



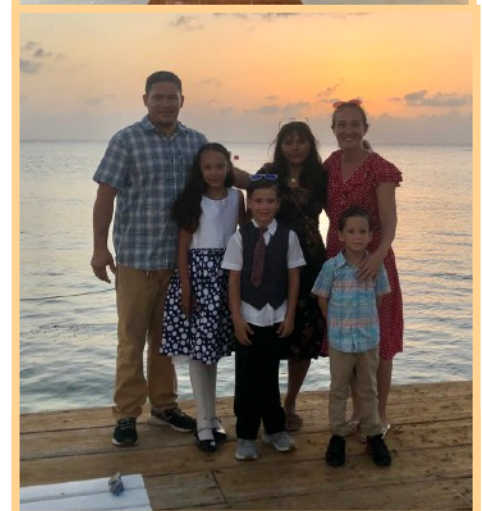
INFECTIOUS MISSION *The Maradiaga Family*

This month is Patriot Month here in Honduras. September 1st was Flag Day, and on September 15th we celebrate Honduran Independence Day, and on the 28th there are more celebrations (when independence from Spain was truly given, when the legal papers arrived in the capital). Tuesday, we will go with Johana to the parade as she carries the Costa Rican flag this year.

In April, we hired a new microbiologist for the lab (required by the government) since the other one left. His name is Nahum Santos, and he just married the pharmacist, so we hope he's a keeper! **May was a busy month, full of birthday celebrations** (my birthday and Lucas -he turned 7) and Mother's Day! We got to celebrate Mother's Day at church with lots of other moms. **Lucas graduated from Preparatory Class, which is like kindergarten, at the end of June and is now in 1st grade. Samantha turns 10 next month and is in 5th grade. Levi is still in Pre-K and doing well in school, and loves doing homework.**

This past summer, we didn't travel to the States since we had gone twice last year. We didn't want to leave Johana for an extended period of time again (and that was God's divine plan; she has had a rough summer emotionally). **We used some of our tax money and took a family vacation for 3 days to Roatan.** The kids have been begging to go since last year when we had to cancel because Johana had end-of-semester testing. We swam in a pool overlooking the ocean, rented a car and saw cool parts of the island, snorkeled in the crystal-clear ocean, watched cruise ships go in and out, went to a cool zoo where we fed a llama and some monkeys, and had a great time relaxing. It was a much-needed getaway!

As soon as we got back from Roatan, Johana's 17th birthday was the next day! We quickly threw together a surprise birthday party with her closest friends, sister, niece, and nephews. We picked everyone up, then came back home and said "Surprise"! Then we went up the mountain to a piece of land that we own that we call "our mountain" and had a bonfire, nachos, and cake! And her big present was a new cell phone! Many young girls get a phone so early here, and then are pregnant by 15 or 16. We are trying to balance responsibility and protecting her teenage heart.



More Updates

At the beginning of August, Calix was asked to marry a young couple, Christian and Kathrin, whom we know. Christian lived at the children's center for a couple of years after he was hit by a car and broke his leg. When he arrived at the hospital, his leg was severely infected and full of maggots. He lived at the children's home to be better taken care of (several years ago). They were married in a beautiful beach ceremony with family and friends attending. Some of her wedding party didn't show up, and Samantha, Lucas, and Levi were recruited to help.

The very next day, Calix got a call that his dad was really sick at the hospital; by the time he got there, his dad had passed away from a massive heart attack. He was only 62 and left behind a 6-year-old daughter. **Please pray for wisdom as we help his widow sort out things that were left and not taken care of.**

As some of you may remember in our last newsletter, the ladies in our church were working hard to raise funds to go to a women's conference the first full weekend of September. **One of our supporters contacted us and offered to pay for the bus to the women's conference! It was L45,000! What a huge blessing!** So our goal was to fill up the bus! We recruited ten new ladies and girls and took thirty-three ladies and girls over eight years old. We just got back and are so refreshed and rejuvenated. The conference theme was Radiant, Choose Thankfulness, with the key verse being 1 Thessalonians 5:18: *"Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."*

So how can we pray for you? Please let us know via email. We love to hear from you all! **We are so thankful for each of you, for your prayers and support. We couldn't be in Honduras serving at the hospital and church without all of your support.** We are so thankful that you guys have blessed us so that we can be a blessing in our little corner of Honduras.



Love,

Christine, Calix, Samantha, Lucas, & Levi

Support

Thank you for your gifts and prayers. Reach us by email at christine@lomadeluz.net

To stand with us financially, you can give online:
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