

# Heaven's Reach Ministries

Newsletter October 09

Mission Honduras

Showing, Teaching, and Releasing God's Love

## TOTAL IMMERSION

*LUKE 9:23-27: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*

We started language school 2 weeks ago and I'm amazed at what we've learned. I'm also amazed at how different it is than I thought it would be. We chose a language school in La Ceiba Honduras for many reasons, but the 2 primary reasons were that the school was a Total Immersion school and that it had a medical program which would allow me to learn the medical terminology and work with local doctors and hospitals.

My thoughts of being in Spanish school were that we would be in class 4 hours a day, do homework for a couple of hours in the afternoon and then we'd hang out at the beach the rest of the day. I thought well we've lived in Honduras for almost 2 years, we've already experienced all the culture shock and adapted to the differences, no problem!

I mean we went through adapting to the differences between living in Honduras and the states when we moved here in 2007; the no TV, no radio, the food tasting different, a lot of cold showers, no vehicle, etc. Until coming to La Ceiba 2 weeks ago I had no idea just how Americanized living in Yamaranguila was. Because there are so many North Americans at the mission house in Yamaranguila we primarily speak English, hence making it difficult to learn Spanish.

We are in class from 8am-12pm Monday thru Friday. We study and do homework for approximately 3-4 more hours each day. That is the easy part!

See the total immersion part of the school is that we live with a Honduran family. The family we live with doesn't speak English. The lady of the house, Reina, prepares our meals, which are Honduran. We have our own bedroom, but are guests in the rest of the house.

Although the food in Yamaranguila had a different taste, due to less processing and for various other reasons, we still basically had an American diet...spaghetti, chicken, vegetables, etc.

The real adjustment was that we didn't have fast food. But here in La Ceiba the closest thing we get to American food are scrambled eggs that they served for supper, not breakfast, and even those are different, because they are filled with onions and or tomatoes.

The change in food is only the beginning of the differences; but, the point isn't really the differences, but the Total Immersion part. We live, eat, and share our lives with a couple and their family that we didn't even know until 2 weeks ago and we don't speak the same language or even share the same cultural habits and yet we have become totally immersed into "their" world.

My idea of Total Immersion was we go to school, do homework, and sleep in a rented room, but things are still going to be basically the same; we just go to school not work. I didn't realize what Totally Immersing myself into something really meant. I looked up the definition today and this is what it means:

**Total:** *whole, entire, complete & Immersion: submergence, sinking until covered completely with water.*

Sounds much more serious & in depth than I ever imagined. That is exactly what it is though. It isn't comfortable, it isn't easy, and sometimes it is completely scary!

God is showing me that He doesn't just want us to be Totally Immersed in the language & culture here; He wants us Totally Immersed in HIM! Not just Dean and I, but all Christians. We cannot be effective influential Christians if we just breeze by, we must get into His word and His plan so deep that we are uncomfortable and stretching ourselves in ways we didn't even know possible!

I pray that we all will allow God to immerse us in His word, grace, mercy, love, and most of all in the plans He has for us!

*1 John 2:15: do not love the world or anything in the world, if anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*



God Bless you all!

Dean & Melissa Lowman