

LIFE IN ACTION—REPORT FROM HONDURAS

JOSH, ABBY, GRACIE, AND ANA RATTIN
SERVING WITH ACTION INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

God continues to show us kindness as we seek to understand where God will have us serve in the future. Abby and I traveled to Honduras recently to a mission hospital in Balfate, Honduras, to see if God would want us there. The answer turned out to be no and God closed some doors. We had a wonderful time, however, as we were privileged to be able to connect with the missionaries serving there. We stayed with the Greens, a couple who are also serving with Action International and were encouraged by them.

In the meantime we continue to give our attention on Latin America, but ACTION is also looking beyond to other areas of the world (Africa, Philippines, etc.) for our assignment. Our heart is to serve wherever God can best use us. My primary focus continues to be on pastoral training and Abby on being a mom and working with special needs children and other medical needs where they fit the context.

Is a trip such as we had *unsuccessful*? I don't think so. **Finding God's will is more about seeking His revealed heart and purposes – all of which are found in His word. As our heart delights in God's word and is bent toward His will, we make decisions and step out on faith. We trust God to be Himself – the sovereign, loving, wise, and good God and our Father. Sometimes He doesn't let us know why He uses us in a particular place... but we**

can rest assured that it is for a good reason.

This is what the Apostle Paul told the Philippian church while He was in prison and no longer able to continue evangelizing freely (Phil. 1). The Philippians seemed worried about him and his ministry. **Is it failing? Is this a waste of the great Apostle's abilities and gifts? Should they rejoice or worry? Paul's answer was that they should rejoice because his chains were identified with Christ. Even for the great apostle Paul, purpose, success, significance and joy are bound up in the faithful demonstration of the truth of Christ in any circumstance. It does not say that the jailors became Christian, but it does say they recognized Paul's chains were for Christ, and in that he rejoiced. When Paul says a few verses later that to live is Christ and to die is gain, he means that if he is released from prison alive or by death, he wins because he knows he has been faithful to his calling. Our focus then, is on faithfulness to demonstrate the truth and sufficiency of Jesus, not success as the world would evaluate it.**



PLEASE PRAY...

- ◆ As we continue to seek God's face and live for Him now and wait on Him. It is easy to get caught up planning a future that might or might not ever be, while neglecting the present responsibilities God has placed in front of us. Pray that we will be faithful to show Christ in our family and church as we seek His will for the future.
- ◆ Guidance as we seek wisdom in selecting our field of service, continue preparing ourselves for the mission field, and prepare our family for full-time missionary service.
- ◆ Wisdom as we jump into support-raising in earnest.

Our blog:

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All gifts are used as designated and received for tax purposes.

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PRAISE GOD FOR...

- ◆ Safe travels and happy healthy children.
- ◆ The privilege of seeing God's glory through the beauty of Honduras, it's people, and the missionaries.
- ◆ Gracie's recent surgery and medication changes for her seizures has dramatically reduced the number and severity of her seizures!
- ◆ (see next page)

Send contributions to:

Rattin, Account # 43041

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 PO Box 398
 Mountlake Terrace, WA
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Or online: www.actioninternational.org



Abby: As we sat in the airport on our way to Honduras, I “happened” to read John Piper’s chapter about anxiety in his book, “Taste and See.” What an appropriate topic as I leave my girls behind in the USA and I left the country without them to explore a possible mission field! “[God] is always at work. And he is turning all our losses and all our pains into something good for us as we trust him. This is His promise. Therefore, fret not. Cast all your anxieties on him. They are ... unnecessary.” (p20)

Story: The girl without a face

They live behind locked gates, up on the mountain, seldom venturing out. They’re in a closed-community cult.

*But the family of four finally came to the Christian mission hospital when the tumor consumed **their daughter’s entire face, obliterating her eyes and nose, leaving only a huge mass and a little mouth through which she could eat, breathe, and ask her mom what was happening to her.***

They had indeed been seen at the hospital several years ago at which time both of their children received the diagnosis of xeroderma

pigmentosa which is a skin condition with a propensity for skin cancer. Someone built the children a sheltered play area to protect them from the burning Honduran sun. But it was too late.

Her mom says that the tumor started eight months ago and grew fast. They sought some care in San Pedro Sula (the large city five hours away) but it is unknown what happened there because the child returned to the “campo” (countryside) untreated.

Now, she clings to her mom with bony arms, scared, in a dark world with little hope of sur-

vival.

I applied chemotherapy cream to the tumor, amazed that this was a little girl under this mass. I had never seen anything like this. I had to ask mom if I had gotten all the gauze off because there was no recognizable face or skin after I took the dressing off.

The seven year old was brave, asking in a tiny voice, “will it hurt?” I showed mom how to put the cream on and gave her instructions to return in a week... I wondered if she truly understood her the prognosis... She had probably already figured it out...

We will be in touch and let you know how things progress. A few blessings that God strengthened in our hearts during our time in Honduras:

- We are more excited than ever about participating in the training and help of poor pastors. It is such a need for so many pastors. Most of these pastors must support themselves because their congregations are so poor. They have little or no training and limited access to resources. Please check out this link for the work that Action International Ministries does in this area: <http://www.equippastors.org/>
- We have both continued to feel a desire to work with disabled children and help communities to care for them.
- We had the privilege of hanging out with a very good Honduran friend from our Harrisburg days, Lourdes. She is always a great blessing to us as she shines with God’s love and grace and is preparing once again for the mission field herself!

While we will always remain open to go anywhere, our focus remains on going where the need is most for our skill-set and giftings. Possibilities include Columbia, Uganda, and the Philippines. Once we have raised the needed financial support we will head to language training. God will- ing and with your support, we would love to be headed toward field training in a year.

Thank you for praying for us. We are so thankful for all of you who share with us the desire to bear witness to the great Jesus Christ. Our God is an amazing Father in whom we can delight and wait with eager expectation for our real home.

To God’s Glory,

Josh, Abby, Gracie, and Ana

This response card can be used to send contributions by mail. (Online donations cost us a small fee but are still welcome!)

**JOSH AND ABBY RATTIN
Ministering with
Action International Ministries**

Yes, I would like to assist with the following as the Lord provides:

\$ _____ **per month** for Josh and Abby's **personal support.** (43041A)

\$ _____ as a **one-time gift** for Josh and Abby's one time and outgoing expenses. (43041B)

\$ _____ Total enclosed

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Thank you very much! All gifts are used as designated and receipted for tax purposes. Please make your gift payable and send to **Action International Ministries**, PO Box 398, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398 **USA**; 3015A 21st Street NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7T1 **Canada**.

(JR59)