

Go and Equip
Episode 208
The Good News in Honduras
Besorah

00:00:00:01 - 00:00:08:02

Speaker 1

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom.

00:00:08:11 - 00:00:20:11

Chandalee

Welcome to the podcast. We're excited to introduce you guys to one of our pastors, Darrell Davenport, and he is going to be talking with us today about Basra, which is the good news in Hebrew. Welcome, Darrell.

00:00:20:16 - 00:00:26:07

Darrell

Good to be here. Any time I get to talk about the gospel in Honduras, I'm excited to be here.

00:00:26:20 - 00:00:31:29

Chandalee

Darrell, tell us a little bit about you, your family, kind of where you're at here at the church.

00:00:32:08 - 00:00:59:09

Darrell

All right. So the first week in November of this year, 2022, I will be here 32 years. It's been a it's been a great time. God's been so good to us. It is amazing. You know, again, most of you know that know me. I'm the baby of 12 children, grew up in south east Missouri, have come. And we moved to Chattanooga in 1983 and it's been home pretty much ever since then.

00:01:00:13 - 00:01:21:25

Darrell

And when I first came to Stuart Heights, I was teaching middle school at Red Bank Middle. I told I'm one of those weird folks, and I know that people say, Yeah, that's you. But I'm one of those weird folks that are really like middle school kids. They're moldable, they're impressionable. And and that's either a good thing or a bad thing.

00:01:22:04 - 00:01:44:27

Darrell

And of course, I try to make that a good thing. And so I taught for the first nine years that I was here at Stewart Heights. I taught full time and coached football, basketball and baseball and worked here at church full time. And so that was a it's been a fun ride. So. And God is good. He really has been good.

00:01:45:03 - 00:02:00:09

Chandalee

Good. So we're going to talk today about Honduras. Honduras is a place that our church participates with, a cooperative that we go and we serve. And we we tell the

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gospel and we share with the people there. Tell us how this Honduras cooperative began.

00:02:00:25 - 00:02:16:23

Darrell

Wow. Started many, many years ago. I was in a missions conference, 1979. And that, you know, yes, y'all probably weren't even born then, but I'm moving right along in school.

00:02:17:29 - 00:02:39:12

Darrell

But I was I was in a mission conference and God really touched me that it was more than I needed. You needed to go the great commission, Matthew 28. You needed to go, but you need to go within tent. The Scripture there is it truly is. It's as you go. But as you go you need to go within tent.

00:02:39:24 - 00:03:03:05

Darrell

And so that's where it first started. And then fast forward, we've lived here in Chattanooga since 1983 and 1997. A friend of mine asked me if I wanted to go to Honduras, and I said, What for? And he said, Well, we need somebody to go and preach. And I'm like, okay, I can do that. But I'd never done that with with an interpreter.

00:03:03:19 - 00:03:33:14

Darrell

And since I didn't know Spanish and that's what they speak in Honduras, that was interesting. But the first place I went, I went with a group from Mississippi Medical, Dental, and on that medical, dental trip, my job was to preach. And I would have a 30 minute period of time, which meant I had a 15 minute message. And then the guy that was interpreting for me would speak for 15 minutes, you know, as we went back and forth.

00:03:33:28 - 00:03:55:05

Darrell

And so when people would line up to see the doctor or the the dentist or the pharmacist or whatever, that was what that's how they do it. They would have the opportunity they would come in in groups of anywhere between 40 and 60 people, and they would sit down and I would have that 15 minutes to share the gospel with them.

00:03:55:05 - 00:04:33:29

Darrell

Straight out gospel presentation. What's the scriptures say? This is what God says. And so that's how I was introduced to Honduras in my first trip was it was it was a trip in all the times. And in the last 25 years that I've been doing that, I've been going it was to the my first trip was to the poorest, most destitute people in all of

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Honduras that I have seen when the bus arrived with all of us on it, we were going to spend three days there.

00:04:34:16 - 00:05:03:18

Darrell

And when we arrived, I'll never get there were probably the road ended where that community was that that we were going to be in all week. And the kids there was probably 25 or 30 kids playing in the in the dirt and only about half of them had clothes on. And and it wasn't a it wasn't because they just wanted it.

00:05:03:18 - 00:05:27:10

Darrell

It was because they mom would send them to go play and it wasn't they, they only had one set of clothes. Yeah. And, and the great thing on that trip was that we had brought, we had, we were able to bring to them bags and bags and bags of children's clothes. And really interesting to watch how all of that played out with giving them that stuff.

00:05:27:18 - 00:05:34:05

Darrell

But anyway, that was my first trip and that's how it started. And and during that first trip, let me tell you the story.

00:05:34:16 - 00:05:38:01

Chandalee

I was going to say, rumor has it that you have a really funny story about that.

00:05:38:02 - 00:06:07:18

Darrell

So it it it really was it was a funny story that happened to me. But it also was such a great blessing that 25 years later, I'm still going several times a year. And what happened was, was that it was the first session and there's 40 to 50 people on these little homemade low benches and they're all sitting there.

