

Heaven's Reach Ministries

Dean and Melissa Lowman
January News Letter 2007

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, I hope this letter finds everyone doing well. Dean and I returned to Honduras on the 9th of November for a week. We met Henry Lowman and a team from Pennsylvania. We were all there for the hospital project in La Esperanza. We delivered a fetal Doppler, glucometer, baby blankets, blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, and miscellaneous medical supplies all donated for the hospital.



The nurses and staff were very grateful to receive this blessing. We met the administrator (below) of the hospital and he gave us a personal tour of the facility introducing us to the directors of all the



departments. We developed new relationships within the hospital and obtained an updated list of needed equipment and supplies.

The hospital was full of children with respiratory illnesses. The roof has numerous leaks in the operating room, emergency room and patient rooms. The team from Pennsylvania began the roof project by constructing a pitched roof over the operating rooms (top right). Dean will be going in back February. Lord willing, there will continue to be teams to finish the entire roof and begin reconstruction inside.

Teams are also needed to teach the use and maintenance of the equipment, do hygiene training as well as other projects. We have already received \$10,000 in equipment and supplies, however, donations are still needed to cover shipping and handling to the hospital from the United States.

We are excited to see what the Lord will do In Honduras in 2007. We have two baby warming stations donated and ready to ship to Honduras. We are also helping Merci International with a staff housing project to be completed in August 2007 and student sponsorship to help children go to school past the sixth grade. Please pray for us and these projects.



May God prosper your family,

Dean & Melissa Lowman

P. O. Box 11, Springdale, AR 72765
479-200-7379

www.heavensreach.org
info@heavensreach.org

Please help us keep you updated on the happenings at Heaven's Reach Ministries by filling in the following Information.

Name: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Preferred method of Contact: Mail Email

- I am interested in a short term mission trip
- Yes I will be a prayer partner please email me prayer requests
- Yes I will be a ministry partner I pledge \$ _____ per month
- Yes I want to help with the Staff Project Hospital Project
- Yes I want to help a child go to school I will give \$50 per month for one child

BABIES ARE DYING **AND** **GOD IS CALLING**

Dean and I have felt a call of God on our lives since we were children. He knew he was supposed to be a missionary. I on the other hand didn't even know what the word missionary meant. I just knew there was more to life than what I was doing.

When I grew up I moved from town to town and state to state going to as many schools as 4 in one year. I was a shy kid with no confidence. I hated moving. I never got to keep anything or bond with anyone. Well little did I know I was bonding and I was training for Gods call on my life.

I can remember as a teenager all I wanted was to be "normal". I wanted a cedar hope chest to save all the things I'd need for a home with my prince charming. I never got my hope chest and instead of praying for Gods prince charming for me, I married the man I thought was my prince charming. I quit school, and just wanted to live in one house and be a wife and mother. This wasn't Gods plan, yet He blessed it and me with two beautiful precious children. Ten years after the marriage began it ended. My pain was tremendous and I thought my life was over, not to mention my commitment to God. Amazingly Gods commitment to us is far greater than our commitment to Him. God never left me! I spent 2-3 years running from God, running from the pain, running from the Call of God on my life. I hit rock bottom in sin and God grabbed me and said (not in a literal voice, but in my spirit) it's time to get on with the purpose of my life or its time for your life to be over. Through a series of events God opened the doors for me to get into nursing school and to become a nurse. This was not on my agenda for my life. I'd had over 20 surgeries and I hated hospitals, but suddenly I felt a passion to become a nurse. I had no idea that God had this planned for me from the beginning.

Through a series of miracles, God provided my acceptance into nursing school and the financial ability to attend. I worked full-time and went to school full-time for the next 3 years. Just months before I graduated with my RN still not totally committed to God and still trying to escape the sin I'd sunk into, but not finding the willpower to, God made me restless in my job and made me realize that a change must occur to completely get on with my life.

Through another series of miracles God opened the doors for me to move to NWA and work at a woman's hospital delivering babies. Now when I say through a series of miracles I don't want anyone to think that meant everything went smooth as silk, quite the contrary. Doors opened miraculously and provision came miraculously, but the change and transition was anything but easy and cost me much! I had friends and family telling me I was crazy. I lost friends. I moved somewhere that I only knew one person. People thought and were free in telling me I didn't know what I was doing and how could I possible think or say that I was doing Gods will. People thought I was becoming a religious fanatic. My kids hated me for moving. It has been anything but an easy transition.

I have to say though, it has been one of the best things that I've done. I was able to leave the sinful circumstances I'd created in my life, find a church that showed me not only does God exist, but that we can know Him personally and to experience the Holy Spirit in ways I had no idea even existed. I was finally committed to God and finding His purpose for me.

I met my 'prince charming' and through a lot of trials we made it and married a little over a year ago. If you think the trials were over once we married THINK AGAIN! I've come to realize that life is a series of trials that are all about how you handle them and grow from them, not about whoa we conquered that one and now life is going to be a breeze! Even when you're being blessed and following Gods will the road is bumpy, it's just a matter of are we going to let God take care of the bumps or are we going to try to do it all on our own!

Well one of the best things about Dean and I and our relationship is we want to know and experience the call of god on our lives. We've run from it, hit bottom, and met level ground, but don't want just level ground, we want the mountain peek!!!

We went to Honduras for three weeks over the summer with my 15 year old daughter and God revealed to me this is what I want you to do; this is what I created you for! We helped build a roof on an adobe house, make a concrete floor in place of a dirt floor for a family, held a cleaning brigade to teach on hygiene and cleanliness, and really go to see different side to life, but during this time I sought god and I told him, I know you made me a nurse for a reason, so how does that correspond to what we've been doing? Within the week I received my answer. During our stay there was a med student that was doing and internship at the farm and he began a one week rotation with one of the pediatricians in Honduras. He came back to the farm and said "Melissa you have to come to the hospital and see the conditions of this hospital you will never believe it!" A few days later I was able to take the afternoon and go for a tour with Nathan and Dr. Ratliff. I was overwhelmed of the conditions and the daily decisions they had to make. During the week there were at least three babies that died, not because there was nothing that could be done, but because the equipment and supplies were not available. There are only three ventilators to the entire country of Honduras, which happen to be five hours away from this hospital and town. Two days before my tour the doctor had two babies that were born that need a ventilator and there was only one available. The doctor had to choose which baby to send and which one would die in a matter of hours. Babies are dying daily and nurses and doctors are not able to do their jobs because there is a lack of funding, equipment, and supplies.

God gave me my purpose in this mission field. I came home with a passion to obtain needed medical supplies and equipment. We returned to Honduras in November with a portion of the needs list and met a team that began the repairs on the roof of the hospital. We continue to work on obtaining equipment, supplies, and construction teams to help the hospital, families, children, and babies of La Esperanza and the surrounding villages in Honduras.

We feel as though we need to be there full-time now, for me to work with the hospital and community to help them learn better nutrition, hygiene habits, and to use and maintain the equipment God blesses us with. Dean will be working alongside his brother, who has been a missionary to Honduras for 17 years. He is also praying about how he can incorporate his computer skills and business into the mission field.

We prayed for two specific confirmations for God that would let us know that this was Gods plan and that the time was in Sept as we felt. As of last week both of those confirmations have been given, when our pastor blessed us, our ministry, and our going to Honduras full-time and two days after that when our 15 year old said ok we can go in September. So, we will be leaving in September for at least one year and will seek Gods guidance for what to do after that. Please pray for us, our family, our ministry, the people of Honduras, and provision for us and the people of Honduras.

May God bless each of you and your families!

With Gods Love

Melissa Lowman