opinions about this day. I'm not trying to be offensive but honest, so that you understand the rest of the article.

So, as I was praying about what Gabe and I should do tonight, I decided we'd turn off all the lights, hide in the basement and watch a movie. Enrique is on his way to Mexico so we could just hole up and have a good time.

Or not!?! The Spirit of the

Lord boldly reminded me that we're not left on this earth to hide from the darkness, but to be lights in the obscurity. He didn't call us to hole up in the basement but to run into the darkness with His light shining brightly. Where would the Church of Jesus Christ be if the early believers had stayed in the upper room? If the pastors imprisoned in Nicaragua in the '80's had kept quiet? If the Chinese believers had stayed underground? If the woman who led Enrique to Jesus had closed her door when he knocked "looking for love in all the wrong places?"

I'm not comfortable in the darkness. I feel like a fish out

of water and sometimes, just plain defiled. But isn't the dark where the lost are? Didn't we all start out there? May we be people of valor who, in the power of the Holy Spirit, take the light of the Gospel—the Good News—into places where He leads us so that those blinded in the darkness may see the **LIGHT!**



Postscript: So, the lights were on, the tracts were stapled to the candy and we asked the Lord to touch each scary-costumed little child who came to our door with His love and truth. There were about 40!



Tidbits from Adopt-A-Pastor

- Over 60 pastors have been involved in the past eleven years with 30+ "graduating" from the program as their financial situation has improved and they no longer require the help.
- 21 new pastors will be ready to be adopted after the retreat.
- More than 200 children have been blessed by having their parents "adopted."
- Adopting a pastor starts at \$25, and may go up to \$75 a month.
- Adopters are asked to commit for one year and then they may renew each year.

Nicaragua Pastor's Retreat 2013

In a matter of days, we will be flying to Nicaragua for our 2nd Pastor's Retreat

for the Adopt-A-Pastor pastors. We're so thrilled to have Rev. Jose and Nora Rivera join us again to teach on marriage and family relationships. Rev. Ben Green will be our evening speaker encouraging the pastors to be strengthened today for the battles tomorrow. Oscar Chiquitó from Guatemala will instruct the pastors in Strategic Planning—helping their

churches reach their communities more effectively for the glory of the Lord. Enrique and I get to go along for the joy of it — and we'll be available to minister to the couples with prayer and counsel as the Spirit directs.

We're planning on 100 people this time, up from the 64 of 2010 and each one will be greeted by a gift on their pillow (thanks *Prairie Bible Church*), a quilt for those who haven't received one before

(thanks *Community Alliance Quilters*), and many other items sent by various ones of you dear partners. Pray with us for sweet times of refreshing and ministry to tired hearts. Thanks for all who have donated so far. Thanks Living Hope Alliance for a great chili fund-raiser. We're almost fully funded!



RBW Missions

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Funding Missions Worldwide

M4M is still going. The first donation will go toward buying rice for school meals in Nandaime. If you wish to donate \$1, go to our web page and click on the tab Millions for Missions.

rbwmissions.com

Crossing cultures to build the Kingdom

Partnering with the Sprenger Family as they serve at the Casa Hogar Oasis in Sabinas for 6 months

We're thrilled to be partnering with Phil and Marissa Sprenger and their children, Gideon, Lydia, and Moriah, as they seek to serve the Lord and the children at the Casa Hogar Oasis in Sabinas Hidalgo. Phil has traveled on two teams and Marissa, one, and the Lord touched their hearts with a desire to invest 6 months of their lives helping with tutoring, general maintenance, and some house parent relief services. For 10 years, we've waited and prayed, along



Gideon, Moriah, Lydia enjoying the friendship of Isabella and Katie and the new cat.

with Mario and Blanca, that the Lord would touch some team member's heart with a desire to live at the orphanage for an extended time, and now God has sent a family to do that. Remember to pray for them as they adjust to the setting, the language, the distance from family and all things familiar. Pray for protection, wisdom, discernment, grace, and patience.

Dividing our Time, Not our Hearts

There is a problem when a person has a divided heart. It tears us apart, distracts us, makes us fruitless. When King David wrote "Give me an undivided heart that I may fear your name." (Ps 86:11), he was asking for help, not from external enemies, but from his own inner sinful tendencies that would sap him of a full heart devotion to the Lord.

When we don't have a lot of mission teams scheduled, we start wondering about what God's thoughts are for RBW and what we're supposed to do. He always fills our time with avenues of service but we can become a bit perplexed about our "missionary call." You know the paradigm, missionaries go overseas to foreign lands and live in huts (or gated communities). Our call doesn't look like that. We live in a very modest (we call it "quaint") home in a very "normal" American neighborhood. Though we are missionaries, our mission field for most

of the year is right around us in west central Minnesota. Our town has almost 20,000 people, roughly 79% white, 16% Hispanic, and 5% African (mostly Muslim Somalis). 20% of the households speak a language other than English in the home. We're surrounded by widows, some couples living together with kids from various other relationships and single, divorced people. There are only two other traditional Dad-Mom-their-kids families within 2 blocks in any direction. Our town is a mission field that gets most of our time.

So, you may be asking, "why are you writing this?" Because we want you to know that as you pray for RBW and support the work with your donations, even though we're not always overseas, we're always on a mission. And we're thrilled to bring many



of you along with us on this "daily lifestyle of missions." Between last prayer letter and this one, God has given us opportunities to pray with many individuals, some who have asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior, others who had pressing needs. This has happened at our part-time work places, the local jail, various backyards, in ND at VBS Day camp, on the road between here and Mexico or SD or Minneapolis, in Guatemala, at coffee shops.

Our hearts are undivided no matter where the Lord puts us—undivided we will continue as "Repairers of Broken Walls" and messengers of His message of reconciliation.