



March 24, 2023

Dear partners in the Gospel,

With gratefulness, I send you this first-trimester update of 2023, wanting to inform you of how your partnership is “making a difference” (Jude 22).

### **Wiki's Passing (Love People Anyway)**

We read about this Jesus' encounter with the rich young ruler, “Then Jesus beholding him loved him” (Mk. 10:21). Christ knew that in just one moment, that this young man would walk away from Him. *Jesus loved him anyway.*

In serving the addicted, there are parts of our hearts that want to hold back because we don't want to hurt when they walk away from God and go back to their addiction.



On the right is Luis Kervera, aka “Wiki”. Back in October, his adoptive mother called us trying to convince him to enter Hope House, but he simply didn't want to. Sadly, he passed away of an overdose this past December.

For years, Wiki had been an addict to every drug out there, but he heard about “Grupo Esperanza” meetings in 2021. He came several times and heard the Gospel. I had many personal conversations with him, watching tears roll over his face tattoos as he told me of his childhood, being abandoned by his biological parents. Yet, I knew that in Christ, everything he could ever need is found; peace, a true Father, and real purpose in life.

I don't know if he genuinely received Christ, and it hurts to love people who you know could die if they relapse. So, I write this to show the honest part of the ministry here.

We do see lives changed for God's glory, but we also lose people. But just like our Lord, may God help us to *love people anyway.*

### Well, for some better news:



This is the "Connected Marriage" Sunday school class for couples that we started in our new church plant, "Iglesia Bíblica Bautista Esperanza". We began with about six people in the class, but a month and a half later, it has grown to about 20 people. The church, with God's blessing it is taking shape and helping people in their family situations.

### Still on this side of the green grass:

I had a short visit to Michigan and Ohio in January. On January 22nd, I was heading back to my parents' house after preaching in Mt. Pleasant, MI, when the vehicle I was driving hit a sheet of ice and sent me fishtailing and I lost control over the vehicle.



I collided with a state cop's vehicle. Thankfully both officers were fine. The car I was driving (pictured) was totaled, but I am glad for the grace of God, that it wasn't a fatal accident, and that I wasn't seriously injured.

Also, my whole family was originally supposed to accompany me on this trip, but my wife and daughters had to stay back in Mexico. God was sovereignly protecting us, as my son Hudson was the only one who came to the States with me, but he was with my parents at the time. God is so good!

The accident did give me a fresh view of the frailty and brevity of life. Our Lord wastes nothing (Rom. 8:28).

Again, thanks for being partners in God's life-changing Gospel work here in Mexico. You are appreciated and not forgotten (Heb. 6:10).

**With you | For Mexico,**

