

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

+52 (347) 105-8803
1611 Brookhaven Mill Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27406
Rolanzwot@gmail.com
WWNTBM



GOD WORKS MIRACLES BUT HE...

I recently remembered a time years ago that my brother wrote on the back of a dirty van's window, "God works miracles, but He doesn't wash cars." Humorously, it rained softly that night leaving only, "God works miracles, but he..." (pic) The lesson I learned is don't limit God on what He will or will not do! Several of the prayer requests I mentioned in the last letter have already been answered, and some things maybe no one prayed for have happened because God saw fit to do them.

Out of the blue we had been told that a group donated a playground for our church. I honestly almost thought it was a scam. Since nothing else was heard for quite a while, I had assumed it had been forgotten. I also assumed it would be a small playground. Both assumptions were dead wrong. A group of Christians I had never met came from the US, Canada, and Mexico between Christmas and New Years and for free installed an extremely nice, secondhand playground at the Arandas church (pic). I laugh at the thought of somebody writing down, "God works miracles, but He doesn't install playgrounds."

I asked prayer in the last prayer letter for our new kids program. God opened our hearts and the doors to set up some special Christmas services for these and their families. We had more than 60 different non-church-kids between the two events, plus some of their parents. The gospel was preached both to the general group and one-on-one with as many as possible. Of those that made a profession of faith in these events, I would like to specifically mention Efrain and Lili. Ten years ago they lost their oldest son in an accident, run over by a drunk driver. Lili blamed God, and they both have been mourning his death for ten years. This became a door to share God's goodness with them, and God softened their hearts to listen. They had a lot of questions and bitterness, but they invited me back for a second visit. No matter how hard I tried, I was prevented, but we spoke on the phone for several long periods. I invited them and their other boys to the Christmas programs, and there Efrain and Lili called on the Lord to save them! Pray their hearts will heal and they will produce fruit as a testimony to God's power.

I asked that you would pray for Caleb and America. I am not sure what God has in store for them, but I was saddened this week because Caleb told me they would be moving away. He has been having financial and interpersonal problems with his boss for a few months, so when his father-in-law offered him a well-paying job, he accepted it right away. I trust that since you have been praying for him, this is part of God's answer. I hate to see him leave, but he and his wife came to know God here, and that was worth the time invested. Pray he continues to have the hunger for the Word he has now and that he can find a church to grow in.

One dear brother and his family move away, but another came back. Hilario Mesa and

PRAISES:

- Christmas programs
- 60 kids preached to
- Salvation of souls
- Hannah's paperwork
- New church property
- Amadeo's health
- Hilario's return
- Swing set donated and built

PRAYER

REQUESTS:

- Nena's family (backslidden)
- The hearts of Beto's parents
- Trip to Mexico City
- Discipline situation
- Caleb and America
- God's will for Missionary Antonio and us
- Hannah's pregnancy
- Hannah's paperwork

his wife moved away last year to Guadalajara. He accepted Christ three years ago, and she did early last year. I was impressed that the whole time they were in Guadalajara he (maybe she as well) continued to watch our live stream sermons. He, too, has a teachable spirit and a hunger to learn. Pray for God's plans for both marriages.

Thank you all so much for your prayers for Hannah's paperwork. Our lawyer got back to us this month and said that we may be able to proceed soon. This means we will have to make a quick trip to Mexico City but that we may finally get her citizenship done. If it goes through, it will hopefully decrease the complicated paperwork when the baby is born.

I would like to ask special prayer for Antonio Ornelas and his family. After I returned, we talked about how things went, and I expressed how much we appreciated his help. He and I talked about the great need of the Gospel in this region and how overloaded I sometimes felt. I asked what he thought about staying around and helping lighten the load as an assistant pastor in Arandas; after a week of prayer, he agreed. I have been quite pleased on how much we coincide doctrinally. I asked the church to pray with us and give us their feedback. The first week of February, they will vote, and we will be content with whatever the decision of the church may be. The need is great; the laborers are few.

Also, we are purchasing a property for a good price in San Miguel, in an excellent location for a church. The property is 600 square feet (which is larger than the average property in town), and a brother in Christ here who is an architect has helped us put our design to blue print for free. We hope to have it built in the near future, without debt. Because of your generosity, this has been possible. Thank you!

Our attendance suddenly fell last year, and though it gradually regrows, several people have not come back. When pressured on why, they mention the same names as cause of offense. Please pray especially for the offending family because, though I hate it, I need to confront them. My hope is restoration.

We also ask prayer for Beto. He has been coming to church for four years, and I am pretty sure his parents have no longer allowed him to come because they don't like what he is learning. They didn't tell me that, but after two months of bad excuses, that is the conclusion I have come to.

I would like to end with one final praise. In late 2020, Amadeo almost died of blood poisoning. As I write, he sits beside me singing "I in da Lord's army, yesser!" God is good!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Ortiz Family serving in Mexico

