



THE GOINS FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO HONDURAS



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Prayer Letter

Mayo 2021

An Immigrant Story

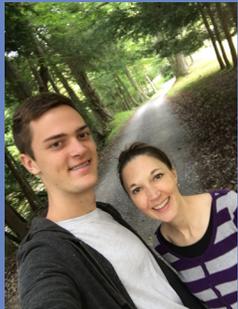
In our over 16 years living in Honduras, we have known many Hondurans who decided (against counsel) to walk the immigrant trail in pursuit of “the American dream.” It is an issue that elicits strong emotions on both sides. Jhon (yes, correct spelling) left El Progreso, Honduras for the United States in 2005, the same year that our family arrived to help start a new Baptist church located in his neighborhood. (We wouldn’t meet Jhon until 14 years later!). Over the next few years after he left, his mother and sister would become committed followers of Christ and faithful members of Iglesia Bautista El Faro in El Progreso. We remember Jhon’s mother, Doris, asking for prayer for the salvation of her son who was living in Houston, TX; and we also remember Doris’ joy at sharing that Jhon had trusted in Christ as Savior as a result of a local Spanish-speaking Baptist church’s door-to-door evangelism. As Jhon grew in his faith at his local church in Houston, Matt also started discipleship over the phone from Honduras every Saturday morning. This began a spiritual journey for Jhon that would see him get involved in his local church, meet a young Christian woman and get married,



and begin preparation for full-time ministry in his church’s Bible institute. Yet, at the same time, Jhon testifies that the Holy Spirit was convicting him of his illegal status in the United States. He was comfortable living in the U. S., he had a job, his wife was a U. S. citizen, he had a clean record -- there were many excuses he could have used to justify staying. However, deep down he knew that it was in his power to make things right, and if he wanted to serve God full-time and shepherd others spiritually, he had to set a good example. So in 2019, Jhon voluntarily left the U. S. to return to Honduras and apply for legal immigration status. This step has not been easy. His wife and three daughters remain in the U. S. so that she can work

and provide while he waits on his paperwork. Jhon’s decision not only gave him a clear conscience before God in his lead up to ministry, but God in his Providence worked it out for him to be with his mother in what would end up being the last year of her life before she succumbed to cancer. Jhon has become a tremendous asset here in our local church. We admire his faith and look forward to what God will do through His servant.

This month our oldest son will be graduating from high school from West Florida Baptist Academy, a ministry of our sending church. He plans to attend Pensacola Christian College this fall to study electrical engineering. Joash has a desire to use engineering as a door of opportunity for the gospel in restricted-access nations. Please pray for him (and us) as he transitions to the U. S.




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