



336-686-6437

1611 Brookhaven Mill Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27406
Rolanzwot@gmail.com

WWNTBM

Dec 2017 – Interruptions are opportunities

The last two months have been full of unexpected events. We didn't expect them, but they didn't catch God by surprise. I have been learning to see these types of interruptions as opportunities.

We had three funerals in just a few weeks. Two were here in Mexico and one was in the States. The hardest one for my family was the suicide of a sister. This was a total surprise because nobody that knew my sister had any indication of struggle. She was a sweet-natured person with everyone who knew her, and nobody can sort out the big "why" question in their mind. However, we know that all things work together for good to them that love God. We cannot always see it, but we *know* it. My sister left a letter explaining that she knew what she was doing was wrong, but that she knew she was saved by His grace. What a consolation to know that death has no victory over God's people. Six people verbally committed their life to Christ throughout the events surrounding the funeral, and that brings me great joy in deep sorrow. God has already worked things out together for good! I assume for the rest of my life my heart will be somewhat softer and more sensitive to God and others due to this. Praise His Name!

Another interruption was that while I was looking for a young man who wanted to talk to me (he never did show up), a 21-year-old approached me because he saw the Bible in my hand. He told me he wanted to become a priest and learn more about the Bible. I told him I could help him with one of those things! He invited me into his house, and I ended up sharing the Gospel with his mother and father as well. They allow me to continue visiting weekly, and I have a strong feeling the whole family soon may be saved. Pray for Beto's family.

Nena continues to be on fire for sharing the Gospel with more people and recently invited me to a friend's house. Mari has four children and a life full of sorrows. There has not been a time we have visited her that she has not broken down in tears. I have asked her several times about the destiny of her soul, and she always answers that she is going to hell. She has resisted the Gospel and tried to hide from us on a couple of occasions, but before we leave, she shows herself and allows us to talk. Pray that soon she will be able to say with joy that her life is secure in Christ.

A friend of mine in town whom I visit often invited me to work with him in the fields for two days, mainly because his van was broken down and he needed to give 10 men a ride. I accepted after praying about it. God gave me the chance to share with these men from John 6:27-29. It says, "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth

Ortiz Family

PRAISES:

- Souls saved
- Comfort in sorrow
- Baby's continual growth
- Arlomo bite healed
- Financial help for traveling

PRAYER

REQUESTS:

- Words
- Boldness
- Opportunities
- Souls saved

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

Salvation: Lola, Eladio, Beto, Mari, Toribio, Héctor, José, Gladys, Jorge, Sabino & Margarita, Edgar, Ramón, AnaDelia, Severina, Roberto, Arturo, Arnulfo & Lupita, Eliu, Juan Pablo, Carlos, Miguel, Miguel & Juanita, Gloria, Alison, Kristal, Melany, etc.

Serving in San Miguel El Alto, Jalisco, Mexico

unto everlasting life.” I commended them on being hard workers but challenged them to analyze how much of their effort is spent on things that perish. Christ wanted them to make an effort to find out the state of their souls. I told them that they would find that Jesus didn’t want their good works; he states it in verse 29, “This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.” One of the men promised me that he would visit our little church and I plan on visiting him soon. Only God knows what the seeds of His Gospel will accomplish from that. As for me, I was reminded of the people that work hard every day to make it possible for us to be here. You are a huge blessing to us, but you also are working for “meat which endureth unto everlasting life.” I cannot reward you for your perseverance, but I pray God will richly bless you here on earth, and I know your heavenly Father shall greet you as a good and faithful servant with a treasure that will never decay!

I mentioned in the last letter that our church visitor number had decreased. I found out why this month. Lola, who has been on my prayer letter before, is the matriarch of the De La Cruz family. She has gone out of her way to tell her family how disappointed she is that they are leaving the Catholic Church and their parents’ traditions. In respect for her, several have stopped coming to church, but they continue to seek for the truth and several allow me to visit them weekly at their homes. The few of her grandkids and one of her daughters who continue to come have told me many of her harsh words to them and that they feel she has begun showing favoritism with the ones who are not involved. Pray that God would change her heart and reach this entire family!

My father- and mother-in-law visited us around Thanksgiving, and we were grateful to get to host them. Pastor Fred Jr. preached for our small congregation and afterwards went with us all to the 15th anniversary of my dad’s church two+ hours away. I believe the anniversary was an encouragement to our new church to see what God’s faithfulness and our perseverance can result in.

As for our services, they have continued regularly except for the time of my sister’s funeral (while we were out of the country). The attendants have greatly diminished, but the faithful have not left us.

We are soon going to have our first baptisms. We would have already had them, but some interruptions caused us to delay them.

Thank you for all the prayers for our family, the letters of encouragement, and the responses to our emails. The costs of travel for the funeral did not offset our month because many of you did not lose a second in sending us financial help. Thank you so much for your proof of love!

In God’s hands,

Rolando, Hannah, and kids



Me preaching at a grave side service in Mexico