



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

HONEYMOON IS OVER

When we first went to the field 6 years ago, I told people that since we were from ministry families we didn't have a romantic view of missions. However, more than I realized, we sort of did. We were often driven by the novelty of it all: new people to reach, new places to explore, and new things to discover. Now returning to the field for our second term, I think I can say, "We enjoyed the honeymoon, but it is over. The deeper and more enduring stuff starts now." We go back not because it is the most beautiful place on the planet, not because we crave the food or love the language, not because the people are exceptional over all others, not because we are most comfortable there, but because our calling in Christ Jesus is there.

Two mission churches are coming along but have a ways to go. Souls have been saved, baptized, and disciplined, but we still have not officially planted an autonomous indigenous church. Help us pray that at least one of the two missions have a national pastor before we return on the next furlough.

The first term was extremely hard but equally rewarding. There were two seasons of difficulty in the churches in the last 6 years that almost had us burned out.

One time I told Hannah just to burn my Bible college certificates because all they did was mock me. They screamed, "You know all this but can't solve this church issue." God got us through those problems, and He brought blessing to our ministry.

In a similar moment of great discouragement, I was praying in the church by myself, and the words came out - words of which I was immediately ashamed and of which I repented, but they had been voiced. I said, "God, did you bring us to Mexico just to destroy us?" I know what you are thinking: that is scarily close to what the Israelites said in the desert. I realized that, and I realized how serious of a sin it to make such a statement. However, God was merciful with my wavering faith and strengthened me and brought us through that situation as well.

God has been so good to me in giving me a wife for 9 years who has also taken

Prayer Tab

PRAISES:

- Saved men at rehab center
- Finished reporting to all supporting churches
- Finished one term on the field
- 400 New Testaments given
- Flooding and earth quake did not affect us

PETITIONS:

- Catholic shrine issue
- Travels back Oct 28th-31st
- Daniel's visit Nov 1st-8th
- Tyrza's American papers
- Building permits

some hard hits for the cause of Christ. I feel that our honeymoon still continues in many ways, and I love spending my life with her. However, she too has been discouraged from time to time.

Nevertheless, God has not found Himself burned out, frustrated, or discouraged. And so we return to the field in that knowledge, by that strength, and under that wisdom.

I write this prayer letter only a few days before driving back to Mexico. Help us pray for our travels. We have finished reporting to all of our supporting churches, and, as always, were so blessed to see many again and meet some new friends as well! Thank you all for your kind reception of our family!

I summarize what happened in Mexico between the last prayer letter and this:

I mentioned the salvation of Horacio in the praises of the last prayer letter, but I did not have room to say much more about him. He was one of whom God brought out of the clutches of the local cartel. Since he was born again, he has had an insatiable hunger for God's Word. I have kept busy keeping him busy.

We connected with Jorge (a Gideon) in Guadalajara, and I was able to get permission from the rehab center to allow them to come with 400 New Testaments. In addition, we took 400 bags of chocolates and candies. Lino, Horacio, and I each preached an evangelistic message, and several professed faith. Some of the men knew Horacio from his past life and were blown away by his change: from selling drugs to sharing his faith!

We also hosted the bi-monthly youth rally in Arandas on the 27th of August. I asked José Luis (the one who was one step from becoming a catholic priest) to share with them, and he did an excellent job. The only complication was that a 12-year-old boy broke his wrist during the activities.

We have a special prayer request of a delicate matter that has come up. Before he was saved, Chuy had bought a piece of land that has a shrine on it. He apparently verbally promised to never remove it and to allow them to worship there. Now that he is saved, he doesn't want them worshipping idols on his property. This year they found workers building a bigger shrine. They are using cartel threats to keep him from intervening. Pray we have wisdom not only to overcome this obstacle but to use it as an opportunity.

November 1st to the 8th, a brother named Daniel is coming to stay with us and help with some things. Pray that God prospers his visit and return.

Hannah's grandmother passed away a week ago, and we decided to stay a few extra days for the funeral. We are so thankful that we got to be with her in health and then witness her sudden graduation. She was a huge influence in Hannah's life and even in mine for the time I knew her. She is home now!

In Christ,

Rolando, Hannah, and kids

P.S. San Miguel flooded twice last month and felt the recent earth quake, but neither affected us.

