



BORDER BUDDIES MINISTRIES

*Bringing the heart of Christ to
the heart of Honduras.*

Newsletter April 2019

“The Union of Two”

We have witnessed five marriages in the past with our youth group. Alvaro and his wife Jenny were married first and our mission team was invited to their wedding to witness the first marriage within the Border Buddies Youth Group. Alvaro and Jenny both have two beautiful children and a brand-new built home. Both are professionals and are very active in their local church. They serve by teaching Bible skills on marriage and giving back to society. We are so proud of these two and thank God for them.

Alan and his wife both have a beautiful daughter which is in pre-school now. She calls us grandma and grandpa. Odd in hearing this for us. But Alan has always seen us as parents in his spiritual growth. He came into the youth group back in 2005 and into the sponsorship program as well. He grew up with the Bible teachings that were needed to form his foundation on faith, marriage and being a Husband and Father. Alan graduated from High School and is now studying to become a Psychologist to help other children. He is active working and going to church with his family. He lives with his in-laws and will someday want to build a home for himself. Both want to raise their daughter in the same teachings that Alan learned. Thank God he has found a good Bible base church to keep his faith intact and to serve the people in his community.

Geovanny (“Chewy” for many who have come here) came into our youth group not knowing how to read nor write. Glenda and I tutored him and enrolled him into the INFOP technology school with a scholarship from the Moore’s. The Moore family walked beside us and Geovanny to graduation. After graduation Geovanny eventually found a good cabinet making job with benefits and that is where he found his wife. They were married in December of 2018 and are currently involved in a church and expecting their first baby that is due this September.

It is hard to believe our youth are growing up. We are not counting Jose who was one of the first youth to enter our program with many others. He now a father of two children and a full time Electrician working on commercial work.

Gustavo who came into our youth group as well back in 2006 and was very addicted to marijuana, glue, crack and any drug or alcohol he could find to get a high. He was abandoned and adopted by a family within the Barrio Rincon. Most would say in that time that Gustavo would just become another statistic in the community's eyes. We worked with Gustavo for years. Through the tough times and times that he didn't want to live anymore. He left the Barrio at the age of 19 and a few years ago he came back to visit me at one of our youth activities. He asked me if he could speak to our youth. I noticed in him a glow and a man with a huge smile and love for Jesus. I said, "Yes, please." He told the youth his story about coming to the group and how at first, he thought it was a waste of time. How the teachings, discipline, love, hugs, constantly having an accountability partner with Mike and Glenda would drive a person to just quit. Gustavo said, "I wanted to quit but I didn't. I found Jesus!! Jesus sent me a beautiful wife that loves God and loves serving in the church. She introduced me (Gustavo) to what a marriage is between God and His church. I then reflected." he said, "on the teachings of Michael and this motivated me to become a Pastor serving my Assembly of God church."

There was silence in the group and admiration. Our boys listened and asked questions. Gustavo answered everyone. Our Boys are not boys anymore. They are men married and joined with God.



This is our Youth Group back in 2006. Gustavo is on the far right. Jose is 2nd from the left and Alan is 5th from the left.

Then Cristian Rodriguez entered our life at the age of 15. He received Christ as his Savior when he was 15 and was Baptized that year. At the age of 18 Cristian came to live with us full-time as his parents moved one hour outside the city and that would have made life difficult for Cristian because he had a full scholarship from the Armstrong's and also he felt that he wasn't

spiritually ready to leave the youth group. So, his parents agreed to have him live with us. Over the past six years he has become a son to us and has learned a new culture and integrated well with working with our teams that we host throughout the year. Cristian graduated as a Bio-Technician and is working full-time for the same company where he met his wife, Vivian. The one and a half year romance and engagement bloomed to the set date of their wedding on March 16, 2019. This, by the way, is the same as my mom's birth date. Cristian did have the pleasure to meet my dad and listened to the stories we shared about our mom. Glenda and I went through the steps from taste-testing food for the wedding, to arrangements and hosting a wedding shower for Viviana. We forgot how much work there is in helping out with such a huge day. Cristian asked me to be his best man, sponsor, and to give a sermon at their wedding on "Love and Marriage".



The process is different in Honduras. You have to be married by the Government first. Both the couple to be married and the two witnesses had to sign paperwork and fingerprint it in order for the marriage to be legal. In the far-left photo, I was sitting with both Cristian, Viviana, and Viviana's Pastors wife.

The right photo is showing the marriage certificate. This was the 15th of March. They still were not done in all of our eyes. They needed to be married in the church to seal the deal.



The far left photo is Viviana's mom in the green dress. (Dad had left Viviana when she was a little girl) Far right in left photo is Cristian's mom and dad.

Right Photo is the combination of Viviana's Family, Cristian's mom and dad and us.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez!!!!



We are thankful for being a part of so many marriages, change and growth. What we are more proud of is that our boys have all found good Christian women that love the Lord and serve with Love. The union of two is God with His Church!!!

