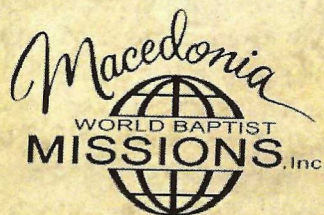


Gene and Robin Trask

*Missionaries to the
La Moskitia
Region of Honduras*

*Sending church:
Pleasant View Baptist Church,
Taylors, SC
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Serving with



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2023 November December

Dear praying friends and supporters;

The first of November found me on my way into the back country from the opposite end than normal. I took a bus from San Pedro Sula around to Catacamas, which took two days to get there with bus scheduling. I had been in contact with the boat man that was to take me down river to Pansana, but he was delayed two days leaving. Then what I had thought to be a couple of hours ride in a truck and all day on the river turned out to be the reverse. Five hours in the back of the truck and two hours on the river. Thank the Lord for getting me safely to Pansana. There I was able to preach on Sunday, and then on Tuesday we left out on our exploratory trip. We were looking to see if there was a path that we could clean or fix and use to get to Pansana with a motorcycle, 4 wheeler, or the jeep. Nichin had also visited some folks back in the area we were headed to, and they had asked for Bibles, so we packed about 30 lbs. of Bibles back in for them.



From the very beginning the path was rough. People had burnt the woods and let the weeds and grass grow up over the trees that had fallen. The first couple of hours and the last couple there was not actually a trail, just Nichin knowing the general direction we needed to go. Once we started up the mountains there was a trail, but it had not been used for a couple years. The first night we found a family that worked making cheese and were able to stay with them, giving them Bibles and a presentation of the Gospel. From there we headed out to the opening of the canyon, and toward our pickup point. We passed several abandoned houses where we had hoped to give out Bibles. The last house we came to had two families and we were able to give to them and preach. From there the trail got worse and we went across some mountains where we did not see nor hear anyone for two days. Finally we came to the Coco river (the Honduras and Nicaragua border), and there were a couple of houses there. From there we were able to hire a boat to take us down river to our pickup point. On the satellite map the village at the pickup point had about 15 to 20 houses. When we got there, there was only one. The people had gotten involved in drugs, and began fighting and killing among themselves. The ones still alive had fled to other places, and the one house there, the family had only recently returned after a couple of years. Bro. Andy brought the 4-wheeler, and we were able to ride 5 hours to Puerto Lempira. Being late Saturday afternoon, there were no boats till Monday to get home, so I was able to preach there in the mission church for their Sunday services, and then head home on Monday.



Robin came in on Thursday, and it had been raining so hard that our yard was almost completely full of water, and the path out front was running like a river. So much so, that when we brought her in from the river, the trailer got stuck and we had to unload everything out of the boat and push the boat out into the flooded path and float it up to the gate. From there we put it on the trailer and pulled it in the yard. That was a tiring afternoon. We finally made it up in the house after dark.



On the next Tuesday we were able to send one of our men, Bro Cleiton, to San Pedro Sula for surgery. He boarded one of the cargo boats here and two days later he was in La Ceiba. From there a bus ride to San Pedro. The next day, he had his first appointment with the doctor. The next week on Wednesday they did a complete knee replacement. His son went with him and cared for him during the recovery time, till the staples were removed. Two weeks from surgery we had them take a bus back to La Ceiba and the boat was ready to leave that night to come out here. But they did not go to the boat. So then they were stranded there at the house of a friend of the son till after Christmas. We were able to buy a plane ticket for Bro. Cleiton to come home on the 27th, and he is here now recovering, doing his exercises, and enjoying being home with his family.

While I was in Pansana with Nichin, he told me that his wife, Tania, was still having medical problems from more than a year ago when Bro. Sexton helped them come into Lempira for doctor's appointments. So we paid passage for her to go down river and over to Lempira. When we got to Lempira after our trip there was a lot of confusion over what was going on and what doctors she had seen. So I had Nichin go home and get the three kids and their stuff and come here to Kaukira and stay in a house here on the property. The purpose being, so when Robin got here, she could take Tania over and talk personally with the doctor to see what was going on. After exams, mammogram, and ultrasounds, it was determined that she had gallstones and needed surgery. A surgeon only comes in once a month for 2 weeks, so an appointment was made. At that appointment he told them he could not do the surgery but the surgeon that was coming the middle of December could. So they made another appointment. That surgeon was angry at the first surgeon because that surgery could not even be done there in Lempira. The Lord worked it out through a contact in La Ceiba and a place there agreed to do the surgery in two days. Only problem was, being around Christmas time there were no available flights. When we told the doctor she said she would see if she could get them tickets and did. When they went to the airport to fly out, and tried to buy return tickets for the next week, those as well were booked up till after Christmas. While Robin was on the phone telling me that, the airline owner's daughter, who we have worked with several times before, heard and rescheduled for a bigger plane to come on the day they needed to return. So Robin and Tania flew to La Ceiba the next day, Tania had her surgery, and a week later they flew back out here. (WOW! God just puts people in our path to help, guide, and encourage us.)

Robin and Tania flew in on Wednesday the 20th, just in time for Robin to get started cooking for our Sunday Christmas Eve church dinner. We had regular service in the morning and were able to baptize Mrs. Lidia who was saved back in September right before my mother passed away. That evening we invited 40 of our members, their families and those who had been saved but are not members. Of those invited, we had 35 who came, and we enjoyed a good time of fellowship. After supper we observed the Lord's Supper for those who were members of the church.

The week of Christmas we spent getting things ready for our reading class that will begin the 3rd of January. We have the burden to teach kids and adults alike to be able to read, for the purpose of reading the Bible. Many adults and kids even up to the 9th grade have difficulty or can not even read at all. We have 12 registered to be here for the 15 classes during the month of January.

On New Year's Eve we had regular services in the morning, but that night we were able to show the movie "Sheffey". I had found it dubbed in Spanish, and wanted the folks to be able to see his testimony for Christ. We had set up the big tent out in the yard and had around forty people there by the end of the movie.

I apologize for the longer than normal letter. But I want to thank you all who regularly pray for us. As you can see, we are not able to request prayer in advance for everything that happens, but just like you, we look to the Lord to guide and give us wisdom in what to do. Thank you so much for praying.

In His Service,
Gene and Robin Trask