



INTO THE DEPTHS

An update from Oscar & Kathryn in Honduras

November 2025

Hard Year, Grateful Hearts

This has been a hard year. We are especially grateful to those who have prayed us through, supported us in any way, and have extended us grace. Thank you!!

What started out as a normal November 2024 turned into a tropical-storm-impacted Thanksgiving, discombobulated December, jarring January, and a grief-filled February. That was the start of the last 12 months.

But I hope you will see in this hard and beautiful year-in-review: 1) what you are part of through your support; and 2) through it all, God's faithfulness & love...

In the middle of November, with just a couple of days left of the school year, Tropical Storm Sara threatened. So, thanks to a heads-up on the weather and having our own vehicle to make the "quick" (5+ hours round trip) run into town for supplies, Oscar and I drove to La Ceiba.

The next day, a section of the bridge that we had crossed (one of only 2 that connect La Ceiba to all eastern communities) had collapsed, and the river near us had become uncrossable. As the rain continued, the road up our mountain became impassable in multiple places. Supplies dwindled, cooking gas ran out, and people in local communities were suffering. The whole area was without power for two weeks. We began to look forward to the few hours at night when the ministry generator was turned on and we could use WiFi to communicate. In fact, during those times, our campus converted into an "internet café" of sorts where many local people came to contact loved ones and see news. Our campus became a communications hub. The ministry house-parents did a lot of work helping many people with passwords, food bags, and eventually river crossing.



Prayer Focus

Please pray for:

- Turnover at GH2K
- Our finances for 2026
- GH2K foster families, school administrator, and directors
- Students/children to get the support they need at home

We give thanks for:

- Kathryn's Honduran residency finally came through! (About 3.5 years after submitting paperwork.)
- God's faithfulness in the big and small things
- Our neighbors, ministry partners, & students
- YOU – our supporters!

Support

Make checks out and send to:

Cornerstone International
PO Box 192 Wilmore, KY 40390

Donate by credit card or sign up for monthly donations from Cornerstone's website:
cimissions.org

Click on "Missionaries" then Oscar & Kathryn's picture.
Scroll down.
Choose the respective tab:
Goodloe-Sanchez and/or
Vehicle Purchase Fund

Thank you!

Contact

kathryn.g@cimissions.org

Travel

We will be in MS Gulf Coast/New Orleans & Southern Indiana from mid-November to mid-December. We would love to see you!

The Honduran government helicoptered in food bags and helicoptered out a few patients who needed dialysis or other medical care. Our housedads helped distribute the food bags. As soon as the river started receding, folks on our lower campus did an amazing job of bringing supplies to the upper campus where we live. They hand-carried them across the river, then loaded them on a ministry vehicle waiting on the opposite side. Thankfully, there were no injuries or lives lost in our area, although the river literally changed the landscape, and there was material damage.

After repairs (by ordinary people with rocks and shovels and by heavy machinery), the mountain road was very bumpy and muddy, but passable by a 4-wheel-drive vehicle. Thank you for contributing to our 4-wheel drive Vehicle Fund!! – If you haven't yet, you can still help us reach our goal. Over a month-and-a-half later, vehicles finally began travelling our road, but significant delays continued into subsequent months as the bridge in La Ceiba was repaired.



Discombobulated December

In early December, my family planned to meet in Guatemala and then come to Honduras to visit "our new house" for the first time. It was to be about a week of "adventure" and togetherness. To ensure that we could make our flight, Oscar and I left our truck at home, crossed the river on foot and got a ride down the mountain. Additional rain was forecast, and we didn't want to chance getting completely stuck on the wrong side of the river. That was the beginning.



Oscar crossing the river to meet my family.

I'll spare you all of the details, but they included a 12-hour stomach bug (or food poisoning) with a sleepless Oscar and I taking turns in a hotel bathroom the entire night before our flight; various flight issues for various family members; my mom tripping and dislocating a shoulder, requiring a whole day in a small local clinic/hospital; the stress of translating for my family in a medical situation; my sister, a hospital chaplain, finding herself during her week of vacation sitting in a foreign hospital and witnessing the sad case of a girl who came in and died while we were there, and a hard lesson for my sister in the reality of health care outside of the USA; driving on very confusing Guatemala City roads in heavy traffic; and weather not cooperating enough to allow a visit to our house in Honduras. In the end, we had only one whole day together that wasn't in a hospital, and my parents never made it to Honduras.



