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WWNTBM

## Oct 2017 – Mission Church

Many things have happened since the last prayer letter, but I will try to mention the major things.

The new converts and we voted to name our mission church First Love Bible Baptist Church (Primer Amor Iglesia Biblical Bautista). I at first thought about avoiding suggesting any church names that included the word “love” in them. This was mainly because our culture has made it to mean emotionalism or sensuality, but I remembered that we must let God, not culture, define the word, and First Love BC is not First Sentimental Baptist Church. Love is the highest motivation, the deepest commitment, the first and greatest commandment. It is the first fruit of the Spirit. Of faith, hope, and love, it is the one that will continue forever! All of God’s commandments bow before His commandment to Love God over all else and love others as ourselves. All other commandments are as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal (an annoying sound to God) without love. A church may possess every gift God has ever given to man, but if they do not have love, they are nothing. Does it not make sense that if love is the first commandment, then lack of love is the worst sin? If loving our neighbors is second on the list of God’s commands, then apathy towards souls, grudges held against people, lack of forgiveness, cursing fellow men, neglecting family, unmerited anger towards a brother, calling someone a fool, and all the alike are grave sins. May we learn to love as He loves.

For now, we are having our services in our house. A big blessing about where we rent is that many houses in Mexico have very small living rooms, but in this house it is unusually large (as it includes dining space). This proved to be optimal for services. Praise the Lord!

September proved to be a difficult month for all of us. The faithful of our church attended without fail the entire month (what a blessing!), but we had no visitors even of those who would come from time to time. My door-to-door evangelism was greatly stalled as just about everyone would get home from work and begin partying at their houses, in the plaza, and the town fair. Our neighbors had several parties that went on until 4:00 in the morning: drunks singing karaoke songs over loud speakers. To drive around town was a hassle as well since they would close many roads so that they could carry their Michael Archangel around in processions. We are glad the parties have ended!

This past week or so, I came in contact with a rare bug called an arlomo. This is a very strange worm-like bug that most people don’t know much about, but it causes a rash of blisters under the skin that, in time, rots through the skin and seeps puss that spreads it further. It apparently is not easily cured, so pray that this will not be a drawn-out battle. I get a lot of funny looks from people, and several who know what it is stop to tell me. Don’t worry, I won’t include pictures! Pray that even this bump in the road is used for God’s glory and my

### Ortiz Family

#### PRAISES:

- Having begun regular church services
- Faithfulness of the believers
- Making it through September
- New door for Hannah
- Our sweet baby

#### PRAYER

#### REQUESTS:

- God’s blessing on our mission church
- Salvation of Kristal and Melanie
- Healing from the Arlomo rash
- Our sweet baby

**Growth:** Hannah and me, Alfredo, Nena, Rufina, María del Carmen, and Maricela

**Salvation:** Héctor, José, Gladys, Jorge, Sabino & Margarita, Edgar, Ramón, AnaDelia, Severina, Roberto, Lucino & Cuca, Arturo, Arnulfo & Lupita, Eliu, Juan Pablo, Carlos, Miguel, Miguel & Juanita, Gloria, Alison, Kristal, Melany, Lucia, Delia etc.

Serving in San Miguel El Alto, Jalisco, Mexico

spiritual growth.

We are glad that the difficult month is up, but in spite of all these things September was a time of some new opportunities. Hannah has begun attending an English class in town. The teacher invited her with the hopes that she would glean some more Spanish and that the students would get to practice English with her. So these classes are free! This is a neat open door for her to reach out to another crowd of people. Pray that this door remains open and that some of them would be saved. We also occasionally meet with the teacher to have some of her more in-depth Spanish questions answered. He only charges her \$2 for the hour!

God lined up circumstances to gently force us into an exciting but stretching position. We are now homeschooling Nena's two girls, Kristal (15) and Melanie (almost 13). We put much prayer into this and sought counsel, knowing what a huge job it will be. God continued to direct us to take them. He had already had us preparing last year by helping us obtain many of the school books we will need for our girls, even as teenagers. Now, we get to use them earlier than expected! The number one advantage to this situation is that they are learning Bible, first and foremost. They know nothing beyond very few facts of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, as told by the Catholic church. They are amazed at how much the Bible has to tell! Pray that God will open their eyes to His True Gospel! In addition, they are learning lots of English, cooking, piano, handwriting, and singing. As their English improves, we plan to reincorporate the "normal" subjects. We meet on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays for now.

Many of you know that our 3rd and 4th children are already with Christ. With hopes for the future and to help her heart on the difficult days, Hannah worked on many baby projects in the last several months. These included organizing the baby clothing and accessories we have into newborn tubs (girl and boy), ready for immediate use; making boy burp rags and new blankets; etc., until we were virtually 100% ready for a newborn at any moment. Her reasoning was that it was helpful at the moment, and who knew if God would have her too busy to do it all once she was pregnant again? We just love how God sets things up! We found out only the day before we added Nena's girls to our homeschooling that God has given us our 5th child! So far, we have had a little "scare" with this one, but everything seems to be ok now. We've passed the time we'd had the 4th and are about to pass how long we had the 3rd. We pray we get to keep this one! Sure enough, we're glad all those baby projects are done. We already have all the clothes, blankets, and accessories that we need for either gender, and Hannah has enough to do teaching, keeping up with the house, and resting. Now, for the long wait until mid-May!

With prayers and thanksgiving,

Ortiz Family

