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WWNTBM

Jan 2018 – One Year

As of the 6th of January,

we have now been in San Miguel el Alto for one year. It has not been easy, but it has been well worth it.

You can summarize what Paul said in the first eleven verses of Philippians into: I have you in my mind, heart, and prayers. I echo this sentiment. You are all partakers with us in this ministry, and we are grateful to God for you.

I hope that all of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We were able to spend two days with our family in Villa Corona a week before Christmas so that we could be in our home town for the holidays; we had a few special activities with our church.

One of these activities was starting a new ministry based out of James 2:15-16. Since the weather here can get below freezing (and it did this winter), we decided to hand out a bundle consisting of a warm blanket, a box of basic food necessities, and a New Testament to those who needed. Before coming to the High Lands of Jalisco, I wondered what people did to stay warm in the winter. Now I know: they just pile on blankets in the night and wear coats in their houses all day. Upon handing out the care package, we would share a 30 minute message on the greatest gift God gave us – His Son. James tells us that it is of no use to say to the needy, “Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled,” if we don’t supply for the needs. This package served as a platform to care for them physically, and spiritually. It was a blessing to get the church involved in this and to be able to show a little of God’s love to people of the town. We started this year with just 8 packages, targeting 8 families, but we hope to expand this next year. We have so many seamstresses in the town, and one already saved and willing to serve, that I have a feeling we will be able to expand this to giving out sweaters, hoodies, and what-not.

The other activity we had during this time was our first two baptisms. To me, this is always such a big step because I know of nothing that gets ex-Catholics in trouble with their family and friends more than being baptized. I had one man tell me last year that he would gladly do any church activity that comes up but he would not be baptized. He further explained that he felt like that was backstabbing his parents. As for the two sisters that got baptized, they did not need any prompting. They, like the Ethiopian eunuch, wanted to be baptized. Praise the Lord for His working in hearts!

A missionary who serves nearby asked me to do a house Bible study for two weeks with a family in Arandas while he was out of town. Thus, we had the privilege of helping a co-laborer and encouraging a family of seven.

We had a visit from Victor Chavez, a brother who lives in Louisiana and feels a burden

Ortiz Family

PRAISES:

- A year of service in Mexico
- For the souls saved last year
- Our son’s growth and health

PRAYER

REQUESTS:

- Even more souls this year
- Sanctification of new believers
- Growth in the church

Santificación: Hannah and me, Josh, Alfredo, María del Carmen (Carmela), Nena, Rufina, and Maricela

Salvation: Manuel and Saira, Mari, Lola, Eladio, Beto, Héctor, José, Gladys, Jorge, Sabino & Margarita, Edgar, 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

to be involved in missions. He believes God has called him to do short term mission trips to Mexico for the purpose of coming along side churches and helping further the Gospel. We had a good time getting acquainted, and should the Lord allow, he will be visiting us again sometime this year. Pray God directs him in each step.

While I was preaching in our open air flea market, one of the town drunks saw me and came running up to me. I thought he was going to argue with me, but instead he stood beside me, began nodding, followed by waving people to come listen and mirroring my hand motions. At first I considered asking him to stop, but since he was keeping his mouth shut and not really harming anything, I just kept preaching as if he wasn't there. Not long passed, and I realized that more people than normal were paying attention to me because of the drunk (I think I had a larger crowd than I ever had). A lady across the street even recorded part of my message on her phone. It would be great to hear someday the testimony of a girl who got saved watching a video of a street preacher getting mirrored by a drunk! After preaching, I got to talk to him one-on-one (though I'm afraid he probably didn't understand everything). I also got to talk to another man who is into Mid-eastern spirituality. He reads a lot and is willing to continue conversing with me in the future. Pray for these people. We never know what God will use to save people!

Please continue to pray much for Mari (the one I mentioned in the previous letter). She has been indecisive about her soul for a while, and we just recently found out that her neighbors and family have been poisoning her against us. So far she continues to listen, but she admitted that at times she tries to avoid us because she is confused about what is right. Hannah is now past the half point in her pregnancy, and we are eagerly awaiting our son's birthday. He has gotten really strong and active lately, kicking everybody in the family. What an encouragement it is to have all the movement and know he is still with us! We expect to welcome him out in mid-May.



The Blankets we gave away

Our first baptisms

