



336-686-6437

1611 Brookhaven Mill Rd.

Greensboro, NC 27406

Rolanzwot@gmail.com

WWNTBM

Dec 2016 – Hard to Believe

After two-and-a-half years of deputation, it was hard to believe we were finally heading to Mexico! We had a bitter-sweet commissioning service with our dear sending church Sunday the 27th and a meeting with a nearby church that night. We packed the moving truck and hit the road the following day, had our final meeting in Texas that Wednesday, drove through the night to the border, and met our family the morning of the 1st (Thursday). Everything went so well that morning, we were able to cross the border around 1:00pm. God be thanked, we didn't have to unload the two vans we had just packed that morning for the border officers. We gave them our inventory of items, and they looked at a few things then let us go for an excellent price! We weren't clear yet, though. There would still be multiple military stops and check points along the way. Very soon, we were stopped by police. He asked where we were from. Mom Ortiz was driving the vehicle and answered we were from Villa Corona, Jalisco. He mentioned a nearby town, and she finished the name for him. With that, he was satisfied and said he was just curious about a southern vehicle being so far north! We were free to go!

Every check point we passed was either completely empty or the officers were busy/distracted on the side! Several times, the officers checking the vehicles ahead of us suddenly got called off or distracted only a few vehicles in front of us and allowed the line to keep moving! It was a relief for us not to have to unload either/both of the vans and reload them. We couldn't help but thank God for the ease in travel! We had only one significant issue the next day: a several-hour traffic jam. It was so stopped up that we were able to get the kids out, stretch our legs, and even catch some naps. Eventually, we made it out and were able to get back to Villa Corona. Yes!

We are grateful that our brothers, Fred Daniel and Jaron Ortiz, and Mom and Dad Ortiz helped with so much of the driving. They made the

Ortiz Family in Mexico

PRAISES:

Opportunities we have had to witness

Our safe travels

Being able to help my dad's ministry while we are here

Our new van

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Being sensitive to God's leading

Finding the right place to rent

Getting paperwork done for various things

whole journey immensely easier. We had Saturday to unpack the vans and rest in preparation for Sunday. We are staying with Mom and Dad Ortiz and attending/helping in their church services.

We've had one opportunity so far to drive up to the main town we are considering. It is about three hours from here, has a population of roughly 50,000, and has very many smaller ranches around it that we could reach from there. We explored the town all day and stayed the night. We had heard there was a Christian, mercy-ministry-type organization nearby, so we sought out their location, only to find that it seems to have closed up completely. We found several properties that would be ideal for building a church, well positioned between two portions of town, but we did not yet find a suitable place to rent. We plan to go back soon and keep looking. Until then, keep praying with us that God's will would be very clear! Is this the right town? If so, where should we rent? Should we look again elsewhere?

Regarding our vehicles, a Christian near the border did buy our Nissan for use in the "free zone" where it won't have to be switched to Mexican plates: something we were recently told we hadn't a chance at. The Mexican van our family found and bought before coming up has been running very well and has excellent diesel mileage (40-45 mpg on the highway). It can run almost 700 miles on one tank! It was an unexpected change of plans and expense, but God has us taken care of!

Again, we want you to know how much we value and appreciate your prayers. Your intercession for us has brought us here safely and continues to strengthen us. May God be glorified in you and in us!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From Rolando, Hannah, Azelia, and Viana

P.S. Feel free to call my North Carolina number. It will continue to be used, without charging you for long distance.

