



Marie LEAF Hondurans

...and they that have not heard shall understand. Romans 15:21



Year 1 Review

- see my Year 1 Update video on my website below -

January 21st, 2017 Rosedale Baptist Church officially sent me as their missionary to the Deaf in Honduras. Two days later I moved to my new city, El Progreso, Honduras.

I previously visited Honduras three times for short term missions trips, and learned a lot. But this was different. I was moving here. Honduras was now to become my home.

My goal in coming to Honduras is to evangelize Deaf people by establishing a Deaf ministry at Iglesia Bautista el Faro, Lighthouse Baptist Church, in El Progreso, Honduras.

So, what was my goal for year one?

I spent this first year focused on learning everything I could about my new team, church, neighborhood, language, culture, friends, etc so I can be better prepared to enter a subculture of Honduras: the Deaf culture. From street signs to Spanish slang, I've seen and learned and experienced so many new things. It often made me feel as though I were back in kindergarten.

Housing & Vehicle

With the start-up funds donated by many of you, I was able to buy a nice used car as soon as I arrived. It's been the perfect vehicle for the muddy and rough roads I deal with on a daily basis.

I also began renting a small, 2-bedroom townhouse in a local neighborhood with 24/7 security. With the remainder of the start-up funds I was able to purchase all the appliances and furniture here in Honduras.

Language Study

Though I was comfortable with conversational Spanish upon arrival, there is always more to learn. I have been meeting with a Spanish tutor weekly since March. I currently speak and write at a Honduran 9th grade level, and I plan to continue developing my Spanish through personal study.

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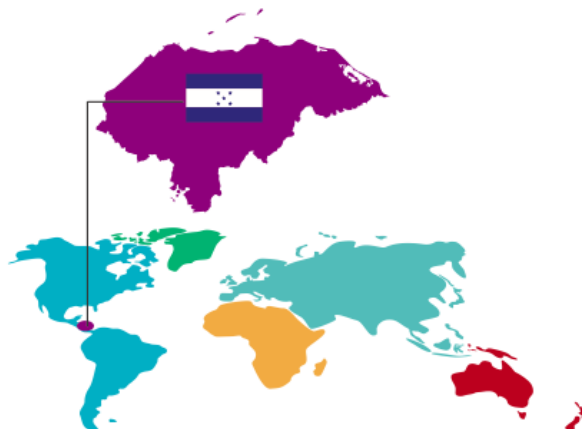
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Church Responsibilities

The first Sunday I was here I began assisting in a 2-3 year old Sunday School class. It has been a good introduction to teaching in Spanish. Those little guys don't care if I don't conjugate my verbs just right, so it makes for great practice! I also enjoy singing in the choir and filling in as pianist when needed.

Children's Home

Our church runs a children's home for socially at-risk children. The houseparents homeschool the children, and this Spring I helped teach 7th and 8th graders. I learned so much about Honduran history and geography. Did you know Christopher Columbus gave Honduras its name?

English Classes

I teach English as a Second Language classes as a ministry of our church. Since most of my students are already Christians, my goal is to equip them to share the Gospel with English-speakers. I assign English memory verses and religious vocabulary. This has been a wonderful learning experience for me as well.

Local School

I was asked to help teach the Bible in English in a local Bilingual school. I enjoy teaching basic Bible truths to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes on a weekly basis. Through this experience, I have learned a little about the local school system, a benefit as I meet local families.

Surgical Clinic

A small amount of my time will be dedicated to working in a surgical clinic currently being built on our church property. To prepare, I began shadowing a Honduran Emergency Department doctor in the local public hospital. This has been an eye-opening experience for sure.

Personal Outreach

Of course, as a Christian, I'm involved in weekly organized evangelism, as well as handing out tracts and talking with people about Jesus when the opportunities arise. It's been a blessing to see several people get saved and baptized as a result of personal conversations with them.

Year 2

It's been a busy year, but God has taught me so much. Next year I plan to begin learning Honduran sign language and start teaching basic Bible truths to deaf youth in our city. Headed back to kindergarten!

Thank you for your prayers and support. And keep in touch, it's really encouraging to hear from brothers and sisters in Christ. May God bless you!

