



336-686-6437
5661 Baptist Assembly Rd.
Julian, NC 27283
Rolanzwot@gmail.com
WWNTBM

## Ortiz Family To Mexico

## FEB 2016 In journeyings often

In the last two months we have had several things happen that remind us of the frailty of life.

Between service days last month, I got the chance to help out in a church's project to retexture their ceiling in the sanctuary. It involved removing the old popcorn texture, making sure the sheetrock was secured, and using sheetrock mud to even out any spots that needed it. While doing the work on Saturday I had gotten a small, seemingly-insignificant splinter in my thumb, no bigger than a comma, but by Monday I had a red line following the vein all the way up my arm. It was a pretty serious thing, and I am thankful for those who had prayed for me. I know of a missionary who died of blood poisoning and realize that could have just as well been me. As much as the thought could trouble me, I know in Whom I believe, I know where I would have gone, and I know God would have given grace to my family.

The second reminder of the frailty of life was an accident I witnessed in South Carolina. I was riding with a pastor on visitation, and as we headed to our second stop, a pickup truck suddenly passed us in the middle turn lane. In only about a hundred feet, the lane ran out and there was nothing but a grass median in between the split road. The truck did not even slow down (no brake lights came on) but continued about 50 mph down the bumpy median until he hit a rise in the ground which launched him out of control. He then crossed over into the oncoming traffic of the other side and had a head-on collision with a car. We called 911 and returned to the accident scene. Both drivers were panicking, but both were alive. If there had been a passenger in the small car he would have most likely died. I thought about my family as I looked at the wreckage. If we had been in that accident, I don't think we would have all made it out alive. Hannah most often rides in the passenger seat, and I could not imagine life without her. However, I know that she would have gone

2Co.11:26 "In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;"

## **PRAISES:**

One new supporting church since the last prayer letter

The recovery of the infection I had in my arm

God keeping us out of accidents for the many thousands of miles we have been on the road

Many positive contacts with pastors and churches who were genuinely interested in our ministry

## **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Spiritual growth

God honoring attitudes

Open eyes to see and seize opportunities God puts in our path

into the presence of the Lord.

I fear for those that do not have that sure hope. Just about two people die every second somewhere in the world. Think about it - every time the clock ticks, it is saying, "Two more, two more, two more, two more, two more." For me to live is Christ and to die is gain; for them to live is self and to die is eternal pain. We only have so long to live, they only have so long, and the Gospel is only good news if it gets to them in time.

Another thing that crossed my mind is that life is always risky. Why should missionaries risk all of the dangers of driving around on deputation? Why deal with the risks of a foreign field? Why risk deadly diseases? Why risk drug cartels? In order to answer the question, we need to remember that life is full of risks no matter what you do. I would rather risk my life for God than risk it for nothing at all, and if I perish, I perish. Risk your life in the service of God, and it will be worth it.

Well, we have been all over the place in January and February. We have attended churches in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The weather in the northern states was cold and snowy. We almost got snowed in while in Indiana and did get snowed in while in Virginia. We slowly worked our way south, and the weather got gradually warmer and warmer. It would have been nice to stay in the south all winter long, but God gave us multiple opportunities in the north. With the nice weather in the south, we had the opportunity to go door-to-door evangelizing in several of the places we were at.

Pray for our upcoming meetings. One of them includes sharing information about different cultures (specifically Mexico) in a public school. Several missionaries will be doing this, and of course, we want to get opportunities to share Christ with them as well.

One other request we have is that you would pray that we get Azelia and Viana's registrations done without too much fuss from the Mexican Consulate. Viana was born in Idaho, and we will be doing this in Raleigh, NC, so we pray that they will do both of the girls at the same time and not send us to Boise, ID for Viana. If they don't like the fact that we are going as missionaries, they may get persnickety about any little thing. If things work out, both girls will be registered Mexican citizens by the end of March. Because I am a Mexican citizen, there shouldn't be any significant costs: just small charges for translating birth certificates, translating our marriage certificate, and getting apostilles.

We thank you all for your prayers, and, in turn, we pray that God will work mightily in your lives as well, Rolando, Hannah, Azelia, and Viana