

LAMB and Ongoing Community Ministry

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One of the reasons I am so thankful to be a long-term missionary working in a community setting is because some of the best fruit is a long time in coming. Yesterday, for example, a young man named Walter dropped off a letter at our ministry offices in the inner city neighborhood of Flor del Campo in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. An excerpt reads,

"I want to thank you enormously for the economic, emotional, social and spiritual support you gave me during my seven years in the university scholarship program. I have achieved my goal of obtaining a university degree, thanks to your unconditional support, your trust in me, and now I want to dedicate this degree to LAMB, because without you it would not have been possible."

This young man majored in computation and mathematics. Sadly, during his time as a university student, his father was murdered, which of course affected him deeply. He is a strong Christian, though, and continued to move forward. We are so proud of him! And what a testimony to his character that he took the time to write a beautiful letter of thanks to our ministry.

Today I had a rather lengthy conversation with a 9-year-old boy who came to us at the age of three. He was like a "jungle boy" back then, barefoot and out of control. His father is an abusive alcoholic, and his mother is a deaf/mute who never had an opportunity to get an education. We have their five children at our children's home. When Elias came to us, he could not sit still for a moment. His language was unintelligible. He finally learned to read this past school year, which is what he was sharing with me this afternoon. He has always loved books, but for a long time could not learn to read. We prayed and prayed for him, worked with him, encouraged him. Finally, he is reading! He also draws. I told him today that he will probably write and illustrate books one day. "What will you write about?" I asked him. "Lions," he said. A great topic for a small boy with so much courage!

I also ran into the birth mother of one of my own foster children today. She was registering her baby, Fernando, at our daycare. This young woman's story is heartbreaking: abandoned as a baby, abused continuously throughout her childhood, picked up by a pimp as a young girl -- and those are just the general points! The details would be more than we could bear to hear. She has run with gangs, served time, and has had four children taken from her by Social Services. But she is trying to leave all of that behind. She desperately wants to keep Fernando and be a good mother to him. She is also pregnant. We are encouraging her to let us come alongside, but it is difficult to gain the trust of someone so desperately wounded. We are praying that Jesus will win her heart with His unconditional love so that the rest of her life will be lived in the Light.

It's good to walk among God's people in the neighborhoods where they live, watching them grow, praying for transformation. Please pray that the Lord will continue to bring the hurting our way, and that we can be faithful ambassadors of His healing love and grace.