Starting our one day together after mom dislocated her shoulder and spent the previous day in a Guatemalan hospital.

However, there were so many blessings along the way - from the people whose house we stayed at, the young lady who accompanied us on our first few days, to the rental car employee who extended our contract without any hassle, and the helpful doctors and nurses in the clinic/hospital. The weather was a beautiful change for all of us. The destination was full of interesting places. We found a restaurant with delicious food and a grocery store that was easily accessible. Most importantly, we had a chance to hug each other.

Upon our return to La Ceiba, Oscar and I waited for five days until the river was crossable by vehicle and someone from GiveHope2Kids drove our truck down. The morning they arrived, we learned that Junior, one of the youth, who had long been in declining health, died in his sleep, and they found him that morning. When we arrived home that late afternoon, everyone was mourning and preparing to stay up all night. When the coffin arrived, Junior's body was placed inside, and the coffin was carried to my classroom, where it lay until around 6:30 am. Then, everyone proceeded to the burial. I did not know Junior very well, but during the velorio (wake or visitation), I had the special, though sad, opportunity to sit with my young students and talk with them about death and life everlasting.

Five days later was Christmas Day, but nobody felt like doing the normal, ministry-wide celebration. Each family celebrated in their own way. A couple of days later, Oscar invited his students (4th-6th graders) to our front porch, where he showed a video and talked about the meaning of Christmas. Oscar asked me to make pancakes with chocolate icing, and they set off fireworks: a Honduran Christmas tradition.



Jarring January

For New Year's, we visited Oscar's family in La Ceiba. In early January, I slipped and broke a rib. For about a week, it was painful to do much of anything. I am thankful that the intense pain didn't last as long as it could have (prayers, I'm sure, had something to do with this)! For a few more weeks, I was especially careful not to strain and set back the healing process. I did, however, make the bus ride down to the ministry's belated Christmas celebration at the hot springs, where the kids and families enjoyed swimming, soccer, ice-cream sundaes, and a relaxing time of togetherness in celebration of our Savior's birth.

Thank you so much to all who participated in the OSUMC angel tree program, which helped pay for this much-needed excursion!



Mom

Early on the morning of Sunday, January 26th, I checked my phone and found several messages and missed calls from my dad and sister. The first one said, "Hey, Kathryn, Mom is alive but in critical condition. Lots of tests yet to run."

After my dad, who had started CPR immediately and then called 911, my sister was the first family member to arrive at the hospital. Oscar and I arrived Monday night, thanks to the director of our ministry, who drove us the 3+ hours just to drop us off at the airport; generous financial support for plane tickets; and a family friend who picked us up and took us directly to the ICU. We took turns staying with Mom 24/7, and my uncle (Mom's brother) was included in the rotation when he arrived from Ohio. Over the next exhausting week, we were helped along by a couple of great nurses, our pastor (who is a long-time family friend), and a couple of other special long-time family friends. We are grateful to church members and others who dropped off food and were ready to help in any way, and those who attended her memorial and funeral services.

We will never know why Mom's heart stopped in the middle of the night, but what I understood was that her brain had suffered catastrophic damage from being too long without oxygen. Mom died peacefully with a family member present in the wee hours of Monday, February 3rd, 2025.

We miss her every day. Over a lifetime and beyond, Mom's love has made and is making a difference.



"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. "

