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WWNTBM

Jan 2019 - Beginning a new year

Ortiz Family

I pray and trust that you all have had a blessed Christmas and New Year's Day! How deeply grateful are we that your care of us has always flourished. Our prayer is that God will bless and multiply His blessings in your lives also. I recently have been studying Philemon, and it caught my attention that Paul said, "I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers." Normally when somebody says, "I'm praying for you," it is because something is wrong, but in this case he goes on to say that he prays because Philemon's faith and love had grown to such a degree that he refreshed the believers. I say a prayer for all who support us because you all have refreshed us and, through us, the people of Mexico who have come to know Jesus as their Savior.

God has been doing many great things in both Arandas and San Miguel.

Maricela the sister from San Miguel whom I mentioned in the last prayer letter had been often struggling with four sons and one daughter. The youngest of the boys, Jonathan, was her most problematic son. At only 14 years old, he was put in the local jail two or three times for causing trouble. He used drugs and alcohol and often did not return home for days at a time. That is all in past tense because he received Christ three months ago and has done a 180 degree change in his lifestyle! Shortly after becoming saved, he requested to be baptized along with his mother. So, I got to baptize Maricela and her youngest son on the same day. God continues to work on them.

I want to ask special prayer for a man named José who was visiting from Sinaloa. I had a very interesting opportunity to share the gospel with him only a week ago. I was visiting a couple whom I had known for a while. They invited me in, and I found a catholic priest was talking in the garage to a José, as he was emotionally a wreck. His girlfriend had just dumped him, and he was talking about committing suicide. After the priest left, I got to spend an hour sharing the Gospel with him. He told me God hates him and took away all that he loves; he might as well be dead. I told him he would be in Hell if he died without Christ and he would never find true lasting happiness until he found it in God. However, nothing seemed to come of it that day. He went back to Sinaloa, but I just heard that he joined a Christian rehabilitation center of some kind or another. I hope and pray that he gets saved soon.

We asked prayer about our vehicle last prayer letter and, in December, ended up doing what we mentioned: selling the 9-passenger van and buying the bigger one. Turns out that this particular 15-passenger van has had the seating arrangement modified so that it can comfortably seat 20 passengers. We have already made use of that space on several occasions. The record right now is 25 people that we brought to church one Sunday. There were a few hiccups with the purchase. Getting the vehicle in my name was extra difficult. In addition, the people that sold it to me put a worthless battery in it. That was not a huge deal, but it came with its own complications, as you can imagine. The battery died and, while pushing it to get it to jumpstart, I literally tapped a 2018 SUV's rear light. It cracked open a hole about one inch long on the side of the light, and I had to buy a new one. Thankfully, nothing was too serious.

PRAISES:

Salvation of Jonathan
 Three baptisms
 Amadeo's Paperwork

PRAYER

REQUESTS:

More laborers
 Wisdom for decisions
 Acceptance of the truth
 Amadeo's SSN paperwork

For growth in both San Miguel and Arandas.

Praise the Lord the list of people who have been saved is getting too long to name all of them! I will mention them as we go.

For salvation of souls in both San Miguel and Aandas.

José – As God is working.

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

We also baptized a sister in Christ named Maria Elena. She accepted Christ years before we knew her, but had always resisted being baptized. We had only known her for a short while when she asked to proceed in the Lord's ordinance. She was so moved by God that she did not want to wait until after Christmas and New Year's to take this step; she said she had waited too long already. I baptized her a few days before Christmas.

Since we sent the last prayer letter, we had the privilege of having two supporting pastors visit us. Pastor Fred Daniel (my father in law) and Pastor Brett Siegelcoff. Both preached for us, and we enjoyed greatly their visit.

Right now, there are so many things happening that I don't think I could get them all down in order on one prayer letter, so I shall share some of the biggest things.

One thing I mentioned in the last prayer letter was that I wanted to start training men. The ministry between Arandas and San Miguel is far more than I can handle on my own. I have had to step back on my door-to-door evangelism quite a bit. I continue visiting but only a couple of days a week, and I have continued street preaching in San Miguel. In Arandas, I am still preaching evangelistic messages in the blueberry farm on Monday and plan to start a group Bible study once a week where people in church can invite their lost friends who are not willing to enter a Christian church yet. But it is time (maybe past time) to train others to step in and join the outreach. Well, I plan to start this month. I am organizing the subjects that I would like to start them off with: personal evangelism, Biblical Christian ethics, basic doctrines etc. Pray that God will raise up more laborers for his fields.

One present challenge in Mexico is that the Government has majorly slowed down the transportation of Gas. This is because, for years, the cartel has been robbing gas, and the new president has decided to crack down on them by checking if the gas is coming from an honest source. The government did not let anyone know about it so that they could catch the criminals. Only problem is all the honest people are struggling as well. There are traffic jams, automobile accidents, people siphoning gas from others and many other problems. Pray we can make it through this time and not have to cancel any meetings. Since we work in two towns, we need the fuel.

Another challenge is that in Arandas spiritual opposition has stepped up, as this is the month they celebrate their idols. Like when we started coming to Arandas, many small trials have come: injuries, busted electronics (hence no pictures), vehicle issues, etc.

We thank you for your prayers regarding Amadeo's paperwork. We have been able to get his US "Birth Abroad" certificate and his US passport. Pray we will soon be able to get his SSN.

With all of this, the work goes on, and this new year we both attempt great thing for God and expect great things from God.

With prayers,

Rolando, Hannah, Azelia, Viana, and Amadeo