

## Zelaya Update/Interview – August 2025

- Family

- Doing well. Kimberly is preparing for homeschooling to start in September (gathering curriculum). This year, she will be partnering with a couple of other moms who have also been doing home school. That introduces some additional coordination and complexity, but also provides more adults to share the teaching. There is also a young lady from North Carolina who will be coming to Honduras to intern and help with several things, including the homeschool co-op.
  - Lucas – 7<sup>th</sup> grade – 12 years old (2013)
  - Lia – 5<sup>th</sup> grade – 8 years old (2016)
  - Levi – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 7 years old (2018)
  - Logan – Kindergarten – 5 years old (2020)
- Financial support each month is good. The house construction is a major project. They have raised about 50% of the \$150,000 needed to complete the project. They have hired a construction firm and in May, started building. The 50% is enough to get the walls up, the roof on (coming soon), and enclose the house to protect against the weather. Then they will need additional funds to finish the interior. They have looked at loans and applied for a government guaranteed loan that would only be about 7% interest, but they were too far down the list to be able to get one of the government sponsored home loans. Commercial loans from a bank would be close to 20% interest which is not doable for them. They are looking to the Lord to see how he will provide when the rest of the funds are needed and they are pursuing some fundraising.
- Their current U.S. trip began August 6 and ends September 6. On 8/18, they were in Oklahoma and on 8/20 they headed to Ohio and then to North Carolina.
- Edwin will be speaking at a conference in Mexico during October and hopes that he and Kimberly will be able to extend that trip to visit GBC.

- MEDA

- Edwin is still teaching 2 on-campus, face-to-face Greek modules each year, one in Honduras and one at the Nogales, Mexico campus. Other professors are teaching the online courses and the other Greek modules that Edwin used to teach. Edwin is glad about this because the face-to-face classes allow him to develop better connections with the students for future mentoring, and his responsibilities at Betania Church are growing as Raul, the founding elder of the church, declines in health and has been unable to preach or take active part for much of this past year. Edwin is still on the MEDA board and is involved in fundraising and similar administrative roles.

- Iglesia Betania

- The newest elder, Jimmy Matute, hired last year, is fitting in well with the church and is involved in a lot of ministry, which is great.
- The church is growing both numerically and spiritually. Edwin is discipling 3 men in preparation for becoming elders. They are on lesson 14 of 17, which will be followed by a few months of one-on-one training with Edwin.
- The young marrieds group at church, which Edwin and Kimberly lead has grown from 22 couples last year to 25 couples this year. The group is full of great testimonies about the way they are living and the way they are raising and training their kids. It is a source of joy, encouragement, and blessing to Edwin and Kimberly. A large percentage of the new people coming into the church are from this this stage of life. These couples are inviting their friends to come and be part of the church and the young marrieds group. One recently new couple is from a Catholic background. Kimberly has been able to share the gospel very clearly with the wife and she is seeing the difference and wanting to hear and grow. The husband is still cautious but comes to the couples meetings and is enjoying the fellowship.
- Antonio and Selena are doing a really good job leading the Betania youth. They are from Ecuador. Antonio graduated from MEDA/SEPE last year and was hired by Betania church to lead the youth group for 2 years. He is not only working with the young people, but he is also spending time one on one with their parents, helping them to grow in the Lord and care for their kids. They have just implemented a discipleship program for the high schoolers, and they have a good group of young adults who are serving in that ministry where each adult will disciple 2 or 3 students. Lucas (Edwin and Kimberly's oldest child) is in junior high and participating in the youth ministry.

- The monthly men's ministry has about 48 men in their group chat this year, although attendance at each monthly meeting is about 30. The church held a men's conference in June with 50 men attending, most from Betania along with some from other local churches. Twenty years ago, there were only a couple men in the church among the many women who attended, so there is significant growth in leadership by the men. Carlos Montoya is teaching Proverbs in the men's ministry now, starting chapter 4 soon.
- In March 2025, Betania sent Zelaya's and 5 couples to Colombia to teach a marriage conference. The trip went exceedingly well. Each of the 5 guys who went taught at least one of the 8 sessions. The Colombia pastor is a Masters Seminary graduate. A MEDA graduate is on the pastoral staff with that Colombia church. He is also a former Betania Church intern and is now a supported missionary from Betania Church. The conference had about 50 couples attending. The trip was also a great opportunity for Edwin and Kimberly to spend time with these 5 couples and to grow in community and fellowship with them. It was great for these 5 couples to see how the investment of Betania supporting this MEDA grad has brought good ministry fruit for God's kingdom.
- Prayer
  - For salvation of their children
  - For Edwin and Kimberly to continue to be faithful to the Lord in their various roles and ministries.
  - For successful completion of the house project, for wisdom to make good decisions about the house, and for the Lord to provide the \$75,000 needed to complete the construction.
  - For wisdom on this U.S. trip to visit churches, making reports on the work and encouraging people who supported them financially and through prayer.
  - For Edwin and Kimberly to persevere in serving in the church and at MEDA.
  - For home schooling of their children, including the new co-op effort, as well as, curriculum acquisition, preparation, and implementation.