



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

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WWNTBM

THE LORD OF THE SABBATH,

This year has begun with new opportunities, and we appreciate your prayers as we know that God works through them. We have reopened our four services again: two in San Miguel and two in Arandas. We also started preaching in the flea market again. In a sense, last year we had a good chance to reevaluate what we were doing and try to refocus our priorities. I realized my family was often neglected in order to minister to others, so I am making an attempt to keep that from happening this year.

One extra thing on my plate is that I was asked to be the key note speaker in a church camp. That means from now to Easter week I have to prepare 5 youth messages. In past years, I only preached one sermon in the week, and that always weighed heavily on my soul. Usually there are 200 teens there, and just looking at my own church teens, I see how greatly they need God's power in their lives. The mental picture that comes to my mind is a teen with noise canceling ear-buds being stalked by a roaring lion. No matter how loud the human voice thunders, they cannot hear. But if God speaks - though it be a whisper - they will be shaken. For me, this is a huge privilege and a huge responsibility. Please pray that God would speak through me.

As far as the two churches go, they both have grown during the Covid pandemic.

Arandas has a bunch of young adults from the southern states of Mexico that work here for certain seasons. When word of our church reached them, around 20 of them began coming. Caleb came from Mexico city to get away from bad crowds with his wife and son. God seems to be breaking him left and right to transform his life and that of his family. They have been coming faithfully for some time now. Rosy, a young, single mother who received Christ last year, has asked to get baptized soon.

Carmela, one of the most faithful ladies in our San Miguel church moved away for work right after Christmas, and we were sad to see her go. But God has not left us alone. The church in San Miguel also has several new people. Rocio (recently abandoned by her husband) is a mother of five kids. Nuri is an ex-drug-addict who is trying to get back on her feet. Miguel and Trino are two brothers that have battled with drinking for years. Martin is an elderly divorced man who shines shoes. He almost took his own life not long ago, but has now found purpose in Christ to keep going! I must say my shoes have never been shinier.

Last year was sort of a Sabbath since much work had to stop, but Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath and did not stopped working. So many broken lives keep crossing our paths,

PRAISES:

- More souls
- Amadeo's health
- Selicia's paperwork
- Upcoming baptism

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Nena and her family (backslidden)
- Hannah's paperwork
- Selicia's SSN
- Erica and Jessica (salvation)
- Youth camp sermons
- People in bad crowds
- Protection from Covid-19

and we know we are not sufficient for such a task. Pray God showers these people with His over-abounding grace.

Thank you for praying for Selicia's paperwork. All is done except for her SSN. We are waiting on an appointment for that. There's one more step we want to complete for Hannah's paperwork. Please pray for that as well.

I didn't mention in the previous letter about our son, Amadeo, nearly dying because that letter was sent before Christmas. But many of you on Facebook were praying. On the 22nd, he seemed to have a light stomach virus. By the next day, he was suddenly much worse off and started to have silent seizures, becoming unresponsive. He had developed blood poisoning and required immediate attention. Thank God, with the help of your prayers, strong antibiotics, a good hospital, he started to recover. He didn't talk for two days or walk for three, but now he is back on his feet as active as ever. In the last letter, I spoke of giving thanks in all and for all. Little did I know God would put that to the test a few weeks later. Both Hannah and I had to trust God and leave it in His hands. It was not easy, but God gave peace beyond understanding, and we are thankful for the trying of our faith.

I wanted to end mentioning something I have wanted to share but hadn't had a chance. Many people are aware that Mexico has huge cartel problems. It is an interesting thing to live here because the longer you do the more you identify who and who are cartel members. They do not hide themselves at all. Everyone knows who they are and they know who everyone else is. I have worked with five of them so far. Two are in church with us, and have been released from the mafia because they came to Christ. The cartel lets them go as long as they don't owe them anything and as long as they behave. I know of two others who do owe their bosses and have been threatened with their life if they do not pay. Don't worry though. The cartel has been no threat to us as long as we do not interfere with them. But do pray that God would continue to save people from their clutches.

In Christ's service,

Ortiz Family

San Miguel Route and Service



Arandas Service

