

We've been busy, Praise God ☺

On April 14, Ruth & I left NH to join with Barrington (RI) Baptist Church on a Mission Trip to serve Missions Door Missionary Erick Sanchez <http://missionsdoor.org/missionary/sanchez-erick> and the Lenca people of **Honduras**.

Barrington Baptist has had an on-going relationship with Erick, his wife Yoamy, and the churches they serve for many years. Our goal was to serve with the team, and at the same time, learn more about Erick's ministry with the goal of being able to lead other teams to Honduras and help where needed in the future.

We served in two mountain villages, San Nicholas and Guascatoro, both of which were high up in the mountains. We served by helping to build a walkway/patio, digging a trench from the banos (rest rooms) to the leach field, painting murals on Sunday School rooms, conducting Vacation Bible School for the children, and more.

There are many stories to tell, including broken windshield and shock absorbers, great food, great learning and fellowship, and deep appreciation on the part of the Honduran brothers and sisters with whom we worked ate, and shared. And yes, I was able to ride a motorcycle on a dirt mountain road that was barely passable ☺

I was also able to spend quality time with Erick, learning more about his vision and goals, and am confident that we are now better able to lead teams to help him, and others in Honduras.

Just 36 hours after we returned to NH, I was back on the road, this time driving the donated school bus to **Belize**. Doug and Judy (friends from Dover (NH) Baptist Church and I left NH right after Easter service, driving straight through to the Atlanta area, where we spent the night with one of our sons and his wife.

From there we were off to Houston. After spending a night in Houston, Doug & Judy flew home, and I went to San Antonio, where, after meeting up with Ricardo, we drove to Los Indios, TX, where we spent the night, and spent half the next day crossing the border into Mexico.

Driving through Mexico with Rick y Ricardo was an experience. This was the part of the trip that caused the most apprehension and was the subject of much prayer, which was greatly appreciated. The bus held up very well, with no breakdowns or malfunctions at all. The last couple of days, it began to go through a bit of automatic transmission fluid and power steering fluid, in addition to the oil that it had been using from day one. But we kept up with all the fluids at every fuel stop, and encountered no mechanical delays.

We drove during the day and avoided driving after dark most of the way. We managed to find Holiday Inns along the way, except for the night that we had to park the bus on the other side of the highway and cross four lanes of traffic to get to the hotel...

We got to the Mexico/Belize border on Friday night, only to discover that the border is only open Monday-Friday. We spent two nights in Chetumal, Mexico, enjoying the air conditioning of our hotel room and the Maya Museum as well.

We crossed in Belize on Monday, only to discover that it was Labor Day in Belize, and Customs was closed for the day, so we had to hire someone to ride with us into Belize City to make sure that we parked the bus in the City lot to ensure that we would come back Tuesday to pay the Customs Fee.

Pastor Nelson Juarez <http://missionsdoor.org/missionary/juarez-nelson> and I spent most of Tuesday taking care of paperwork and paying Customs, and by Tuesday afternoon, the bus was finally home in Belize, ready to be used by God for His purposes! The bus will be used to transport people to churches in and around Belize City, as well as helping in Pastor Juarez's current Evangelistic Tour of Central America. Already, 185 people have accepted Christ as Savior as part of this Tour, with the majority of the Route yet to come! God's timing is perfect!

Thanks to Doug, Judy, Ricardo, and everyone who prayed and contributed financially to make the bus delivery possible.

Thanks also to all of our regular prayer supporters, as well as financial supporters for allowing us to serve the Lord in this way.

Photos of both trips can be found at my Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/rick.odess> and soon at my website www.ricknruth.org.

If you are not currently a financial supporter, I invite you to partner with us in that way. Only with increased financial support will we be able to lead Mission Trips on a full time basis. You may contact Missions Door or us directly.

As you may know, we have trips lined up to Providence, RI and Belize this summer.

We are also recruiting teams for 2012...

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Rick and Ruth Odess

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