



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

BEING PRODUCTIVE!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I realize this prayer letter is way overdue. I realize that the value of your prayers is too great to just go on without writing and that it is my privilege and responsibility to report to you all. I do appreciate your patience, though no one has complained.

As a church, we began to dig deep into the subject of Christian productivity. Time is one of our greatest commodities, and I believe that we all have enough time to do what God has asked us to do. We just don't always administrate it as we should. We must not forget that our time is His and not ours. We are here with the supreme goal of glorifying God, and connected to that, the goals of edifying the church and reaching lost. Those goals don't happen magically. We have to plan the what, when, and how. We need daily habits that will lead us one step at a time toward our heavenly aim, or we will do very little in the long run. Our "yea" should be "yea," and "nay," "nay". So we need to have very clear in our mind what God geared us for. Our gifts, talents, and calling can help us determine what He wants. When we arrived here, it seemed there were so few open doors, but at this point we have overabundant opportunities (probably due to all of your prayers). Now we need your prayers to know which doors to take first.

I had two church members and an unbeliever employed in the building project, but I try to put at least 12 hours a week into it to speed things up. Since God gave me an opportunity to study two years of electricity way back, I took that part upon myself. The Lord has helped me administrate this time without stopping family devotions, reading through the Bible with Hannah, sharing the Gospel several times a week, and fulfilling my regular preaching duties. I'm certain that I could improve, so pray God would give me wisdom.

The reality of our humanity is apparent when we are serving the Lord. I never would have thought that building a church would be so exciting and stressful at the same time. One blessing of the stress is that it allows those around you to see how you react and how you fix things when you didn't react well. This complements evangelism.

One such moment came after a long day of work. I was backing out of the property while looking at what was done when I suddenly hit something. There was

PRAISES:

- Alvaro's profession
- Hannah's pregnancy
- Efrain's 100% healing
- First stage of building project completed

PETITIONS:

- Alvaro's addiction
- Up-coming Evangelistic Campaign in San Miguel
- Second stage of construction
- Hannah's health
- More godly productivity

a car parked in front of an empty lot. I know... again! It was small, but I felt it was correct to find the owner. I went around knocking on doors with embarrassment while complaining in my heart. None of the close neighbors knew whose car it was. Finally, I found the owner and he stated, "What an honest guy. Most would run." Then it hit me: I just left a testimony to all the neighbors! I stopped complaining and started praising.

Alvaro, the unbeliever who worked on the property, made a profession of faith and began coming to church. He remarked that he had never before met people who really seemed like they wanted to help. He decided to go to a rehab center to break his addiction to crystal meth.

Some people come to church because of curiosity rather than a heart conviction, and often don't stay very long. I'm not sure why, but a young man named Rogelio heard me preaching in the flea market and has been coming to church faithfully for a month now. He hasn't yet received Christ, so pray he be good soil that brings forth fruit.

Pray for Toño. He has come to church for years. His elderly parents threatened that he would not receive any inheritance if he kept coming, yet he came. However, he procured a property and built a little house next to his parents, and since he moved in he's only come once. He was criticized, and it is evident he succumbed to family pressure as he has been out of church for a few months.

When you make plans, you should never leave God out of them (Jas.4:13,14); He may change things up. I am learning that plans are your servants, not your masters. God is your Master. This month I almost ended up going to jail. Let me explain. Brother Lino decided to help a man with a terminal illness and called me one Sunday to say that Armando was afraid of dying. Right after church, I went to his house, and we shared the hope of the Gospel with him until the early hours. I went again around 9:00am. Armando was listening, but he was no longer speaking. I read him John 1:1-12, and Lino asked if I could take him to the hospital to see how he was doing, but 10 minutes down the road he gave his last breath in my van. Lino and I then realized how bad it would look to show up with a corpse that was of no relation to us. In Mexico you are guilty until proven innocent, and it would take at least a day or two to prove that. I let Hannah know, and we prayed God's will would be done. God gave me peace that I was not the priest or the levite of the parable of the good Samaritan. We could testify to those around us, and we did. It all worked out when the doctor decided to declare him dead upon arrival so the police didn't get involved. Things are done differently around here! I am thankful I got to share the Gospel and that I didn't miss Amadeo's birthday or church activities that week.

Next, I have two great productivity announcements! First, Hannah is pregnant, and we are expecting the birth in late November. Amadeo and his sisters have prayed diligently for a little brother, and maybe God said "yes!" Second, we finally finished the first stage of construction and moved into it. It was more expensive than I expected, partly because the exchange rate is the lowest it has been since 2015 and partly because the master builder didn't tell me everything we needed to do. However, God faithfully supplied, and it is done! We have already had three generous donations towards the construction. That, plus the saved love offerings from furlough, got us through and has given us a good start on the next stage. I will send out a video shortly.

Well, I got a little wordy and should not take up any more of your time. May God help you to be productive in His fields as well!



Rolando, Hannah, Azelia, Viana, Amadeo, Selicia, Tyrza, AND Pipsqueak