

BELIZE

Dan and Vicki Weaver

Dear Pastor and Friends,

March / April 2016

Just the other day I was thinking about trouble. As many of you know, we have been experiencing a lot of it lately here on the field. I hate to admit, but I have found myself discouraged lately because of it all. In our last letter we spoke of having to hire an armed guard to stand out front of our church during services. When it came to choosing who we would hire, the first name that came to our minds was "Big John." We always referred to him as Big John because not only was he a big man, but he was also very feared and respected in the Valley. He was a man of few words. When confronted with trouble, he would deal with it hard and fast. No one in their right mind ever wanted to mess with John. We have known John for years and have always considered him a friend. Over the years, I have invited John to church many times, but he never came. He was an unbeliever and was not interested in church. When I approached him, he accepted the position. I remember his first Sunday night on patrol. Just as the service began, the trouble makers began to assemble on the road in front of the church, preparing to heckle and disrupt the service any way they could. John walked around the corner of the building and headed toward the gate. When he got to the road, he just stood there with his gun tucked in the small of his back. He never said a word. The hecklers quickly got on their motorcycles and left. They have never returned. Every Sunday night John would continue to come and stand out front of the church. After a few weeks I noticed that John was standing closer to the back doors of the church than usual. The next service... a little closer. I realized that John was listening to the preaching. Each week a little closer until he finally found a stool and sat just inside the door. That Sunday night, at the close of the service, I asked if there was anyone here that would want to talk with me later about trusting Christ, to just slip up your hand. After a brief moment I saw all the way to the back of the auditorium Big John's hand reaching high. Later that week, John came to my gate wanting to talk. I grabbed my Bible off the kitchen table and we went over to our youth center. Less than thirty minutes later, I had the joy of seeing John bow his head and place his faith in our Lord and Savior. John's wife and daughters attend our services now. We have all seen a major change in John's life, a change that only God can bring in the heart of a man.

Later that night, after John received Christ, I was thinking about the events of the day. The thought that consumed my mind was not just what happened here in the Valley, but what the angels saw happen earlier that day in Heaven. They were standing before our Savior, seated on His throne in all His glory. Then they had the joy of seeing the Lord reach down and pick up a book. The book is His book. It has His name on it. The book is called the "Lamb's Book of Life." The book contains the names of every individual, since the beginning of time, who has bowed their head and received Christ as their Savior. The angels watched as the Lord scrolled down through that long list of names and come to the final entry. Then they saw the Lord, with His own hand, begin to write on the next line in the book. They saw a smile come across the Lord's face as He writes in the name... "BIG JOHN."

Forgive me Lord, for being discouraged about trouble. Without the trouble, I never would have hired John. Without being hired, John would not have heard the Gospel. Lord, what they meant for evil... You meant for good. Thank you Lord for allowing me to be here on the field and experience the joy of seeing you continue to work in the hearts of men.

Vicki and I want to thank each of you, who continue to pray for and support the ministry here in Belize. As always, we know that we would never be able to do what the Lord has called us to do... without you.

All for Him,
Dan and Vicki Weaver