

Update - Mending the Soul in Honduras

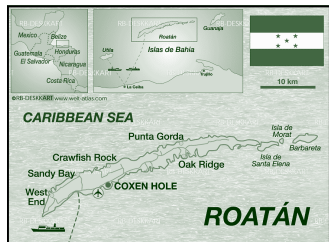


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NORA POLING

Roatan, Honduras

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The Lord's Direction



The Lord continues to open doors for healing for the men and women of Roatan, Honduras!

I was invited to speak at a women's conference at the Pandytown Church of God. I was asked to teach on abuse and healing – a continuation of the teachings I had done while there with a team last summer.

Before leaving for the conference, I was so burdened for the people – there are no shelters for abuse victims on the island – there are no government services – yet there is abuse. I realized that my burden for them had turned into paralysis – how could I give any help – any hope. I was feeling their powerlessness along with my own. I took this to Jesus and He showed me several records in the Bible

where people felt powerless.

The first was in II Chronicles 20 where King Jehoshaphat and all of Judah were surrounded by three armies – they were afraid – powerless – but verse 12 *"O our God, won't you stop them? We are **powerless** against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but **we are looking to you for help.**"* The record shows them all seeking the Lord and the miraculous victory the Lord gave them. In the midst of their powerlessness – they trusted in God.

Next we went to John 4 in the record of a woman so full of shame that she went to the well in the heat of the day when no one else would be there. But one day that Samaritan woman had a Divine appointment with Jesus. She had a life-changing conversation with the Lord.

Third in John 5, Jesus comes to the pool of Bethesda. He sees a man who has been lame for 38 years, waiting

for healing when the water is stirred up. Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed. The man responded – "I can't, sir," the sick man said, "for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me." (John 5:7) The man did not answer Jesus' question – he just shared how powerless he felt because there was no one to put him in the water. Jesus then heals the lame man!!

I was so encouraged by these records – just even one person's appointment with Jesus alters everything.

I was going to Roatan to share the greatest Hope and the greatest Help – Jesus! There is no answer outside of Him.

Along with these three records I taught on the nature and effects of abuse; created in the image of God; abuse being a perversion of that beautiful image; healing and hope in the cross of Jesus Christ.

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Pastor Rose (Empowering Women), Pastor William and his wife Dihann (Pandytown Church)

Strength in Weakness

I taught twice at the women's conference. (Both men and women attend this women's conference.) After my last teaching I asked the group to write out what they wanted to dump at the Cross and what they wanted to be filled up with at the Cross. That was on one paper (and they folded it up tightly). My

other request was to write their prayer requests on another piece of paper. I went around and collected both papers. One man (who is in the choir and passionately sings from his heart) gave me the two papers. I realized as I looked at his prayer requests – all he had done was make marks on the paper –

he did not know how to write. But that did not stop him or leave him powerless. His Lord knew what every mark on that paper was for. Here was a man who had every reason to not turn in a paper – but he knew the Lord hears every heart-cry from His children.

A Special Gift

On Sunday after church, I visited with a woman who was grieving the loss of her husband this last year and she just recently was diagnosed with cancer. She got up from bed to see me but she didn't talk. So I shared what I had gone thru in the loss of my daughter. I shared my struggles and the special ways the Lord helped me. ("My flesh and my heart may fail, but GOD is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.") I also shared about my experience with cancer and more recently how negative

test results last fall caused me to go to the very deep place of hurting – to work and wrestle with my thoughts and emotions – "God – are You who You say You are? Do You really mean what You say in Your Word? Do You never leave me? If I die will I awaken in Your presence? Is heaven real?" I opened my heart to Jesus in the midst of physical and emotional pain – and in the midst of questioning and uncertainty He was there - He always meets us right where we are! I needed that peace from Him to con-

tinue living – now He was allowing me to hold this woman's hand at that very same place. Then I noticed a sparkle in her eyes that had not been there before.

Less than 2 weeks later I received a call saying this woman had gone home to be with Jesus. She was the pastor's mother. The pastor then asked me to write what his mom and I had talked about that day we were together. What a special gift the Lord gave me to give to this grieving family!



Pastor Yony and his wife Suyapa (French Harbour Baptist Church)

Open Doors

I spent 4 days in Pandytown and then moved to the other side of the island. The Lord had plenty in store for me. I spoke to about 45 women at the Spanish French Harbour Baptist church - an opportunity to continue teachings from last summer. I also visited a hospital and prayed for a young woman and her newborn baby. While there we prayed for a young boy in the pediatric ward. We also visited a home where a sister-in-Christ was grieving over the loss of her daughter. The Lord allowed me, a mother who also has lost a

daughter, to hold this woman's hand, share the Word and pray – what a blessing!

Another evening I spoke at the Church of God Universal in Coxen Hole. There were at least 75 men and women present. I taught for an hour and then answered questions for about 45 minutes. The first question dealt with forgiveness. Immediately I prayed and asked Jesus to give me the words to speak and that He did! Another person asked me about confronting my abuser. I did a

'double-take' as I realized that it had been exactly one year ago that very day since I confronted my abuser. The Lord was faithful to give me the words to speak to this group.

A pastor from the church in Flowers Bay was present and he invited me to come to his church also to speak. I was so touched by the folks in these churches for their openness and desire to know the truth about abuse – what the Bible says about it – and the healing that comes from Jesus.

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What's Next

I was gone 9 days – taught 5 times in 4 different churches.

I am so thankful for the "appointments" He had for me! One of those was meeting Pastor Rose from Florida. She is part of a ministry

called "Empowering Women for Christ". She wants me to partner with her and her group and to teach on this much needed topic of abuse. They will be doing several women's conferences this year – the next one will be in Jamaica in June.

TRULY TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR HIS HAND IN MY LIFE AND HEALING - AND IN YOURS!

Nora Poling
May, 2010



Pastor and some of the congregation from Flowers Bay Church of God Universal.