

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

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OUTRAGEOUSLY BLESSED

I am later than ever on getting this letter out! Things piled up, and every time I thought I would get around to it, I had something else demanding my time. Since the last letter we have had a Faith promise conference, VBS, San Miguel's 4th church anniversary, Mexican Independence Day services, a new kids ministry on Saturdays, two baptisms, a Covid outbreak, one month of furlough in Idaho, and a youth rally. I will try not to get too wordy with the details.

The faith promise mission conference had a good response from the church in their giving. After the missionaries who presented their work (mentioned in the last letter) left, I did a series of messages on money and missions. At the end, we handed out the faith promise cards and prayed God would work. This year, the church promise was 18,000 pesos (900 dollars). It may not sound like a lot, but I was very excited to see how they are catching the vision! It is heart-warming to see a mission church learning early to stand behind other missionaries!

The VBS was one of the big things I asked prayer for last time. We had up to 40 kids, and there was great response. We used the contacts we got as a bases for starting the Saturday kids ministry. It is presently going well, and we are praying for more fruit in the hearts of these little ones.

The mission in San Miguel made it to its fourth year since the first service. Even though we have fewer people than last year, we wanted to celebrate the mile stone for those who are faithful. We had a Christian rondalla come to help with special music, my brother preached, and we played a video of the memories of each year. Like every good Baptist, we had a food too! A lady in our church made lamb roast.

We had been invited to preach in Idaho early last year. With all the Covid mess, we were not sure if that would even be possible, so we hesitated for a few months. In the end, we were able to go. I was able to get in touch with all five churches that support us in Idaho, and we were set for reporting to all of them in one trip. This filled our schedule for October.

Next step was to make sure both of our mission churches were taken care of while I was out. Antonio Ornelas, a solid missionary I've known for more than 15 years was just finishing handing over his church plant to a local pastor, so I thought he would be the perfect option to stay in our home and be there for the people in

PRAISES:

- Salvations and baptisms
- First faith promise \$900
- Covid recovery
- VBS professions of faith
- Safe trip to USA
- Encouragement from churches
- Safe trip back
- New Baby

PRAYER

REQUESTS:

- Nena's family(Backslidden)
- Clear plans for church future
- More souls
- Caleb and America
- Children's program
- Hannah's pregnancy
- Hannah's paperwork

our place. However, before I got a hold of him, he was travelling to Mexico city to cover for another missionary who had to have brain surgery. He would probably be there for a few months and not able to help me. I contacted two pastors who have their churches two+ hours away. It wouldn't be easy, but they were willing to take turns covering for me... until one had an emergency come up. Now, being a man of little faith, I was starting to pull my hair out, but Antonio (the first guy) called and told me he had finished his obligations in Mexico City and was headed back to Jalisco. He said he would be glad to help. That was a huge relief for me. I set up the everything and was planning to have him in one week before I left so that I could get him acquainted with everyone. Then, a few days before I left, he called saying he was Covid positive. It honestly made me laugh. God had a plan though! Someone else helped at church until he was recovered, and things went well while we were gone.

Caleb and America, a young marriage in our church who received Christ (him last year and her this year), had been talking about being baptised. When I told them I would be gone the month of October, they told me not to leave before baptising them. The day before we left I baptised both. Please pray for them and their growth in Christ.

We drove 36 hours to Idaho and 36 hour back. We prayed long to be able to be a blessing while their, but when all was done we felt overwhelmingly on the receiving end of the blessing! We were totally refreshed and deepened in our hope for the future. Now we are back in Mexico and ready to get busy again in God's work.

The outstanding love and generosity of God's people has always amazed me, and it has only one explanation: you believe in a outstanding, loving, and generous God! And it is to that God I pray that you would have your blessing return to you a thousand fold!

Most of the financial gifts you so kindly gave will go toward purchasing land and building a church in San Miguel. One person gave us a love offering specifically for the people, and they were blown away by the fact people cared about them without even knowing them personally!

On the negative side of things, Hannah and six people in Arandas plus almost everyone in San Miguel had Covid in the last four months, but to God's glory, no one had a bad case of it and have all recovered!

One last blessing we must share is that Hannah and I brought one more new missionary down with us! God keeps blessing us with 24/7 disciples and future co-laborers! We are expecting towards the end of July to be able to send pictures of him/her.

These are the reasons I entitled this prayer letter "outrageously blessed."

Rolando, Hannah, and the 5 kids