Psalm 139 v. 7-12

"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalm 139 v. 23-24

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

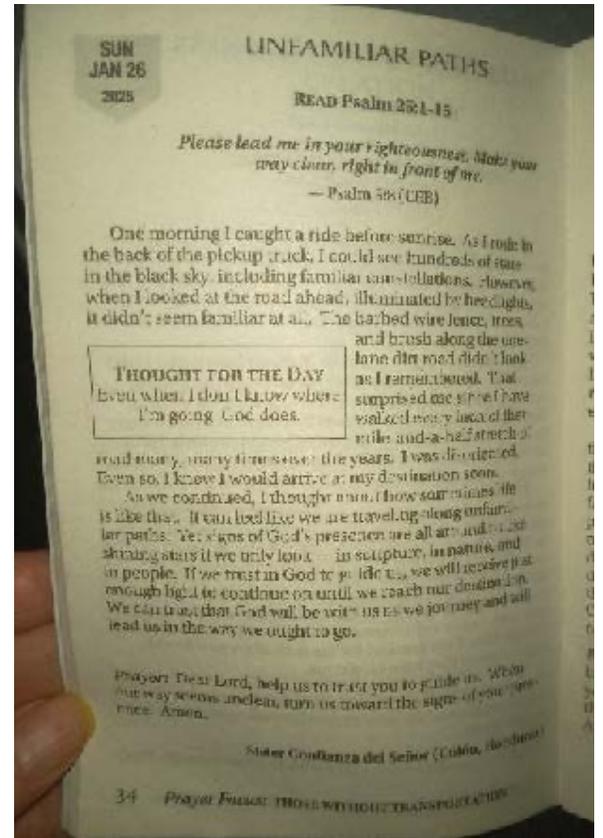
Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

Glimpses of God's Care

One night after being with mom at the hospital, I picked up The Upper Room, an "invitational, interdenominational, international" daily devotional guide that publishes devotionals submitted from readers around the world. It is published every two months, translated into 33 languages, and sent to over 100 countries. When compiling submissions, they typically work about a year in advance. I was amazed at what I found: The devotional for the day that my mom was taken to the hospital was written by someone whom I had crossed paths with about 10 years ago in Honduras. The devotional was about a very familiar one-lane dirt road in Honduras and how it suddenly seemed unfamiliar and disorienting in the dark night.

"Yet signs of God's presence are all around us like shining stars if only we look -- in scripture, in nature, and in people. If we trust God to guide us, we will receive just enough light to continue on until we reach our destination. We can trust that God will be with us as we journey and will lead us in the way we ought to go. Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to trust you to guide us. When our way seems unclear, turn us toward the signs of your presence. Amen." (Ps. 25:1-15; Ps. 5:8)

I do not believe random chance led to this devotional, written by this person, being published on this day. I believe it was, during the difficult time of Mom's hospitalization and passing, one of the shining star signs of God's love and presence with my mom and with us.



For me (Kathryn), rainbows have always been a special sign of God's love, presence, and care. Snow was the same way for my mom. My family is so grateful that she got to see the once-in-a-lifetime great Gulf-South/Ocean Springs Snowstorm of 2025. Oh, how she enjoyed it! We were blissfully unaware that mom would be experiencing the fullness of God's love, presence, and care less than two weeks later.

Return to Honduras

In one short week, our family's life unexpectedly changed forever. When Oscar and I returned to Honduras, our work life changed, too, significantly but not so unexpectedly. Our good friends and neighbors, the Strunas, went on Sabbatical. He was the school principal and one-quarter of the teaching staff. So, in February, our students started the Honduran school year in the local public school. In addition to giving me margin while working through Mom's passing, volunteering in the public school



The local public school in Urraco, where Oscar and I are volunteering.

gave Oscar and me an exciting opportunity to reach more students. It was wonderful building relationships with the children and teachers! I taught English to 1st-6th graders, and Oscar taught a Bible class. We've seen small improvements in their attitudes and behavior. About 40 students attended the school, but after the rainy season started and the end of 6th grade neared, attendance dropped to about 20. There were only two teachers at the school, and the students attended from 7 am to 12 pm, Monday – Friday. The original idea was that Oscar and I would also provide afternoon supplemental education for children from the ministry, but mostly, I just helped with homework.



Oscar and I with our friends/neighbors/co-workers, the Strunas.

Next year, Oscar has been invited to give similar faith/Bible talks at a public high school a few communities down the road. The greater community in which GH2K is located does not have a Kindergarten, and in the first graders, I see a big need for it. I have been permitted to start something at the ministry to help with this need, and I'd eventually like to include the local children so that they can all have a better start when they get to first grade in the public school.

Summer Months & Beyond

This summer, Oscar and I returned to the USA for Cornerstone International's every-five-years Summit conference. CI missionaries from around the world attend a week of worship, learning, and fellowship. Oscar and I also attended two family reunions (one on my Mom's side and one on my Dad's side, which was the first one in about 30 years).

