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Honduras Mission Trip 2015

July 18th was the beginning of a journey full of blessings, and answered prayer as 9 members from RMPC traveled to La Ceiba, Honduras to assist MTW missionaries with their work. Dr. Diane Kruis and her daughter Jacque, from Las Cruces, NM, served with the team. We went with an openness to go outside our comfort zone and our perceived gifting to do whatever we needed to do to assist the missionaries, to further God's Kingdom and bring glory to His name. As the trip went on, we were convicted to have the same heart attitude when we enter the doors of our church and as we start each day at home.

The adventure began with a 4 ½ hour bus ride from the airport. We were able to travel with and get to know the team from Pennsylvania that would serve with us. We arrived in a rain storm with the electricity out in the city. The MTW missionaries greeted us, got us settled and sent us off to bed. The next morning, the week started in worship, out under a large mango tree in the middle of the dorm complex. Pastor Phil opened the word to us as we gathered with the MTW missionaries and community



The RMPC Honduras 2015 team

members. Later that day, we worshiped with a local congregation with English translation through the use of headphones. The music was joyful, sung by gifted worship leaders and an enthusiastic body of believers, and the gospel was proclaimed.

Our ministry days started between 5-6 am every morning. We had to be ready to leave the dorms at 7 am. Our days ended with a team gathering between 9 and 10 pm. The team helped conduct 4 medical clinics in villages around La Ceiba and helped with a street boys ministry called the Peter Project in La Ceiba on one of the afternoons. Pastor Phil was able to meet with pastors from 2 of the churches involved in the Honduras ministry to pray and encourage one another and to talk of future ministry partnerships. Pastor Phil, Harv Jansen, Kelly Holmes, and Caleb Kruis were able to help with construction on a parish and church in one of the villages that benefit from the medical clinics. All of us came to love the Honduran people, the Honduran medical staff we served alongside, and the missionaries invested in God's Kingdom work in a third world country.



Gail Jansen takes height and weight measurements.

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Pastor Phil Kruis

Kruis Korner

Celebrating Communion in the Lord's Supper

Recent conversations surrounding the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or what other Christians call the Eucharist or Holy Communion, have raised the need for clarification of this important means of grace. Volumes have been written on this topic. These brief paragraphs do not by any

means fully address the subject, but provide a basic introduction to it.

The meaning and significance of the Supper

First of all, the sacraments, along with the preached word and prayer, are considered ordinary means by which God dispenses his grace to his people. An article on Ligonier Ministries' website says, "Prayer, the preaching of the Word, and the sacraments are not elaborate or fancy methods of giving us what we need to confirm our trust in Christ. To an outside observer, they do not seem special at all. After all, they make use of rather common things such as human speech, bread, wine, and water. But by faith and the work of the Spirit, these common elements are used to do an uncommon work — the confirmation of our trust in Jesus and the strengthening of our wills to flee from sin and rest in Christ alone."

More specifically, the sacraments are God's means of showing us grace as they point to the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. When it comes to the Lord's Supper in particular, we are shown the grace God has for sinners in giving his only son to die for us so that we might live. While the Lord's Supper is a meal of remembrance of Christ's death on our behalf, the grace comes as we spiritually and mystically feed upon Christ by faith. Christ's presence in the Lord's Supper is not corporeal, but rather spiritual. He unites us to himself through the body and blood of the new covenant in the Supper as he does nowhere else in the life of the individual believer or the church.

We receive grace from God when we actively participate in the communion of the Lord's Supper. When we partake of his body, it speaks to us of the body he sacrificed to make us part of his body. The wine or juice we drink speaks to us of the blood he shed so that our sins could be forgiven. He has

fulfilled the covenant God made with Abram in Genesis 15 by shedding his own blood for our souls, and in this new covenant relationship he grows the descendants of Abram in grace. By partaking in this meal we join our hearts and voices together and proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

What we do during the taking of the Supper

Given the meaning and significance of the Lord's Supper, we partake of this sacred meal with sobriety and solemnity, while at the same time celebrating the victory Christ achieved for us through his death. This varied response to the meal gives rise to varied practices during the administration of the meal. All who partake of the meal are called to look back in remembrance to the sacrifice Jesus made for us. All who partake of the meal are commanded to partake by faith, not by sight, trusting not in who or what is going on at the time of the meal, but in the One commemorated and celebrated in the meal.

