

Ortiz Family



Serving God in
Arandas
&
San Miguel el Alto,
Jalisco,
México

GRATEFUL FOR SO MUCH

We are grateful for all of you who continue to pray for us and who read our reports. I hope that this letter will be an encouragement to you all as you hear what God does with your prayers.

First, I am happy to report that our son Dastan Eliel was born on the 5th of December. Shortly before he was born, there were a couple of complications. One, he was breech, and here they think that is an automatic cesarean. Second, Hannah's blood work was showing anemia despite great iron levels and zero symptoms. Because of these, the two doctors who may have assisted us at birth both backed out. Thank the Lord, there is a Christian, naturalist doctor nearby who has helped us in several situations and had an easy answer for both issues. God is good! However, we still ended up having another unassisted birth. That was no problem in itself, and it went very well, but it would make getting his birth certificate hard. Usually, it has been hard enough getting paperwork done when we **did** have a doctor present, but low and behold, this time we had zero problems! In three weeks we had both the Mexican and the American sides done. We are grateful that God always has things under control and is capable of answering prayer! Dastan's name means "God, my God, is capable!"

Along with the birth of our son, we are also thrilled to announce the new birth of Isaac. We had worked with Isaac years ago and didn't see any response. He listened but did not respond to the Gospel. When he and his family ended up going to live in Guadalajara, we recommended a church and checked in on them on and off, both visiting and calling. He contacted me last month to tell me he had great news for me. He had finally surrendered to Christ! He wanted me to know because he saw us as a big part in the process that led him to Christ. He told me it was his pride that blinded him and God had removed the blinders. He also told me that he was finally going to get properly married to the mother of his son and proposed the next day. Praise the Lord!

Efrain, who made a profession of faith two years ago, was facing some large difficulties and expressing some misunderstandings about the Gospel. I spent some time clearing this up, and now he says he understands he is forgiven before God. Whether he was saved two years ago or he just got saved, we

PRAISES:

- Birth of Dastan
- Salvation of Isaac and Efrain
- Upcoming baptisms
- Donations: \$23,720
- Day of the dead outreach
- Dastan Papers

PETITIONS:

- Salvation of souls
- Caesar's family
- Marriage counseling

praise the Lord!

Norma has now decided to get baptized. This is the lady I mentioned gave us so much trouble before she was saved. She rallied her catholic friends to resist us, but after she got saved she now invites people to listen to the Gospel. Viana, our second, also wants to be baptized.

God has open doors in now five rehab centers in the highlands and one county jail. Also, a brother is asking us to start a church in his town. He says his house is available. I am praying about this as I already feel overwhelmed between the two church plants we have. These places do not let just anyone in, so we praise God for the opportunity. Sometimes it feels like it takes forever to get anywhere, but slowly we see that people watch for faithfulness and in time allow us to work with them.

As far as the church construction goes, we praise the Lord that we can continue building slowly but surely. We asked our mission board for the exact number donated towards this and were blown away - \$21,367! Not only that, but people here in our mission churches have given an equivalent of \$2,353. That comes to \$23,720. This puts us at 2/3 done the church building!

On November 2nd, they celebrate "Day of the Dead" here. Since we are one block from the only cemetery in San Miguel, nearly the whole town was at our doorstep. Their tradition is to visit the graves of their dead for a few hours. I was able to custom write an evangelistic tract entitled "The paradox of death - why is there death in a world made by a good God?" I used the story of Lazarus as a base, and most people received it with much curiosity. My family and one church member were able to hand out over 700 copies! One family we invited came to church the next Sunday. Who would have thought that a pagan holiday would be such a great opportunity to share the Gospel? Next year we hope to do even more.

We also praise God that we were able to have 6 missionaries present to the two churches their callings. In a couple of weeks, we will vote on whom they will take on for support.

These and many more praises could be added, but I would like to close with just a few prayer requests.

Pray for Juan Carlos and his family who came to church for the first time at the end of the year. We shared the Gospel with him and a gave him a New Testament. Pray for the marriages we are counseling, one of which is soon to "graduate" because they have so improved. Another is close behind, and one is in a critical situation, but I still am hopeful. Pray for César, the brother who is helping us build the church building. He has some big trials in his family.

In Christ, Ortiz Family in Mexico

Preaching in Rehab



Christmas Sunday



Dastan

