

Friends,

The summer flew by this year with almost too much excitement. Upon our return in July from the U.S., we entered a season of trials. We are still struggling with residency in El Salvador. I weathered 2 accidents (a 2nd degree burn of the hand because of an explosion in the kitchen, and a wound to the knee that required small surgery) and the flu. Our neighborhood experienced two robberies, one of our next door neighbor who, along with his wife, was stabbed. Our family has gone through the flu as well. Dara and the kids are still shaken from witnessing the incident last week, and I have felt a bit discouraged from it all.

The book of James reminds us to rejoice when trials come because they will produce righteousness. I remind myself all the time that our brief stint of trials pales in comparison to what Christians have suffered over the centuries and what most the world experiences on a daily basis. Yet, our family has had a taste these last two months, and honestly it has been hard to rejoice. Frustration and discouragement have been my first responses. I wish I could say that we have all held hands and sung "kumbaya" through it all. Instead, there has been a good deal of crying, staring, and reaching out to friends. I think that praying often gets harder in trials.

However, we are keeping our eyes open and seeing God do some cool things in the midst of our tripping over ourselves. I thought I'd take a second to share what we are learning in the midst of trials.

*1. Trials give you a good idea where your affections are with God.* When things start hitting the fan, the warm fuzzy feeling with God can turn cold pretty easily. For me, I've seen how easy it is to feel close to God when I can see his provision for me. It's harder to trust him when I'm freaked out about the safety of my wife and kids. Trials show me if my heart is truly ticking for my Savior, or if I am using God to bless my life.

*2. Trials can bring you into rich fellowship with Christian brothers and sisters.* The following weeks have pushed us to request more prayer that we ever have. The prayer requests have been very open and honest, and have required us to be more vulnerable with others. God has returned this vulnerability with the gift of true friendship. We have felt the prayers. Days we've wanted to quit have turned into days of laughter.

*3. Trials can motivate you to return to the heart of a child that needs to turn to the Good Father.* I often treat God as a business partner rather than the "Abba" He wants to be to me. Through this last season, things could have been so much worse. I should have burned my face, broke my knee, and possibly robbed. Instead, I'm just fine physically, and our family has not been touched by violence to date. God has protected us and shown His sweet favor.

*4. Trials show you that it is silly to think that we can control our lives.* I love my Microsoft Outlook calendar, with dates and deadlines planned out to the end of the year. While this isn't necessarily wrong, we are learning that only God knows what is ahead, and I should do more time listening to Him than charting my own course. He only wants me to follow and obey anyway.

*5. Trials are universal.* We all go through them. We will all hurt someday, all feel alone, and all feel a bit jaded with life at times. It's part of being human, a part of the consequences of sin in our world. I'm learning that instead of responding to trials in fear, that the wisest response is to accept them, and use them to push me towards my "Abba."

**Quick update.** ENLACE continues to thrive. God is blessing our team with more resources to expand our work with local churches. I love working with our team, and with the opportunity to serve churches that radically serve Christ through serving their communities.

The kids are enjoying school. PJ and Isaac still miss home a ton, but have made some good friends and enjoy their teachers this year. Hannah and Kaya are doing great. They love preschool and are learning Spanish faster than us all.

Dara is in a Bible Study this year with a group of ladies from the U.S. She is looking forward to sharing with other women who experience some of what she does living here.

I start a master's program next spring that will allow me to remain in El Salvador while I study. I will travel once a year (for 2 years) to South Africa to study with other church planters and Christian development workers. The program is through Eastern University and was developed through a partnership with World Vision and Habitat for Humanity.

I've had a chance to preach a little this summer, and have enjoyed the opportunity to share the beauty of the gospel from the pulpit. I will begin preaching monthly at our church through a translator (hopefully soon in Spanish).

In closing, I'd just like to thank you all. We've been so encouraged by your friendship. We truly have felt lifted up during our time in El Salvador. It has been one of the most rewarding part of our mission. Thank you that support us financially. We did not think we'd be missionaries years ago, but as God moved us down here he has sustained us every step of the way. He has used you tremendously to provide. We are so honored to be serving here on your behalf. You are all truly partners in ministry with us.

It is a wonder to me, this thing called the Body of Christ. We pray that you are encouraged in some small way through our family. We love you all. Please stay in touch!!!

Peace be with you!!

*Pete*

## prayer requests

- **safety:** Our neighborhood has been robbed twice, with a stabbing last week. Pray for God's peace and protection over our family.
- **church:** Peter is working with our church to begin a learning center in a rough community in San Salvador. Pray that God will equip local leaders, and that the initiative will impact its community. Pray also that God will guide us in our support of the ministry of this body.
- **health:** Our family has been hit hard with sickness and injury over the last two months. pray for God's covering over our bodies.
- **kids:** PJ and Isaac are missing home, especially after the stabbing of our neighbors. Pray for them to feel a peace here, and an excitement about their lives.
- **immigration issues:** We've been working on residency paperwork since May, and still are having problems. Please pray that our paperwork goes through by Oct. 9th.
- **El Salvador:** The country is getting worse in terms of its economy and the level of violence. Pray that God will use His Church to change the direction of El Salvador.
- **ENLACE:** We are working with 4-6 new churches this year. Pray for the finances and people to help us equip them to serve their communities for the gospel.

## financial needs

- **kid's schooling:** We need to raise the tuition for all four kids' school.
- **residency:** We are anticipating higher than expected lawyer and processing costs for our El Salvadoran residency.
- **Pete' education:** Pete begins paying for his master's program in December this year.
- **travel costs:** We still need to raise money for our family's travel costs this year.

## bdays

Kaya	Oct. 9
Pete	Oct. 29
Hannah	Nov. 27
PJ	Dec. 4
Isaac	Dec. 7

## Updated Website

For all the latest photos, journals, and ministry information, please visit our newly updated website.  
[www.runningonwater.com](http://www.runningonwater.com)

EL SALVADOR CHURCHES	ENLACE PROJECTS SO FAR IN 2006	US PARTNERS
ENLACE is working with 10 churches in 5 communities in 2006. We've begun working with another 4-6 with a goal of 50 within the next 5 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 houses</li> <li>• 2 water systems</li> <li>• construction for flood prevention in 2 communities</li> <li>• 80 micro loan recipients</li> <li>• 10 latrines</li> <li>• 25 improved stoves</li> <li>• 4 medical brigades</li> </ul>	ENLACE has hosted 18 mission teams from churches and organizations who support the ongoing work of churches in El Salvador. We are praying to add new churches to this list next year. If your church may be interested in getting involved, please email Peter for more info.

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### website

[www.runningonwater.com](http://www.runningonwater.com)

### ENLACE website

[www.enlaceonline.org](http://www.enlaceonline.org)

### SUPPORT

please send checks to the following:

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