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WWNTBM

Mar 2017 – The Faces

One of the exciting things about getting to the mission field is that you begin to see the faces of the souls for whom you have been praying for many years. We continue to pray for these people, but now we know who some of them are! We are finally learning their names, personalities, and families. And sadly, though we knew before we came that they were stumbling in the darkness of empty religion, we are now seeing this first hand.

While some of the people we mentioned in the last letter have pulled away, others have opened up to us with their many struggles. The De la Cruz family is the one God has allowed us to work with the most. María's husband left her to fend for herself and the four kids. Economically, they are surviving rather than thriving, but their greatest problems are not economic. María has lost faith in the Catholic Church and even attended the JW kingdom hall for one month but decided not to stay with them. Her oldest son Jeffery (almost 16) was told by the catholic priests at the age of six that he was a medium and has the ability to help wandering spirits. He is very much tied to the traditional church. For the last three weeks, she has been asking soul-searching questions (her son always sitting in on the conversation and sometimes her daughters). María recently lost an uncle, aunt, and a brother shortly after. They invited me to go to one of the preliminaries of the funeral of her uncle. After an hour of the family repeating "hail Marys" and reciting the Lord's prayers, I was allowed to share with the family. Since I had been invited by the niece rather than direct family, I determined to be brief. I shared with them how Jesus can be a comfort to those who are in trials and to look to Him for help. After this, they asked me questions for another half hour or so. Several of the family invited me to futurely go to their house and share more. The brother that died is going to be buried this next weekend, and they asked me to accompany them again. Pray my eyes would be opened to see how best to minister to their souls and that salvation would come to their family.

María del Carmen is another lady with which we have been working. She and her only daughter, Gladys, run a small restaurant and scrape by week after week. Carmen's husband died a few years back, and she has struggled a lot. In her loneliness, she has opened the door to the JW's and had them over twice a week. Since I have begun visiting her, she has cut them back to only once a week, confessing that she never has believed what they teach. She has made a profession of faith, and we praise God for that! Please pray that her profession is sincere and she will grow, as well that she and her daughter would be protected from the false doctrine of the JW's!

Maricela has a broken marriage as well, and her home is in complete chaos. Desperately, she seeks for help. Her oldest son has admitted to being gay, her second son is on

Ortiz Family in Mexico

PRAISES:

God is being glorified.

Souls are being saved.

Three more
supporting churches –
full support!

PRAYER

REQUESTS:

Growth: María del
Carmen, Maricela

Salvation: María,
Héctor, José, Gladys,
Jeff, Sabino &
Margarita, Gilberto,
Lucino & Cuca,
Arturo, Daniel,
Arnulfo & Lupita, Eliu,
Juan Pablo, Carlos,
Miguel, etc.

Hannah's paperwork

drugs, her third son has been kicked out of every school in town and lives on the street while she works. Finally, she has a preteen daughter who is in need of a fatherly figure. Interestingly enough, she has no idols in her house and will not allow anyone to put one up. Her friends tell her that the reason she has so many problems is directly tied to this, but she is not convinced. She also has verbally acknowledged her trust in Christ!

José Huerta and his wife are parents of five kids. He struggles with drinking and is well aware of it but does not know how to conquer it. In fact, his desire to get out of the addiction has caused him to read the Bible to find answers. I have told him where he can find hope, but he still has not responded. I am certain God is working on him. Pray that he sees that deeper than his addiction to alcohol is his slavery to sin and that he would run to Christ for liberty.

Last week while preaching in flea market, I noticed that one lady had her eyes fix on me the whole time. This is somewhat unusual because most people try to act like they aren't listening. As we left the flea market, Hannah noticed her waving us down. She told us how her brother-in-law (Francisco) shared the Gospel with her and her husband and that they are now believers. Francisco apparently continues to disciple them but is a young believer himself. They live here in town and have hoped a church would get started someday. I will meet with them soon and find out more details, but it is exciting to think that it may have been their prayers that directed us here.

There are many other stories I could share, but I will have to just list names in the prayer section for brevity's sake.

Hannah is having full conversations with people in Spanish. She has been a refuge for me after some of those arduous days of evangelism that seem to have no fruit. Her work in the house has allowed me to invite people over and build relationships with those we are meeting. The girls are getting more comfortable with Spanish small talk. As for me, I ride the rollercoaster of being rejected and welcomed one house after another, but this is not new, and it only brings me nearer to Christ who is the Person whom they truly reject. It is amazing that we are only one small word from being popular and embraced by all. The word is "the." Jesus is "the" way, "the" truth, and "the" life. If we simply changed that word to "a," we would be loved and accepted. Nevertheless, Jesus plus anything else is not Jesus and everything minus Jesus is insufficient. Knowing their hope rests on Christ alone and that heaven and hell are the stakes, we do not back down from preaching Christ and Him crucified.

In the Beloved,

Rolando, Hannah, Azelia and Viana



Picture of Maria de La Cruz and her kids eating at our house.