At times this remembrance may be done in silence to allow for deeper meditation upon the reality our mystical union with Christ. At times this remembrance may be done with somber music or low singing to drive home the solemnity of the meal even more. And this remembrance may be accompanied with joyful music and loud singing that reflects the festive nature of the celebration of our Victor over death and Satan and world.

Therefore some of what we do during the meal is done because of what Scripture commands: the table is fenced (clear instruction is given on who should participate); the meal is distributed and received; and the meal is eaten, remembering Christ's work and believing He accomplished all that we could not through his death and resurrection.

Some of what we do during the meal is done according to preference. Some prefer complete silence during distribution of the elements and during the eating of the meal. Some prefer quiet music or low singing. Others prefer joyful music and loud singing. The interesting thing is that the practice of the early church does not support one of these preferences over another. Each of these preferences has historical precedent in the early church. As with all preferences, our personal preference must be set aside for the sake of the body in which we find fellowship.

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Pastor Luke Smith

Hey Y'all!

Covenant Keeping

Every iteration of God's covenant requires a response from His people of declaring His glory, being a blessing to all of the creation, subduing the whole of creation, and being good stewards of it. This mission never changes, but sadly neither does the failure of God's people to respond with faith. And yet, God still carries out His plan of redemption. He makes covenant promises to David in 2 Samuel 7 whereby he speaks of a perfect mediator who embodies man's covenantal responsibilities of declaring God's glory, one who has dominion of the creation, one who preserves the creation (i.e. land and people), and one who blesses and is a blessing to the nations. But here lies the uniqueness of this mediator: he is kingly, one who establishes God's people forever and who embodies Yahweh's faithfulness to His people even when they fall away. This mediator is the one who will crush the head of the serpent and the one who fulfills the promises made to Abraham once for all. This is Jesus. He is not only covenant maker, but covenant keeper. From Adam onward, all covenant mediation failed on account of the faithless acts of rebellion, but God always remained faithful to His character and mission within the redemptive covenant He established, and so we have Jesus who accomplishes what only YHWH could accomplish—because He is Yahweh! In Jesus we not only have God giving of a human representative to carry out His mission, but we have God himself condescending to get the job done.

However, just because Jesus has ascribed to God's people their place in His eternal

Kingdom, this doesn't mean that we as His people are off the hook. There still remains a covenantal response, though that response is not conditional for the covenant to be maintained. As we start to respond to what God has done and continues to do in the creation (i.e. His mission in the created order and lives of His people), we become increasingly informed of who we are as God's elect people. The Church as "New Israel" has the same mission of blessing the nations and being about God's redemptive and reconciling work as God's people always have, but now the scope has broadened that forces the Church to the ends of the earth to gather in those God has made a part of His covenant people. Why? Because the purpose of the Church's covenantal response is not to merely be a covenantal people in isolation. Covenantal response is the fruit of what God has done in creation and redemption. Why does Jesus curse the fig tree in Matthew 21? It is because the purpose of the fig tree is not to simply be a fig tree. The purpose of the fig tree is to produce fruit so that in bearing fruit more fig trees may be produced and so others may eat of it. Likewise, the purpose of our covenantal response is to bear the fruit of faith so that others may taste and see that the Lord is good and desire more of it. This is what the purpose has been all along really. From Adam onward, God is always telling His people to fill the earth that is His, be holy as He is holy, be a blessing and bless the nations because He has blessed them, and be about redemptive work because they have been redeemed. In doing so, the people of God fulfill their obligation of glorifying the God who made them.

Volunteers Needed for Children's Ministry

There are many opportunities for the Rincon Mountain community to help with the Children's Ministry. More volunteers are needed for both the Sunday school hour and for Children's Church during the service. Many opportunities require little or no preparation for the volunteers. A background check is required which is done through Rincon Mountain. Please contact Victoria Wates or the church office for more information.

A Word...or Two

Cliques, Clubs, and Christian Unity



Pastor Ben Castaneda

"We clasp hands in a circle and sing, 'Blest be the tie that binds,' but what does that tie look like? It is invisible, of course, and we may like it that way. The more invisible the better. If it were not for that invisible tie, we might feel that we had to do something about our divisions."

That quote was written by Ed Clowney in his book *The Church*, and it unfortunately reflects a very real problem faced by every local church. Christian unity is often (wrongly) taken for granted. It has to be consciously worked at, just like any skill.

