



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

EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY ABOVE

Paul tells us something amazing in Ephesians 3:20. He didn't just tell us God is able to do what we ask, or *more* than we ask, or more than *all* we ask. He does not stop at more than we ask or *think*. As literally mind blowing as that is, He adds "exceeding abundantly above." A great proof of this is that God has already done "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." Or would we dare say it ever crossed our mind to have the audacity to ask Him to send His Son as He did? Would we have dared petition that Emmanuel come to a manger, live, and die to forgive us had He not first acted? Would we have dared ask that not only God forgive us but that He adopt us and take us as His own eternally? Treat us as He treats Christ? Indwell us with His Spirit? Never abandon us? Use us to bring more to His fold?

Since He has already done all of this and much more, we should never lack confidence in our prayers. Let each word fuel your prayers today: God is able to do *exceeding abundantly above* all that we ask or think.

Daniel Pittington visited us for a week from one of our supporting churches in Virginia. He was to us as Epaphroditus was to Paul. The church property in Arandas looked like a jungle because we left for the US in rainy season and everything was overgrown. Daniel helped us get it back in order. He really enjoyed driving on Mexican roads, which gave us a nice break, especially after just finishing furlough.

Upon arrival to our house in Arandas, we found that someone had broken into it and the church. The guy didn't take much more than some money. I asked the neighbor to see what he could find on his cameras. Sure enough, it was recorded, and we know the guy who broke in. He had come to church for a while. Not wanting to press charges against him, I went with Daniel (from Virginia) to talk to him, confront him, and be a minister of reconciliation. He confessed that he had done it and that he had spent the money on drugs. He asked for help, and I offered to take him to a Baptist rehab center. However, when he excused himself to go to the bathroom, he escaped. Pray much for him. His name is Juan Carlos.

Pray also for Efrain and Lili. They made a profession of faith last December. Efrain

Prayer Tab

PRAISES:

- Safe return
- Financial help for the building
- Building permits done
- Tyrza's American papers
- Daniel's visit Nov 1st-8th

PETITIONS:

- Efrain's health
- Juan Carlos' heart
- Jose Luis and Lina's marriage
- Catholic shrine issue
- Christmas outreach

had a car accident and is in intensive care with very low chances of survival. Lili lost her son 10 years ago to a car accident, and it will be devastating if she loses her husband.

As for the shrine issue I mentioned last letter, the solution we came up with was that Chuy sell his property to the Catholic church, then they can do whatever they want with it. However, they don't want to buy it because they feel they have the upper hand. Continue to pray for the issue.

One really exciting thing to report is that we have finally gotten building permits and have started to build the San Miguel church building. We were blown away this month by God's exceedingly abundant generosity through many of you! Several love offerings and Christmas gifts were sent, in addition to a huge donation specifically toward the building. We will easily be able to complete the first stage and start on the second stage. The first stage includes the future kids' class, two bathrooms, and two small rooms we will temporarily use for living (later they will be used as a prophets chamber). We will have room for 30 people in the kids' class, and the second stage includes adding the actual sanctuary, baptistry, etc. Thank you so very much for your loving gifts!

One verse that has been on my mind a lot lately is also in Ephesians: "Redeeming the time because the days are evil." To redeem means simply to purchase, and I am constantly trying to find what time of lesser value I can sell in order to purchase time for things of greater value. Now that we have begun building, I at least want to be helping on the project two days a week, but I have many other visiting and discipling opportunities, and most importantly, Hannah and the kids. Pray God gives me wisdom with my schedule.

Pray for Jose Luis and his family. Jose Luis is the one that was one step from becoming a catholic priest when God turn his world upside down. He received Christ in Guadalajara a few years ago, but he is from Arandas, and so he has returned. His wife professed Christ only six months ago, and both are fighting to grow. There are many things against them and their marriage. Pray much for them.

Other than these petitions and praises, I could add many more names. Pray for these things with the confidence that God can do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.



Merry Christmas,
Rolando, Hannah, Azelia,
Viana, Amadeo, Selicia, and
Tyrza