00:06:07:18 - 00:06:30:26

Darrell

And the gathered that I'd gone with, he said, okay, I'll show you how to do it the first time. So he stood up and was sharing the gospel and I kind of came from the back and was sitting on the front row and this lady came in carrying a baby. And I thought, okay, you know, Mr. Gentleman here, you know, so I moved over and there was a a little rock sitting beside that front bench.

00:06:30:26 - 00:06:58:15

Darrell

And so I sit down on the end of the pew there at the Rock on the Rock. And this lady had about a one year old little baby boy, cute little boy. He can't, you know, you know, playing, you know, reaching down for me and all that stuff and this lady,

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as he started sharing the gospel, this lady got so intent, she just kept looking at Mike, the guy that was preaching, and she just kept looking and looking, well, this little boy had to go the bathroom and he mom wouldn't pay any attention to him.

00:06:58:28 - 00:07:19:12

Darrell

So I'm sitting there and I'm looking and I'm down just a little bit below her and this little boy all by himself reaches or has a cloth diaper on. Okay. That tells you how you know old school. And so he took that cloth diaper and pulled it back and leaned over towards me and he just went all over me.

00:07:20:15 - 00:07:55:04

Darrell

And the mom never broke stride. She never looked. She never flinched. She and I remember sitting there thinking, Hey, lady, what? What's going up? But here's the great thing and here's the thing that honestly changed my life forever, specifically in Honduras, but really forever. And that is the intent nurse that she was looking at, because I found out in the next 30 minutes after that she had never heard the.

00:07:55:18 - 00:08:22:27

Darrell

Mm hmm. She has where they lived in out there. So they had she had never heard that she could have a personal relationship with the God of the universe. She had never heard that. And and she, through the interpreter, told me that. And on that day she accepted Christ as her savior. I got paid on and, you know, it was.

00:08:22:27 - 00:08:23:11

Jenn

Worth it.

00:08:23:11 - 00:08:30:04

Darrell

And it was worth every bit of it. But again, that look so now that's the thing that excites me so much about Honduras.

00:08:30:04 - 00:08:42:06

Chandalee

And I mean, that's how we should all be living captivated, where we are completely captivated by Christ that no matter what goes on around us, that our eyes are so focused on Him that nothing else matters, know.

00:08:42:06 - 00:08:46:02

Darrell

And we just so much don't do that now.

00:08:46:02 - 00:09:04:23

Chandalee

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We don't. We really don't. I mean, Jenn and I have gone to Honduras with you probably. What was it, 2018, I think is when we went something like that and we led a women's conference, discipleship conference, and Darrell took care of everything. He sat and cooked for us. It was good. It was it was a great trip.

00:09:04:24 - 00:09:14:27

Chandalee

But that that that look that so many believers have there, that they just live captivated by Christ, hungry and hungry. And I'm fascinated by that. Every time we go back to.

00:09:15:15 - 00:09:33:22

Darrell

Growing up here in the States, even me. Okay. You know, again, I a baby of 12 children, grew up redneck USA. You know, if you look up redneck in the dictionary, there's a picture of my family, okay? I mean, just out in the middle of nowhere and I look at that and even I had heard about church, even I had heard about this Jesus person.

00:09:33:29 - 00:10:01:14

Darrell

Now, I wasn't saved till I was 15, but I had even heard all of that stuff. I can't every time we go to the mountains are still look at these kids and and again having been going now for 25 years, those little kids who are now grown adults with little kids of their own. Yeah. And and that's the great thing that God's really doing some great, great work there.

00:10:01:15 - 00:10:05:04

Jenn

We're starting to see the generational impact of the gospel.

00:10:05:11 - 00:10:39:00

Darrell

It is amazing. And that first the first two years that I went, I went with the Mississippi Medical Dental. And then in 1999, on the 1998, the second trip that I took was when I met who? Gerardo Nolasco, who is our pastor missionary there now. He's our boots on the ground, day in and day out. And that's when I met him and the missionary, the International Mission Board missionary, Billy Capps.

00:10:39:00 - 00:11:01:16

Darrell

He and Betty were there. They had just arrived in the last couple of a few months before we got there on that in San we were going to a town called our village called San Marcos and we were staying the first night in a in the big town lives Esperanza, which has about somewhere between 17 and 20,000 people there.

00:11:02:20 - 00:11:13:21

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Darrell

And that was in 1998. And we met Billy and Betty that first time when we went and that, as they would say, the rest is history.

00:11:14:08 - 00:11:22:15

Chandalee

So tell us a little bit about the rest of the history, like what kinds of things are done? How many trips a year does the cooperative take? What do we do when we go in?

00:11:23:11 - 00:11:46:29

Darrell

Well, let me back up and start with Billy and Betty. So Billy and Betty are Billy was a retired dentist, retired early. So he could be intentional to go to share the gospel in in the department or the kind of the state there, it's called into Intibuca. And in that area there are there was an unreached people group called the Lincoln Indians.

