

Back in Honduras

Tim, Kathee, Hannah, Daniel, Abigail & Elizabeth
Home in Honduras: 011 (504) 773-8309
Cell: 011 (504) 9-921-2129
thagler@world-reach.org

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Missionary Movers

Well, here we are, back in Honduras. Our last few of weeks have been really busy, emptying the house, shipping boxes, packing bags and saying goodbyes.

At the airport, only one piece of luggage was overweight by a couple of pounds (which we quickly remedied) and we actually had two bags that hit 50 pounds right on the nose. I think we should get some kind of prize for those “professionally” packed bags. Perhaps the missionary community should begin some sort of monitoring of that sort of thing in order to recognize those otherwise unnoticed and completely unmarketable skills.

I joke about it only because goodbyes are tough and always have been. However, it seems like they are becoming exponentially more serious. Maybe we have a greater appreciation of time as we get older. It’s kind of like our experience with little kids.

If you have been a parent for some time then you know what I mean. When children are toddlers, it is hard to explain 2 or 3 years. Shoot, they have a tough time comprehending the half-hour drive across town. A thirty-minute “Barney” program was what we compared it to and the kids seemed to be somewhat satisfied with that explanation. You can only imagine how difficult it has been to explain not being able to see family and friends for a couple of years.

Well, that’s what I mean. As we get older, I believe we all begin to be able to get our minds around this concept of time, how precious it is and the reality of spending it apart from people that you love.

This time was no different. We had a wonderful time with family and friends this summer. Saying “goodbye” was hard! There were lots of hugs and too many tears for our comfort. It is great to love and be loved, but it is certainly not painless. We realize that this is part of the price and privilege of serving as missionaries. You cannot be in two places at the same time (at least in this life

you can't). You must choose where you invest your life and that means that someone and something gets left out. That is a huge part of the missionary cost. There is no way to avoid making those payments.

However, one of the great benefits is a currently heightened and ever-growing appreciation for Heaven. I will not say "goodbye" to you (or anyone else for that matter) in Heaven. We will have a level of life far beyond the limits of time. I can hear all of your stories and you can hear all of mine. We can fish along the banks of the crystal sea and perhaps share our fish with Jesus Himself. There will be lots of food, fun and laughter in Heaven. We will enjoy God together in an intimate and perfect community. No pain or suffering, no regrets, no misunderstandings or blatant sin will contaminate our fellowship. We will enjoy God and each other forever! And we will not do it alone.

I was reminded last night as we enjoyed being with our church family that you will also be able to meet our brothers and sisters in Christ from Siguatepeque. You will experience the welcoming hugs that have been so precious and necessary for us. My friends will be your friends and that will be beautiful! We will enjoy God together! Jesus said, *"I am going away to prepare a place for you, so that where I am you can be also"*. That's good news and on this Sunday morning it gives me great waves of comfort and security.

Tear stains on old leather-bound journals are cool and add character, but they add no appeal to my Compaq computer . . . so, I will end.

Thanks for loving us in so many tangible ways. Please know that you are loved. Come see us!



In Him,

Tim and Kathee Hagler

Tim, Kathee,
Hannah, Daniel,
Abigail and Elizabeth

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PO BOX 26155 BIRMINGHAM, AL 35260-0155

VOICE 205.979.2400 FAX 205.979.6289 EMAIL info@world-reach.org WEBSITE www.world-reach.org