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Dear brothers and sisters and friends

Warm greetings from us. In these last months the social situation has deteriorated in Honduras. There has been an escalation in violence, so that the country is now listed as the most dangerous in Latin America. In Europe there are two violent deaths for every 100,000 inhabitants while in Honduras the statistics rose to 54 violent deaths for every 100,000 people in 2009 and 65 in 2010.

These violent deaths include street crime, organized crime, crimes of passion, revenge killings, drug trade and recently crimes of a political nature. Killings carried out in order to steal mobile phones, houses, cars, extortion and threats over the phone are now commonplace. In the first two months of the year six journalists were murdered. Every day there are between 6 and 8 assassinations in the main cities of Honduras.

Siguatepeque has historically been known as a peaceful place, but in the last months we have been taken by surprise by the increase in violence.

In this past month they kidnapped the son of one of the families in our church, in order to steal a pick-up truck. Miraculously they didn't kill him - a boss had given orders for him to be killed. The following day a young man of 23 from our church was shot to death. Some people said it was because he tried to defend a woman who was being assaulted. On Sunday May 16 an armed man came into the church and held a gun to the head of one of the brethren, demanding money and mobile phones from everyone; he also took away two laptop computers. We were the fourth church to be attacked in one month in this peaceful city of Siguatepeque. I could go on with stories like these. There are many questions going round in my head. If the evangelical church in Honduras boasts about a 35% membership, what influence is it having in society? As leaders, what are we doing about this? What practical actions should we take to confront this situation? What powers are we up against? What is the price we will pay? Will this be an opportunity to put into practice the gospel that we proclaim?

Prayer topics:

1. For health, protection and wisdom to take the best decisions in each situation.
2. For the funds we need to develop our ministries.
3. For Abel's studies.
4. That the Lord will comfort and strengthen the families affected by the violence.
5. That the faith of the church will not fail in the face of this testing.

Orlando Luis Japás