Let me illustrate. Many visitors remark that we're a very welcoming, friendly church, which is an incredible compliment! However, if we ever settle into a comfortable rhythm on Sunday mornings and stop being intentional about seeking out newcomers, our friendly character will eventually cease to be true. We will instead gain a reputation as a club, with a clear distinction between "insiders" and "outsiders."

The issue of Christian unity is similar but more subtle. It's easy to identify the visitor on Sunday morning, but what about the people who are there week after week? How well do you truly know them? If you're honest with yourself, who do you avoid greeting? Do you only know people within a certain distance from your traditional spot in the

sanctuary? Do you only mingle with people in your particular demographic (and in doing so, unwittingly form a clique)? Do you go out of your way to love, serve, and care for others within the congregation? As I write these questions, I have to admit that I am convicted by own failings in this area. It's far easier to fall into disunity than to expend the effort involved in true unity.

So what's the solution to disunity? I recently ran across 1 John 4:10-11, which says, "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." This is the source of our unity! John powerfully connects God's overwhelming love for us (while we were sinners) with our responsibility to love the other members of the Body of Christ. Unity isn't possible under our own steam; it has to flow from a deep, rich, experience of God's unmerited love! Only then will we want to genuinely love and serve one another, even the ones who aren't "easy to love."

Who: Trunk or Treat is an event for all Rincon members and members of our community.

What: This is an evening of fellowship and trick-or-treating fun. We ask members to come spend the evening hosting a trunk and distributing candy. Last year, we had over 150 children and their families join us. This event is made possible by members willing to host trunks.

When: Saturday, October 31st from 6 pm to 8 pm

Where: Rincon Mountain Parking Lot

Why: We want to host a safe and welcoming event on our campus for families in our community. We invite our community to join us for a family event and it provides an opportunity to meet people in our community. You are encouraged to invite your friends and neighbors!

How: We need Rincon members to host trunks! Bring your lawn chairs, candy, and welcoming smiles. Decorating your trunk is encouraged, but not required. There will be a prize for the best trunk! You can sign up to host a trunk at the Connect Cart or by emailing Victoria at vwates@rinconpres.org.



Jerime Reid Joins Worship Team

As you probably have noticed, we have a new face in our worship team. That new face is Jerime Reid, our new Assistant Worship Leader. Jerime is a multi-talented individual who not only has vocal chops but is so skilled on guitar, bass, and drums. When he is not attending classes at Pima or working at Instrumental Music, his primary job, Jerime plays in a couple of local bands. Prior to coming on to our worship team, Jerime spent time as the Worship Intern at 22nd Baptist leading their praise teams. Jerime will be working directly with Pastor Luke to plan music, schedule and rehearse our musicians, lead the music on Sunday mornings, and fill holes as needed on other instruments in our band. We are excited to have him here as part of our body at RMPC! Please welcome Jerime to the church when you see him.



Food Truck Roundup

On August 30th, Rincon Mountain hosted seven food trucks as part of the church's fall kickoff. The event was well attended with many folks coming from the surrounding community. The food trucks featured everything from Mexican food to pizza to burgers to kettle corn. For the kids there was a jumping castle and bean bag toss. We look forward to hosting another such event in the future. Maybe we can get a Greek gyro truck!



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How often we celebrate the Supper

At RMPC, we offer the Lord's Supper three times per month, once a month in the morning worship service, and at both evening services on the second and fourth Sundays. Some churches in our denomination (Presbyterian Church in America—PCA) practice weekly communion. Others practice communion once a quarter. While good and right reasons for these varied levels of frequency can be deduced from Scripture, the frequency of the observance of the Lord's Supper is not defined in the Bible nor in the subordinate standards to which the PCA subscribes (the Westminster Confession of Faith along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms and the Book of Church Order). The only direction that we are given in this matter is that it should be done frequently. Each individual Session (board of elders at a local church) is responsible to determine how often would most benefit the flock over which God has appointed them as overseers. For the time being, the Session at RMPC believes it is in the best interests of the flock to offer it three times a month. As with all aspects of the worship service, the elders are continually evaluating the effectiveness of each element in the life of the congregation. Growing each person's communion with God and with each other is of primary importance and the Lord's Supper is vital to that growth.



Kelly Holmes ministering to the kids.



Shelley Kruis and Jessica Quinlan work in the pharmacy.



Harvey Jansen painting.