00:11:47:12 - 00:12:35:24

Darrell

And Lincoln are the they're the largest indigenous group in all of Honduras. Their money in Honduras is called Olympiakos. And the picture of of Chief Lynn PIRA was a linker and again his it's like our George Washington on the dollar bill with their on their Limpia is chief Lynn PIRA. The Lincoln had become in the mountains. They are there somewhere around they think somewhere around 100,000 in those in those two or three provinces there that's around.

00:12:36:06 - 00:12:54:06

Darrell

And that was a group that the International Mission Board considered an unreached people group. So Billy and Betty comes from Arkansas. They go to language school in Costa Rica and they end up in the mountains of Honduras. Hillary Tree is just a white Billy, a long, tall drink of water with his cowboy hat on from Arkansas.

00:12:56:07 - 00:13:30:12

Darrell

And he was a dentist. And that's how they plan to reach people was through dentistry when they arrived there. It was a very, very cold group as far as how they were received. There had been a group sometime in the last five years before they arrived that had been there to basically had come in, had preached revival services, got everybody all excited and all that stuff, and then packed up and left.

00:13:30:26 - 00:13:57:19

Darrell

And then another group came in behind them and this guy was going from place, a village to village, telling, preaching the gospel. Well, in the way that he was preaching the gospel, eventually the people, it didn't go well. It just didn't go well.

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And so what happened was the people told them that basically they told him, we don't want you in our communities anymore.

00:13:58:08 - 00:14:16:13

Darrell

So he packed up and left. Well, several years later, Billy and Betty show up. And when they would drive down the road and y'all seen it in the mountains of Honduras, when you drive down the road in a pickup truck, everybody wants a free ride to town. Or if they're in town, they want a free ride into the mountains because it's a long walk.

00:14:17:20 - 00:14:45:10

Darrell

And so it saves them from walking all day. So anyway, so when Billy and Betty first arrived, as they would drive down the mountain roads, going into the mountains out of Esperanza, their people would turn their backs to them and would not even look at them. Mm hmm. As they drove down the road. Now, fast forward ten years later, about the time Billy and Betty left, I guess was about 2007.

00:14:47:04 - 00:15:28:20

Darrell

By the time they left, people would run from their houses, holler. And Don, Billy, Don, Billy. And so God had started really doing some work there. And Billy and Betty retired and the IMB decided that they were not going to they decided they were not going to replace them with another missionary. Well, the group of churches that had the cooperative that you call it, the group of folks that had gathered together, the different churches we had at that time, I think we had seven churches in five states that had been working like we were with Billy and Betty going on short term mission trips.

00:15:29:10 - 00:15:53:27

Darrell

And then all of a sudden Billy and Betty is going to be gone in the IMB, said, You know, we're not going to put anybody here. So I had met a couple of the other folks from other churches First Baptist, Hot Springs, Rossville Road, Baptist Church, Drop Prong, Louisiana, anyway, several of the churches. And so I got on the phone, we started talking and said, You know what, I don't think God's finished here yet.

00:15:53:27 - 00:16:33:02

Darrell

And so we formed this cooperative called Honduras Ministry Inc. and we board of directors, it's a501c3 and our church gets to be a big part of that. And so we started going and we have a compound there. We have all that. People have a place to stay, get kitchen, all that kind of stuff. We've got transportation there. And Gerardo, who was that first night in La Esperanza, he ended up listening to my message and he came to me and said, on that first night, he came in.

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00:16:33:02 - 00:17:04:06

Darrell

He said, You're interpreters really good, but he doesn't have any. The spirit's not in him. And he was a college student from the city who knew English and Spanish, but he didn't have any help, you know, and so and I said, Well, what should I do? I asked Billy that. And Gerardo speaks English and Spanish. So I asked as Billy and Gerardo, I said what I do and and Gerardo said, I'll interpret for you.

00:17:05:05 - 00:17:30:21

Darrell

And that second night I preached on the rapture of the church. I'll never forget it. I preached on the rapture of the church that night, and Gerardo was right there with me. I mean, he was all over it anyway. So from that time forward, Gerardo and Billy worked together. So when Billy retired, Gerardo took over the ministry. We then decided that we wanted him to be our missionary with boots on the ground.

00:17:31:04 - 00:17:42:01

Darrell

So it worked out really, really well, and he's still doing it now. And so now we have five vibrant churches in the mountains of Honduras that Erato takes care of.

00:17:42:27 - 00:18:05:17

Chandalee

Thanks for listening today. I hope you enjoyed this first half of the conversation with Darrell about besorah - the good news in Honduras. If you'd like to learn more about how you can plug in with the Honduras mission, you can email Darryl Davenport at Stewart Heights Dawg to connect with Jen and I. You can find us over at go into quip dot com or on our YouTube channel.

00:18:06:05 - 00:18:16:08

Chandalee

We'd love it if you'd like or love our Facebook and Instagram pages and share this podcast with your friends. See you for the rest of the conversation with Darrell next week.