

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to share some things that God has been doing at Jericho lately, and to thank each of you for your prayers and support of Jericho. We have seen God's hand at work, and it has been such a time of learning.

Around the beginning of February God began a new work at Jericho. We had been planning to begin a school for many months, but we had no success in finding teachers. God is faithful in all things, but in his own time. I wanted to share a little more about this because it was such a lesson to me. You see when we first started Jericho we had to trust God for our monthly provisions. I used to sweat big-time every payday. But GOD always came through, so after a time I didn't sweat quite so much and I learned to trust Him in that area.



Several months ago a pastor prophesized over Jericho and he said, "God will provide all the people you need for the ministry". But when we got closer and closer to the due date to begin the school and we had NO teachers, I really started using maximum deodorant again! I was not a model of trust, that's for sure. Elvia, on the other hand, was very tranquil and that made me even more nervous. I thought, "Someone has to be worried about this"! Wrong! Anyway, when we hired the second teacher on the Friday before the Monday we started school, I was at the height of my stress. I remember getting on my knees with Elvia because we were so unsure of hiring this teacher and didn't want to do it just because we were between a rock and a hard place. In her initial interview when I asked her why she wanted to work, she said, "I need the money." I was so unimpressed. But once we prayed we felt peace and decided to hire her. Thanks be to God that He worked the way He did because she is so dedicated and we would not have hired her had we depended upon our own understanding.



Jamie, the other teacher.....well this is a miracle story in itself. When we asked her initially if she could help us, she was very enthusiastic. She is very energetic and sweet and an excellent teacher but we had no idea that Jericho would be a refuge for her. The first day of work, she confessed to Elvia that she was on the verge of a major depression. Her husband, to whom she had only been married eight months, was very absorbed in his work, and Jamie felt rejected. Elvia ministered to her and then the pastor we work with came for a prayer vigil on Friday and ministered to her. When Jamie's husband came to pick her up after the prayer vigil, she said to him, "Jericho is healing me!" We reminded her that it was God who was doing the healing but it was so sweet to hear how God brought her to us not only for her to bless us, but for us to help her as well. She is so loved by our children.

God allowed me to see the first day of school before my back went out. I was so thrilled to see the children in their desks with their uniforms neatly pressed and their shoes brightly polished. It just "sent me" to hear those English phrases being repeated over and over as I worked at my desk. I asked God, "Why am I so excited about this....why so thrilled, Oh my soul?" As I pondered that, I realized that this is another rescue situation. One of the boys was already starting to run with a gang at 8 years of age and by God's grace we were able to relocate his Mom to a safer part of the city and he is now in school all day long until his Mom is ready to take him home. I am in tears as I write this because God is so gracious.....how can I ever thank Him for letting me be a part of such a precious work?

While I was flat on my back for a week (not exactly my favorite thing) the Lord spoke to me. He seemed to say that I need to learn to REST in Him and trust Him in new areas. I sense that if I don't learn this now, I won't be able to handle the stress of the new things He will do in the future. So I want to learn this now and learn it well. Can you pray with me about this?

There is so much more to share of how God has been at work, but I will leave it there for now.

I pray that God will continue to lead us together in this Kingdom work and that His Name will be glorified. Truly I am thankful for each of you. Thank you for your support and especially for your prayers.....

We are seeing His glory!

Much love to you all in Jesus,

Betsy



Jericho Building Update

As you can gather from Betsy's letter these are exciting times for Jericho Ministries. The start-up of the Jericho school right on the heels of the Jericho Kids day care removes a significant barrier to the ability of Jericho to seriously change the hearts and lives of the rescued women. Many of the women have children that need care during the day. Now this care and teaching can be provided in a Christian environment, only doors away from the sewing workshop.

With these changes come challenges as well. The space at Jericho's present leased location is bulging at the seams. Many of you have contributed to a building fund, and that fund has continued to grow over the past few years. The trouble is that we have yet to find a building that is suitable, and are attempting to discern what direction the Lord is leading. We know the Lord has a plan for us and we wait patiently for Him to reveal it.

Here are the possibilities that we are considering:

Downtown Location – Purchase an Existing Building Close to the Current Jericho Location

Pro's

- Downtown Tegucigulpa is the center of the prostitution activity, and a strong Jericho presence is important.
- The prostitutes know Jericho, and would be less likely to seek out help if it was located elsewhere.

Con's

- Real-estate in downtown locations is expensive.
- An ideal building has not yet been found.
- Parking is limited
- Rescued women spend their days very close to the environment that they are attempting to leave.
- Customers avoid shopping at the Jericho products store because they must risk the dangers of downtown.
- A river runs through the downtown area and many of it's building flooded during hurricane Mitch.

Outskirts Location – Purchase Land and Build on the Outskirts of the City

Pro's

- Real-Estate is less expensive and constructing a building to meet our needs would be possible.
- Women can be ministered to away from the temptations present downtown
- It may be possible to construct facilities where the women could live at full time.
- Safe parking would encourage more customers for the store.

Con's

- Jericho is no longer close to the women it is intended to rescue.

Do Both

Continue to lease a small facility downtown, and still move ahead with a permanent facility farther out.

Please pray for the Lord to guide us as we attempt to serve Him through Jericho.

Ron Pagel

Roger Lackore

President – Jericho Ministries Board of Directors

Treasurer