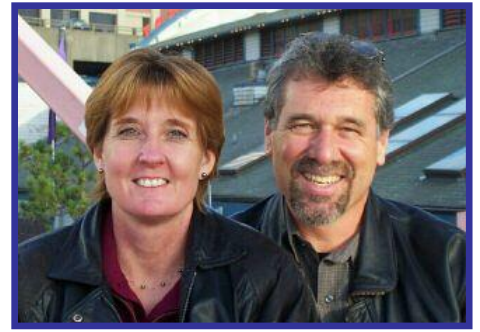


*Hal and Cheryl Large  
Ministering in El Salvador  
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***"Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." Ephesians 5:14***

Without a doubt, God is trying to wake us up from a deadly spiritual sleep. It is a sleep that causes our souls to be insensitive to all that is spiritual: the voice of the Holy Spirit we need for relationship, the displeasure of God we need for fear, the awareness of pacts we make with Satan by words and actions, which lead to darkness, slavery and contamination (anathema).

The one asleep is unaware of what is going on around him. He is immobile, doing nothing. He sleeps the sleep of self-absorption, self-interest and self-pleasures.

The war we don't fight is a war we can't win. It will overcome us. A war is raging around us and it is a war for *our* souls. *Our* souls are being devoured and we feel nothing. We sleep in darkness. The darkness of spiritual death comes over *our* souls as we participate in the thinking and actions of wickedness and sin.

***"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them." Ephesians 5:8-13***

This kind of bold and shocking speaking of truth makes us uncomfortable; it makes us squirm. Our minds bring up all the reasons, excuses and explanations conceived in Hell to justify why we live with such lukewarm love and constant disobedience. We need to read that which exposes the idolatry and prostitution of our souls before the idols of our desires and lusts. (See a great article too long to reproduce here: <http://deliberatesimplicity.blogspot.com/2009/07/prostitution.html>).

It isn't pleasant to wake up the one who sleeps. One easily remembers the often violent reactions of another whose slumber has been disturbed. There may be an initial annoyance or recrimination but it is time to get up! If we love our brothers, we will not allow them to sleep peacefully on a ship heading over the falls.

The violence of the struggle, however, is not to be manifested on the side of light, love and truth. We speak the truth, not in hate but in love. There *will* be a violent response in those who want nothing to do with truth. However, we bring all violence of word or look to Christ and offer to Him our sufferings, healed by His blood, as a fragrant sacrifice of praise.

As we are passing through times of trouble, let us look up to the One who will work all of this for good in the lives of those who love Him. Let us open our hearts to correction, reflection and meditation. Let us go beyond confession to repentance. Let us give thanks to God when the material or physical or fleshly desires in our souls are revealed (often by painful experiences of loss, mistreatment or bold rebuke) and humble ourselves before Him that we might know Christ. Let us walk in the light as He is in the light - and may our fellowship with one another be in Christ alone. Let us love one another (in Christ) and turn the cheek (in Christ) to the one who has slapped us and forgive each other even as Christ has forgiven us. He is our righteousness, our hope, the way, the truth and the eternal life of the Father.

This summer, Cheryl and I were able to make a trip to the States for two very important celebrations: Our son, Paul, graduated with a Masters Degree in International Relations from the University of Washington and my parents, Jim and Bobbie, celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with a renewal of their marriage vows. We had a glorious three weeks in June visiting with family and rejoicing with them in what has been accomplished by the grace of God.



In July, a very special team of young people (and a few older adults) visited our church from Bethel Church of Richland, Washington. They came to minister with us in three different VBS programs: A four-day program during the morning held at our church and two mini-VBS programs of two afternoons each; first in the IVU neighborhood and then in a neighborhood called Paradise.

God had prepared the way by putting on the hearts of Ronald and Estefany (our youth leaders) and key young people like Katia and William, the burden to reach the children in these neighborhoods with the Gospel. There are already small-group meetings taking place for young people and ladies in these two areas and they became the basis for a new outreach for the children. Nearly all the young people went to give Gospel presentations with a puppet show, music and testimonies. They



also made a commitment in their hearts to continue each week to bring the children together to hear about Jesus. At that moment, God sent the team from Washington to come alongside.

The other amazing God-ordained event was the closing of the schools the very week the team arrived from Washington. They were closed for two weeks by the government to stem the growing flu epidemic and the children had nothing to do during the day. It was also vacation time for many adults. Needless to say, it was the very best time to have Vacation Bible School.

We had lots of participation from the church members as well. They came to cut up fruit for refreshments and served as teachers and helpers. They were of all ages. We had never seen such joyful participation. On one afternoon at the VBS in the Paradise neighborhood, the ladies of the church spontaneously met with 14 or 15 mothers who had brought their children. They shared their testimonies, prayed and ministered to the mothers. Two received Christ as Savior.

After each VBS, we had a special service for the parents, which was very well attended. We have seen new families come to church as a result, as well as children and young people. There are now more than 25 children meeting in each neighborhood for weekly Bible lessons and we are making



plans to bring them to church for a special event once a month. We are also seeing their parents take an interest in the Lord. We are discovering that the Gospel can come into the family by way of a child.

In September, we will be receiving a ministry team from Columbus, Indiana. We are hoping to build on what was begun in July with the children, strengthen the ministry and reach out to their parents. This team will also be involved in construction on our property, for which we ask your prayers.



The needs we have related to the construction projects are varied and, at times, overwhelming. We have the firm conviction that God is working it all for our good, according to HIS purposes. The truth is, we ran out of funds to go beyond the initial work of building a security fence, a building with bathrooms and doing excavation. With no funds, we decided to do what we could with donated trees and corrugated steel. This simple structure is to provide four classrooms for the Sunday School. However, we do not have the funds to finish the porch for the structure. We are going to put in the floor ourselves with stone and cement. Now we

are praying for the putting up of a rustic roofed structure for the church to meet in on Sundays. We may start out meeting under plastic. Pray that God will give us direction. The needs we have drive us to God as a church, to pray and work and give according to what *He* would do through us. This is NOT an appeal for funds from outside our own congregation. It is an appeal for *prayer* that God's Spirit might lead us to walk in obedience, faith and wisdom.

On a personal note, I would ask for prayer for the health of Cheryl and myself. We have spent the last week (mostly in bed) with the nasty flu, cough, headaches, etc. that has come to this country. Cheryl now has a sinus infection and we just need God's sustaining hand to lift us up, for His Spirit to encourage us and to give us direction and strength.

Thank you so much for joining with us in Christ's ministry here by your prayers. We are

Yours for Souls,

*Hpl & Cheryl*