



*July 2019 – Crunch time!*

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WWNTBM

Ortiz Family

The first thing I rejoice to report is that two more people have surrendered to the glorious Gospel of salvation! One is an elderly lady who lives only six blocks from the church. This is the third Maria Elena we have worked with. She was ready to receive the Gospel as she was sick of her sins and basically begging to know how to be saved from them. Glory to God, the Bible had her answer! Hannah and Alma have been discipling her, and she of her own desire has been coming to church for a few weeks now.

The other person is Javier. I had mentioned him in previous letters and I am glad to tell you all that our prayers have been answered. It was after one Sunday service that God worked on his heart and he put his trust in Christ. After that, he started reading the Bible for himself and, in only a few weeks, almost finished reading the entire New Testament. I do not know a better way to describe his hunger than to say that he desires like a newborn baby the sincere milk of the Word.

A lady named Panchita has in the previous weeks decided to get rid of her idols. She had already made a profession of faith but struggled with that decision. Praise the Lord for that victory!

Praise the Lord for Karely (a twelve-year old girl) who decided to be baptized this past month! Pray for her as she has anxiety attacks. Also we have five people right now who are committed to be baptized soon and two more that are considering it!

A big blessing for us in San Miguel was that we had been looking for a place to rent that would be in town and have a little bit more room. This was a challenge because every place we saw for rent would ask us for what we were going to use it. As soon as we said “for church services,” we could see the change in their expressions. But a month ago, we saw a small building up for rent, and we called the number. The owner once again asked the popular question. I thought to myself, “There goes that opportunity,” but told him anyway. His answer really surprised me, he said, “Why do you want that place?! I have a much better place for a church.” Sure enough, it was better than we could have ever imagined – bigger and cheaper than where we were before! There are several projects we have to do on it though as it is unfinished. Since it was less than one month before our church anniversary, we rushed to at least paint the walls. Thank the Lord, many of our church members from here and Arandas helped us so the main areas are done.

Speaking of that, praise the Lord we have made it to the two-year church anniversary in San Miguel! Things have been glorious and things have been gruesome, but God has held us all together.

Since December, I have been sharing the Gospel at a blueberry farm on Monday mornings, and all had been going well. However four weeks ago, five new workers were hired from a small town called Purisima. One of them in particular resisted every week, trying to start arguments. She complained to the boss that it was not right that he have a Bible study at work. Their town priest also requested that he have a talk with him. I was starting to think that we would have to close that outreach but God has amazed me again and again. In this case, instead of closing the study, all five from that town now want to come to church with us. None of them have received Christ, but God is definitely working with them. Pray they would soon

#### **PRAISES:**

- Several people saved
- Karely’s baptism
- More in line to be baptized
- Panchita’s decision
- Second year church anniversary
- New rental building

#### **PRAYER**

#### **REQUESTS:**

- Two members under discipline
- Opposition
- Women from Purísima
- Wisdom in decisions

Serving in San Miguel El Alto and Arandas, Jalisco, México

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come to know Him personally. I would hate to see this door close as there are around twenty unsaved workers that attend and we have seen fruit from it.

These have been some of the highlights of these past months. However, we have also had some resistance, and we ask you to pray for that. There have been two cases of church discipline that have been difficult for us and the Arandas church. God is reminding me through these things how much we still have to learn and how much we need to lean on Him. The more serious one of the two had to do with a fifty-year-old man who has been living in the church for ten months. He had both of his legs amputated after an accident two years ago and has needed help to get around. He hired a lady to help him with that: something we discouraged but did not prohibit. This past month the husband of the lady stormed into the church early in the morning on a weekday. He was both mad and violent. He may have been high on drugs at the time but whatever the case he accused the two of adultery. Because he got violent, and broke some things the police picked him up later that day and took him to the local jail. The lady and her husband are not Christians, so nobody in the church even realized this had happened until the gossip made it to some of their ears through unbelievers. This happened in the church building and is known by many in the vicinity. As a result, the church is forced to make a decision of how to deal with the brother. Pray we may balance correction with mercy.

The other case is with a member who several times had gossiped against several people in the church, including Hannah and me. The situation was addressed each time and forgiveness was both asked for and verbally granted. In the last case, she heard that someone had made ugly accusations against her family. She was enraged and demanded to deal with it. That night four different parties of the church got together at 11:00pm to figure out where the gossip started and if it was true. It turned out to be a misunderstanding that was quite a bit different than it had at first appeared and much less serious. Again, all parties asked forgiveness and all granted it verbally, but the lady ceased to come to church and soon proved to have not really forgiven. As I and another brother approached her on the situation, she became extremely defensive and accused the church of being nothing but hypocrites in another false religion. She now has distanced herself from the church, and returned to drinking – something she had stopped almost entirely for 8 months. Pray that if she is a believer she would be restored to fellowship or if she is not really a believer that she would come for the first time to know Christ as her Savior, looking at His perfection instead of the faults in His still imperfect church. Furthermore, pray for her children as they have been growing a lot in Christ the last year and will certainly suffer the consequences of her decisions.

Pray for me as these things have really weighed a lot on my heart, and I need wisdom to know how to deal with them,

In much prayer,

Rolando Ortiz and family

P.S. Thank you for your patience regarding the time between prayer letters. In this case, between helping two families move, moving ourselves, painting our new building, preparing for our church anniversary, attending our guest speaker, dealing with some sheep in trouble, putting a video together, and all of our ordinary activities we have been falling behind.