



Mar 2020 – Lice, Mice, and Shingles

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Ortiz Family

I fear at times that, if I am not careful, our prayer letter could end up being a complaint letter instead of a report of all of the great things God is doing. We have been blessed with new opportunities and at the same time hindered from some previous opportunities. I suppose that is how it always has been, to some degree. I will list some negatives for the purpose of asking for your prayers, but I will try not to bog you down. My hope is that you can see God at work through the trials and glorify Him for His matchless grace and infinite wisdom.

As the title of this letter says, we have had a few intruders.

As we continue to work with families that have lice, we ended up getting them again and again. Hannah and I decided a while back to not let this keep us from working with them, and we do not want to drive them away by appearing disgusted by them. Truth is, lice are annoying but not worth losing souls over. Three of these kids regularly visit us, play with our kids, and come to church. What complicates things is that these families live with their uncles, aunts, cousins, and siblings in a house with no running water. The parents are ashamed of their condition, but it seems almost impossible with the way they live to get rid of them. They have even gone as far as shaving all of the boy and girl's heads. As far as us helping them get rid of them, it could be extremely offensive to suggest any ideas, especially to the family's members who are still a little hostile towards us because of our beliefs. We ourselves have had a hard time finishing the lice off for good because of the constant influx. However, this time I am happy to say that we have finally found something that gets rid of them instantly. We may at some point get a chance to carefully suggest what we found to the families, but at least for now, if (rather, when) we get the lice back we can eliminate them in one treatment. We did not come to the mission field to become lice-off experts but, hey, if you ever need advice you know whom to call.

Mice have been less of a problem but since we live in two places, half a week in San Miguel and half a week in Arandas, three had found their way in. Two we caught in a trap, and one died of hunger being close away and not finding anything to eat. Either way, we got rid of them.

Shingles happens to be the newest trial. About two weeks ago, I started having strong fevers. I thought it was dengue fever because the symptoms are similar (at least to the untrained) and because right now it is common in Guadalajara for mosquitos to carry it. Hannah suspected otherwise. Turns out, I was wrong; it is shingles. No, it has not been altogether bad since it gave me a chance to catch up on emails, a few books I had been piling up, tax related things, and other studies. It is getting much better and should be gone in a week or so. All I ask is you pray that no one else around here picks it up. I am concerned that one elderly brother may have.

During an evangelism outreach, we made contact with a 15 year old (Carlos) who lived in a Christian refuge for kids a few years ago and came to know Christ there. He now lives in Arandas with his father. Sadly, his father is diehard against Christianity. We are praying that we will have a chance to talk to his father, and that God will soften his heart. For now, Carlos can only come to church if he sneaks away from his home.

PRAISES:

- New Baby
- Health improving
- New opportunities
- Finding Carlos

PRAYER

REQUESTS:

- Two members in restoration
- Outreach in La Grenjena
- Women's conference

Serving God in Arandas and San Miguel el Alto, Jalisco.

I also am thankful for the opportunity to preach Faith Promise in a church in Zapopan. Jerry Shaw Jr. invited me and all I asked in return is that he would help teach Faith Promise in Arandas sometime in the future. My prayer is that God will move more hearts to get involved in the Great commission.

In addition, a great opportunity in San Miguel has opened through a man named Julio. He is related to several of the church folk, and we recently started visiting his home with Gospel messages. He seems hungry and close to receiving the Gospel. What is really exciting is that he, of his own accord, invited two of his sisters and several of his nephews to take our study. Nine people showed up, and we were invited back again. Pray God saves the whole family!

While one door opens wide, another door has been closing. Every Monday morning I go to preach to about 30 workers in a Blueberry farm run by one of the brothers in church. Friday, I am in San Miguel, but Jimmy (a member in Arandas) has been having a small group study in the little town of La Granjena. Some of the workers that I teach on Monday attend with him, but they also have included their family members. It had been going well, and several of them have come to Arandas' church from there. Sadly, one of the women that attended has been causing big problems, and the group has had to stop because of the heated attitudes. I would hate to see this door close because it has a "Saul of Tarsis" type of story behind it. Pray God will work things out.

We have a Women's conference coming up the 28 of this month and ask you pray for all involved. Hannah will be teaching several sessions and another member (Alma) was going to help her. There will be several churches coming. Pray God leads and moves things the way He pleases.

Continue to pray for the guys who, with God's strength, we are trying to restore. Things have not been extremely smooth, but we seem to be getting somewhere.

In prayer,

Rolando, Hannah, Azelia, Viana, Amadeo, and Baby



Preaching in Zapopan



Women helping make decorations for conference.