

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



## LIGHT IN DARKNESS

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ and fellow prayer warriors,

Some of what is said in this prayer letter may not be appropriate for little ears, and so I ask that you read it first and decide whether to share it with any young ones. I usually avoid all topics that may not be age appropriate because I know this letter is read in front of some mixed congregations. However, I feel that I need the prayers of God's people for these matters.

Some of you know that the region we are in is disproportionately catholic: eighteen counties with more than 99% catholic. The catholicism here is very deeply rooted. The following sad joke I have told some of you in person because it illustrates the reality of how things are. It is said that an adult daughter came to her father and told him to brace himself for the worst possible news. "I've become a prostitute," she said. The father turned pale and started frantically scolding his daughter, saying, "What did we do wrong that you would do this to us? We taught you our beliefs and values. How could you do this?" Then he paused with some relief. "Wait you said... Oh I was worried you said you had become a Protestant."

Ignoring that Baptists aren't technically Protestants, I must say, this joke is very accurate to how a catholic here feels about someone leaving the catholic church. Someone in their family being the worst possible catholic is still more acceptable than them becoming a good Christian. We have seen this with a lady that literally was abandoned by her family for being a drug addict and alcoholic who sold her body in order to provide for her kids. Her family showed back up when we started sharing the Gospel with her to tell her to stay away from us. This, and many other cases, prove to me that the bad joke is the reality for many people here.

We struggled against all this to fulfill the great commission, and praise God's name we have seen people get saved, baptized, and integrated into the church.

Last letter I mentioned Nena going to rehab. She sadly only lasted one week there before leaving. I didn't tell you her story, so I will summarize it now. Over two years ago she left our church with her son. We had gotten all the way to the step of bringing her before the church for gossiping about everyone, and she left in anger rather than repenting. Her two daughters continued to come but months later left as well. They were both dating guys from the church. One even got engaged. On Christmas day a year-and-a-half ago, I got a call from Nena telling me I had allowed her daughters to be raped. I knew the story was exaggerated but had to investigate it. By her daughter's admission, the four had been consensually sinning and became bitter about it. Long story short, they ended the engagement and fled from God's people instead of accepting the restoration offered.

What makes things worse is that one of the young men had expressed he was called to

### PRAISES:

- Salvation of Viana
- Visiting supporting churches
- Two Baptized
- Safe trip to US and Back
- God's work on hearts
- Upcoming baptisms

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Nena and Kristal
- More souls
- Discipline situations
- Counseling situations
- Paperwork
- Hannah's pregnancy
- Building project

preach, and I had taken him under my arm and invested many hours in teaching him how to evangelize, preach, and teach. The fact that the man was disciplined and also not allowed to preach didn't satisfy Nena, and I began hearing that she finds people we start disciplining and tells them the same twisted story. "Rolando is a good pastor, but I don't go to his church because he allows rapists to preach there:" a huge exaggeration combined with a flat-out lie. You can imagine how this greatly complicates the already hard task of evangelizing in San Miguel.

This week, both Nena and one of her daughters told me they want to start coming back to church. The daughter seems to be repentant; we struggle to believe her mother. Pray God gives me wisdom to deal with the situation like Christ would.

Also pray for Fernando and Alma. They are the ones I mentioned in the last letter whom we confronted for offending several families in the church. We have not resolved the situation yet. They are not coming to church, and we recently found out that they are inviting people from our church to go with them to a liberal church nearby.

We also need prayer for a teen girl who was molested a couple of years ago and finally told. She and her family are struggling with it but have asked us for help.

I was once told that I seemed to have the patience of God. Sadly, the truth is that I really am not very patient; it is just that one of the parts of ministry I really dislike is confronting people in church who are very defensive and seem not to want to change. By not dealing with these things, I tire other people out, and they assume I must have more patience than them. Pray that, contrary to my nature, I develop a healthy ability to deal with these people. I do it when I have to but probably not as soon as I should.

On a positive note, we just returned from 10,500 mile, 8-week trip reporting to sending churches on the east side of the US and were hugely blessed to see many of you face-to-face! We are back in Mexico but are going to make one more 5-week trip in the fall to visit the last remaining churches that support us.

Even better, Viana, our second daughter, professed Christ as her Savior last month! It is an overwhelming joy to report this in the midst of many sorrows! Azelia, our oldest daughter, got baptized last week, and Viana wants to as well. I have carefully spoken to both of them as I know many who are baptized young have later expressed they did not really understand what it meant. Along with Azelia, a man by the name of Luis also got baptized. He used to be oneness apostolic but has been attending our church.

We have a lot to do in the next 6 months: birthing the baby, planning VBS, dealing with church discipline, starting our church building project, dealing with various paperwork processes, preaching in a Bible conference here in Mexico, and more. Please pray for all of these things.

In way over our heads but relying on Christ,  
Rolando, Hannah, and kids



**10,500 miles in the car**

