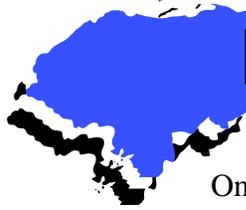




UTREACH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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Sponsorship of Elena*

*Name changed for protection of a minor.

One ministry goal this year is to provide a ministerial support system for other ministries, missionaries, and Honduran ministers we're in relationship with. One of our means of doing this has been supporting a student from One Day Revival Ministries, the ministry where I used to help facilitate worship nights. During those worship nights, I had the opportunity to meet Elena. Elena is 14-years-old. She lives in a community that is gang-controlled. (One Day Revival Ministries [ODRM] is based in that community and regularly mentors young people to prevent them from joining the gang.) She is in 9th grade and is a very dedicated student. All learning is once again online this year, so Elena relies on ODRM's ministry house to use computers and Wi-Fi to complete her homework. Elena's home life is also a challenge. Her older sister is in prison due to gang-related activity, and her mother is often away from home as she earns her living selling clothing. Most weekends, Elena is home caring for her sister's son and her younger brother by herself. Elena's father is a gang leader who has been in prison for over 15 years and has never been present in Elena's life. Despite all of her hardships, Elena is a phenomenal young lady. She is active in ODRM's discipleship efforts and was a regular participant in worship nights. She has a close relationship with Jenn, the missionary

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who runs ODRM, and she enjoys playing games and being a kid. She has a wonderful sense of humor in the midst of her responsibilities. When Jenn shared the students who were in need of sponsors to provide financial support for school tuition, uniforms, and supplies, I knew that our ministry had an opportunity to support both Elena and Jenn. It's a blessing to be able to invest in ministries led by people we love and trust that are carrying out their own calling that may be different from ours. This is the Body of Christ.

Pastoral Counseling

Meanwhile, I continue to provide pastoral counseling to some young people, and I have been blessed to be able to put into practice the very things I am learning in my classes. Being sensitive to the emotional and psychological needs around me is also impacting my ideas about what kind of counselor I would like to be. Trauma is so prevalent here in Honduras. Just this week, I listened to a young person describe a childhood incident of how a family member carried a knife and constantly threatened violence, nearly succeeding in killing the person's sibling. These kinds of incidents pass, but the trauma that remains affects how Hondurans parent, budget, develop, and see themselves and God. He cares about the whole person, and we do too. Thank you for caring about us and for your continued prayers and support! We love you all!

Sarah and Raúl