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WWNTBM

Oct 2018 - The Work Goes On

Prayer warriors, we cannot thank you enough for your prayer to keep this ministry going on for the Lord. Thank you for reading our updates and intentionally seeking God's face on our behalf. I pray that the Lord would greatly bless you!

Some of you may still be wondering what happened about the decision regarding working in a church plant in Arandas. The Arandas church voted unanimously to have me as pastor. It certainly seemed to be of God, as we expected things to be more divided. We made every effort to inform them of our doctrinal stance, etc. Many from San Miguel had told us they wanted to go live in Arandas as well, but most of those have not, despite encouraging us to lead the Arandas church into a vote. So for now, we are working in both places: half the week in San Miguel, half the week in Arandas. Thursday through Sunday afternoon we visit those I have been working with in San Miguel and have our Sunday morning service. Afterward, we head to Arandas to have the Sunday night service. They have a house they let us stay in for free, so we stay there until Wednesday night. After having our prayer meeting, we head back to San Miguel to preach in the flea market the next morning. I have had to change my schedule around quite a bit, and it still needs some refining. Pray I can be efficient and effective.

The transition will take quite a bit of time, but the Lord has been working in both towns. We saw one person saved in Arandas, and she (Debie) wants to get baptized soon. We also had the privilege of baptizing Jimmy (pic bellow) who received Christ years before but had been caught up in the world for a while.

Someone I have not mentioned much over the (almost) two years we have been here is Maricela. She actually was the very first person to make a profession of faith in San Miguel. She has always had a job that keeps her away from church more than others due to it having rotating shifts that often prevent attendance, but she has always seemed to hunger for more of God's Word. A few weeks ago, when driving from Arandas back to San Miguel after church, Hannah and I got to talk to her most of the way without interruptions. She asked if she had ever told us why she listened to us when we knocked on the door. She says that she had been allowing JW's to come for a while and was really struggling to tell what was the truth. That day she was pleading with God to clear up the confusion, and we showed up. Needless to say, we added to the confusion for a while, but in time she recognized the truths confirmed in her heart by the Spirit. Many things have happened in her life, but one exciting thing is that she asked to be baptized. This we will probably try to combine with Debie's baptism.

Carmela, also one of the first people to profess Christ in San Miguel, has often told me she would begin coming to church with us but never would make time. Part of this is because

Ortiz Family

PRAISES:

- Salvation of Debie
- Clarity about Arandas
- Jimmy's baptism
- Upcoming baptisms
- New opportunities

PRAYER

REQUESTS:

- More people saved
- More spiritual growth
- More divine wisdom
- Amadeo's paperwork

For growth: Hannah and me, Eduardo, Alfredo, Jose Luis, another José Luis, Chelis, Alex, Carmela, Nena, Kristal, Melanie, Rufina, Mari, Maricela, Chuy, Gustavo, Eduardo, Carlos, Raquel, Lupita, Alma, Paloma, Martin and Estela, Jimmy, Debie.

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

Serving in San Miguel el Alto and Arandas, Jalisco, Mexico

she has a tiny diner and Sunday morning is one of her best times for business. I suspect the other reason is her neighbors have criticized her for letting me give her home Bible studies and told her that I would eventually deceive her into going to my church. Recently, her only daughter (just turned 18) left town with a shady boyfriend and has caused her much heartache and many sleepless nights. She told me that maybe God allowed this because she wouldn't have understood any other way. She has been coming faithfully since her daughter left. Pray the Lord will work on Gladys' heart and give peace to Carmela.

One of the brothers in Arandas is in charge of a large blueberry farm and has authority to have me come by and teach a class to the workers on their break. Three of the workers are saved, but I am not sure of the spiritual state of the others. I will soon begin teaching through the Gospels with them and am looking forward to this somewhat unique opportunity. Not to mention, we have been given the blessing of a lot of blueberries lately.

The church in Arandas has many men, several of whom are eager to learn. I would like to start having more in-depth studies with those during the week and training leaders. Hannah had the privilege of attending a ladies' conference here and has had her burden for teaching women strengthened again. Now that her Spanish has greatly improved, we are considering her starting that as well. Pray for wisdom, strength, and patience for us. There is so far to go, but we must take each step carefully and be sure not to neglect our own three tiny disciples.

We do not know what the next few months hold. We do not know how long God wants us to work in both locations. We DO know that He has been providing the spiritual rest we need for this (even if physical rest lacks at times). We have been enjoying working with the people. Pray that His direction is clear in each step and that both groups grow in sanctification.

One less important thing that I would like wisdom for is our vehicle situation. Our nine-passenger van has been a great vehicle, but we have often lacked seating for those that come to church with us. We have some people who are interested in buying it from us for a good price, and we would be able to buy a fifteen-passenger without hurting financially. All I ask is that you pray that we would find God's will in this decision.

Trials have continued in many forms (and we finally got those lice!), but it is a small price to pay for the privilege of taking the gospel to people who are less fortunate. These families souls are worth far more than this small inconvenience. No worries – we've dealt with the lice, but I have a feeling some of you are scratching your heads just thinking about it.

May the peace of our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all,

Rolando, Hannah, Azelia, Viana, and Amadeo

PS – Please pray fervently for Nena, Kristal, and Melanie right now.

