

# Paul & Lois Howell

## Missionaries with Baptist Mid-Missions to Honduras, Central America

Prayer & Praise Letter - October / December 2018

Dear Praying Friends,

It's been quite busy down here for the last few months. We'll just hit some of the high points. God has been so good to us in everything.

Pastor Silverio, the Honduran Pastor of our first church plant in Democracia, died this past June. Before he went to be with the Lord, he tried to secure a pastor for his church. Unfortunately, he was deceived into giving his flock into the hands of a charlatan. The man immediately demanded a huge salary, tried to take possession of the property, the parsonage, bus, and the Pastor's personal car. Then he began to abuse the people from the pulpit, by name. We don't meddle in an independent church's government. They are, after all, independent. However, it came to our attention that the man was never ordained. He claimed to have been ordained in two different places, both of which denied his claim. Finally, he ordained himself about a month ago. We actually have the video to prove it!

We planned to secure the deed to the property (which the former Pastor hadn't finished), and then tell him to leave. In the meantime, the people decided that since he wasn't ordained, they could ask for his resignation. They were afraid, however, to lift their hands against God's man.

Sunday, Dec. 2, God put him out! We received a frantic call after our evening service to go out as quickly as we could. The police had been called to the church! The imposter (because he was a liar and not a Pastor) had called the police telling them that the gangs had invaded his church and had him at gunpoint! Could you imagine the police arriving with that information expecting a shootout! They were very angry that he had lied. The police later reprimanded him for not solving his issues within the church like the Bible

instructs! After about 3 hours they left taking everything they could carry. The piano (that they had stolen from the former church), a stove, bookshelves, chairs, all the Sunday school materials, the air conditioner from the nursery, all the toys, kitchen items, brooms and mops, paper towels, toilet paper, soap and 3 of the 4 controls for the air conditioners. Finally, they took the Communion plates.

We were all just glad they left. The community has rallied around the church and its members. They don't blame the church for all the scandal. When the wife of the imposter went from house to house trying to shift the blame to the church people, they told her to go away. They had seen the truth with their own eyes and weren't even going to listen to her.

We had great services on Wednesday the 5th and Sunday the 9th. In addition, we baptized a young man named Dylan Avila who is currently studying in a University. He had been baptized by the imposter and wanted to have Paul baptize him again.

Another struggling church sent a delegation to talk to Paul and his Dad. Their Pastor and his wife have been separated now for a few months and they wanted to be sure they were doing the right thing by asking him to step down. Paul said they were right, so they asked him to leave, which he did. We're trying to get them into counseling, but haven't succeeded as yet.

We're now trying to supply Pastors for 4 churches. We have 2 ordained men (including Paul) and 2 men who have studied but not been ordained yet. So, we're asking the young men to take the two smaller works and putting the ordained Pastors in the bigger works. Please pray for more workers!

In addition, we have concluded the year in the Music Academy. There was an article in BMM's Advance magazine about us!

We presented the Christmas Cantata in three churches and it was well received! The orchestra also presented their Christmas Concert for two nights.

We've had several people baptized, one family (living together for 18 years) just got married and want to be baptized on the 30<sup>th</sup> of Dec. and will join the church.

Paul's Dad, who had been living with us for the past 4 months, left to go to Florida for a few months be with Paul's sister Joy and her husband Patt to do medical visits. He's 95 1/2!

Katie and Nana were able to visit us for a month, and have returned to Greenville, SC. We've enjoyed their visit immensely!

We pray that you have a Blessed Christmas and a very Happy and prosperous New Year.

Thank you for your faithful support for all these years. We really couldn't do it without you!

### Prayer Requests:

1. For the work in La Democracia under Pastor Francisco as interim pastor.
2. For Daniel as he preaches at Iglesia Bautista Ind. Calvario.
3. For the work in Real del Puente now that several of the Filipinos have lost their jobs in the clothing mills.
4. For physical and spiritual strength to continue faithfully.
5. For wisdom and guidance for a career choice for Katie, and funds for her study.

In Christ for lost souls,

*Paul & Lois Howell*