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WWNTBM

Mar 2018 – Highlights and burdens

Dear prayer warriors, I pray

that the Lord will bless you all spiritually and physically.

One of the great highlights of writing these prayer letters is being able to move a name from the list of "pray for salvation" to the list of "pray for their growth." This month, I was able to move up the name of a young girl with whom we have been working since we got here. Remember the two girls we got to start homeschooling six months ago? On the 2nd day of March, Kristal (the older) and I had spoken much again about the Gospel, and she went home that day with the desire to put her trust in God. It wasn't until Monday that she told me the great news of her conversion the other night. She is only 15 years old, and yet she has constantly showed that she is not afraid to let people know that she is seeking to please God and not man. It is always awesome to behold the invisible miracle of regeneration, but I think there is sometimes even more awe when we see today's youth, against all odds, turning against the tide to follow Christ. To God be the glory! Please, pray that Melanie, too, would accept His work for her.

Another highlight of writing prayer letters is when I get to speak of how someone under the list of "pray for growth" is growing. Some of that is knowledge. This I notice when I hear some of the believers mentioning things they learned in their own Bible reading, things I didn't yet have the chance to teach them. Some of the growth is in their Cristian living. I do not list one name in this case because several of the brothers and sisters here in San Miguel are beginning to introduce me to others who are open to hear the Gospel, to serve their neighbors, or to sacrifice time and money to help Hannah while she is pregnant, etc. To God be the glory for these things also!

On the flip side of the highlights are the heavy burdens: burdens for those who remain on the list of "pray for salvation." There are also burdens for those who are believers but are in the struggle to break long-lasting habits of their pasts. Other burdens are of dealing with our own human weaknesses and limitations.

I could go through many pages about each one of the people who need salvation, but I will limit myself to three people. Mari (who we have been mentioning for a while in our prayer letters) is the first. I see her in the position of Agrippa – almost persuaded. She seems so close, but she will stall when it comes to submitting her life to Christ. Recently, it seems she has been avoiding us, always headed out the door when we arrive. I do not know her heart, but she gives hints of a fear that she may have been wrong all her life, and sadly, rather than driving on to the truth, she does not know if she wants to know.

Another in a similar situation is Jose Huerta. I met him nearly a year ago and have spent many

Ortiz Family

PRAISES:

- God's infinite mercy
- Salvation of Kristal
- Record of attendants
- Amadeo's life

PRAYER

REQUESTS:

- Souls headed for hell
- Spiritual warfare of the believers
- The last two months of pregnancy

For growth: Hannah and me, Evencio, Alfredo, María del Carmen (Carmela), Nena, Kristal, Rufina, and Maricela

For salvation: Filomeno,
Manuel & Saira, Mari,
Lola, Eladio, Beto, José,
Gladys, Jorge, Sabino &
Margarita, Edgar,
AnaDelia, Severina,
Roberto, Arturo, Arnulfo
& Lupita, Eliu, Juan Pablo,
Carlos, Miguel, Miguel &
Juanita, Gloria, Alison,
Melanie, etc.

hours sharing nothing but the Gospel with him. He seems intellectually convinced of salvation by faith but has not yet received it.

The third of my concerns is Eladio (21). He is begging for more study time and seems not to get enough of it. However, I had noticed a sort of slowness about him that made me wonder if he was on some heavy medication. His parents told me he is diagnosed with schizophrenia. One of the reasons they did not let me visit him in the morning is because the drugs are so strong he is completely out of it. His problem obviously is not fixed this way, but his parents are happy he is controlled. Pray God will save him and bring him out of this condition.

The JW's showed up at my door a few weeks past and we spent two hours conversing. Sad to say, they didn't wish to continue even though I heartily asked them to. Pray for them as well: Angel and Onofre.

One more highlight of these first months of the year was having my grandfather come and share a Creation vs Evolution talk. We had a record service that week of over 30 people (the great majority being unsaved people). We started the service, and I had to keep pausing to get more seats out. We barely had enough by the end! My grandfather did a great job of bringing the lesson around to the Gospel, and we had one person expressly say she would start coming regularly to church. This also opened the door for my mother to witness to another during the meal afterward.

It is very likely that the next prayer letter will have a picture of our newborn son, Amadeo. Hannah is doing great, and the little man is due out mid-May. This is a praise and a prayer request. I thank you for all your prayers and support!

Missionary Rolando and family