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During the 4 days of clinics, 766 people were ministered to by doctor visits, ultrasound appointments, dental procedures and medicine and vitamin distributions. Claudia and Gail interacted with patients, assessed their need, took vitals and encouraged them. Dr. Diane treated patients, Shelley Kruis worked in the pharmacy and Jessica Quinlan gave diabetic nutrition consults and worked in the pharmacy. Kelly Holmes, Jacque Kruis, Caleb Kruis, Pastor Phil, Harv Jansen and Elena McFall ministered to the children of Honduras during the clinics by playing games, doing activities with them, and by praying with some of them. The clinics were held in partnership with church plants and were effective in drawing village members to interact with the pastors.

The days were long and tiring; it was extremely hot and humid day and night, electricity went out almost every day; several of the team members from Pennsylvania and Arizona suffered from dehydration; but God showed Himself over and over. Every prayer was answered beyond our imagination, His name was glorified and the church was

strengthened in Honduras.

The Lord's kindness is extended to the Honduran people by long-term and short-term missionaries who pour their lives and resources into Honduran communities. Christians bring hope to Honduras. There is hope for transformation of individual lives as they commit to Christ as Savior and Lord, and there is also hope for transformation of the culture.

The mission we served is transforming lives through its school, seminary, home for pregnant mothers, street boys ministry, medical clinic and church plants. Our prayer is that as the Gospel goes forth, the Honduran church will raise up leaders in Honduras who will impact all levels of Honduran society by addressing their spiritual lives, poverty, medical care, education, infrastructure, and violence.

Our team was privileged to share in the work of transformation through the power of the Gospel. Because of what God has done, we exalt Him.



Claudia Levin helping in patient intake.



The kids having fun with Caleb the pack horse.



Pastor Phil Kruis leads Sunday morning worship.

Calendar

WEEKLY

Mondays:

- Women's Study, 9:30 am.
Janie Craig
- Men's Study, 7 pm.
Grant Brown



Tuesdays:

- Women's Study, 7 pm. *Shelley Kruis*

Wednesdays:

- Staff Prayer, 3 pm. *Phil Kruis*
- Study Hall, 4 pm. *Ben Castaneda*
- Youth & Family Group, 6 pm. *Ben Castaneda*
- Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm. *Luke Smith*

Fridays:

- Mountain Men Study, 6:30 am. *Phil Kruis*

2nd & 4th Sundays:

- College & Career, 12:30 pm. *Ben Castaneda*
- Evening Service, 5:30 pm

OCTOBER

Fri. 23rd: Fourth Friday, 6:30 pm. *Betsy Dunlap*

Tues 27th: Diabetes Management Seminar, 7 pm. *Paula Harper*

Sat. 31st: Men's Workday, 7 am.

Sat. 31st: Trunk or Treat, 6 pm. *Victoria Wates*

NOVEMBER

Sun. 1st: Guest & Fellowship Lunch, 12 pm. *Dave & Val Crain*

Sat. 7th: Manly Breakfast for Youth, 8 am. *Ben Castaneda*

Sat. 7th: Ladies Self Defense Workshop, 3:30 pm. *Jeff Prather*

Tues. 10th: Taco Dinner for Women & Children's Center. *Linda Anibal*

Sat. 21st: Caregiver Conference, 9 am. *Ben Castaneda*

Fri. 27th: Fourth Friday, 6:30 pm. *Betsy Dunlap*

DECEMBER

Sat. 5th: Manly Breakfast for Youth, 8 am. *Ben Castaneda*

Sun. 6th: Guest and Fellowship Lunch, 12 pm. *Dave & Val Crain*

Sun. 6th: Christmas Concert, 5:30 pm. *Luke Smith*

Tues. 8th: Taco Dinner for Women & Children's Center. *Linda Anibal*

Sun. 20th: Progressive Dinner, TBD. *Luke Smith*

Thurs. 24th: Christmas Eve Services, 5:30 & 7 pm. *Luke Smith*

Missions Update

The Missions Committee is already planning for next year's mission trips. One possibility is for a team to go to Costa Rica and provide support to 6:8 Ministries. The second possibility is for a team to go to Honduras again. We will be organizing the collection of various items to be taken on the trips.

Also, in addition to our normal support to the missionaries listed in our bulletin, the missions committee voted to support Matt Elder (ASU Hope Church), additional funding for 6:8 Ministries, a one time contribution to the Seminary Building Project in Honduras and tuition support for an African Bible University student.

The Rincon Mountain
MESSENGER
Fall 2015 Volume 3, Issue 4

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Production Editor Becca Blunk

Published quarterly by:
Rincon Mountain Presbyterian Church
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