While in the States, I also took a chance and emailed a pilot who I thought might be willing to encourage "B", the youth that I've been mentoring. "B" wants to become either a plastic surgeon or a flight attendant. I really think she could become a pilot. Though I don't have any connections to plastic surgeons, I did find out about Captain Lynn Ripplemeyer, who became the first woman to go from flight attendant to pilot-- and she used to fly into the capital city of Honduras! Turns out, Captain Ripplemeyer sent a couple of signed books, one inscribed to "B"! I am looking forward to reading it with her!



Cornerstone International's Summit gathering.

Back in Honduras, in addition to the Bible class at school and helping with housework, Oscar continues to be involved with the Friday evening worship service, and is beginning to help me with the Youth Group. A ministry employee asked if I would help her start the youth group on our campus, and I was very happy to do so! **It has been wonderful to have more of a relationship with the high school kids and help them learn more about the Bible (they already know quite a lot!) and a relationship with God.** They are an eager group of 12, and we have had good meetings!

Oscar and I covered as house-parents for a week at the beginning of October. We cared for one teenage boy with some special challenges, and three teenage girls, one of whom is "B", during their vacation week. It was a good experience. I'm glad the girls could cook! We went to the river and we took them to the city to learn about local history, have lunch out, and visit friends at our other campus.

Oscar and I continue to be in contact with the kids at Loma de Luz. We visit when we can (about a 4-hour 1-way trip) and WhatsApp when we can't. The kids are growing up so much! Late this summer, we got word that our special young friend, Danely's cancer seems to be spreading, and there is not much that can be done. We continue to talk with Danely on Wednesdays, and we're thankful that the Children's Center director made sure we were informed so that we can make as many good memories for and with her as we can. So far, she remains happy and comfortable. **She was also super excited to be baptized in October!** Oscar and I and a lot of people attended – a testament to how she connects with folks. It was a blessing. She squealed with delight and was excited enough to start the group singing! Incredibly, despite her many challenges, she's always one of the most joyful people I know and is always ready with hugs.



Saturday Kids' Collaboration

Recently, another CI missionary family, the Johnsons, from our lower campus, started coming up to our campus a couple of times a month. They would come up for the church service on Fridays and stay the night. On Saturday morning, they would put on an activity for the kids, which included a little lesson, activities, and refreshments. I helped some with translations, the kids, and a lesson. I feel like I didn't do much, but Kelita has always been so appreciative of my contributions. Among other things, the kids heard of the Fruits of the Spirit, the Potter and the Clay, etc. The Johnson's son also provided a lesson, translation, and interesting demonstrations!



Closing Thoughts . . . What Remains

When I look back over the last 12 months, I see death, life, God's faithfulness, and relationships. No matter one's culture or context, life boils down to these things. I see God's faithfulness in keeping us going. We haven't done things perfectly, but we have felt God's care and have put one foot in front of the other, and whatever good comes from it is all for God's glory.

Relationships matter – they matter when you are the person handing out food bags; when you need people to push your car down the incline so it will start or you need a team to carry your motorcycle across the swollen river; to bring you a meal; to sit with you at night; to celebrate a birthday; to help children learn and grow; to work in a school; to cry with; to do life with. Relationships matter when, as we learned from Michael & Claudia Hendricks at Summit, we need to see and be a shining face of God's love. Relationships with our loved (and not-so-loved) ones matter now and into eternity. Our most important relationship is with God, whose love for us is shown in Christ's obedience, death, and new life. What is your relationship with God like right now? Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you. And, we all have human relationships that we steward. How can your love impact others?

Trust God. Put one foot in front of the other. Be the shining face of Jesus to others. Leave the results to God. **And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love.** But the greatest of these is love. We are so grateful and humbled to be building relationships as part of an expression of your love for God and for others! Thank you for your partnership. Blessings to you!

Kathryn & Oscar

Support

Yes! I would like to support Oscar and Kathryn in Honduras.

- I will pray for them faithfully.
- Enclosed is a gift of \$_____.
- Enclosed is a monthly gift of \$_____.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____


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