



The Russell Family

Missionaries to Mexico

November
2018

Buenas Días, mis Queridos Hermanos, (Good Day, my Dear Brethren,

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PRAYERS

Fluency in the language

Renewal process for American passports

Church in Lo de Marcos

National "Timothy"

Safety/well being of our family

Sarah's Health



Normally I would wait until next month to update, but I wanted to give the Lord praise that will hopefully encourage you. As most of you know, three weeks ago I sent out some late night emergency prayer requests for my son Cristian and his appendix surgery. We woke up early that morning for an appointment to renew our passports, but he was sick. It appeared that he had the 24 hour flu bug, but due to his pain we took him to a doctor to have him checked out to make sure we weren't missing anything. The doctor checked him out, including his appendix, but she concluded that he just needed rest with liquids. Later that evening he took a turn for the worse. He started with a mild fever that just kept climbing high, and later in the night, around ten 'o clock pm, he was so sick he couldn't even move without assistance.

At this point we knew we needed to take him to the hospital but we didn't know where. We only knew of one Americanized hospital an hour and a half away, but after calling a family from the church to see if they could watch the younger kids (which were sleeping by this time) they talked us into seeing a good doctor that is on call only 10 minutes away. Long story short, we quickly ended up at a building that looked nothing like a hospital, looked dirty, and smelled like urine, with the doctors telling us they needed to take him back right away and cut him open for appendicitis!! This is where the Lord showed himself mighty; my wife and I experienced a peace from God that we normally would never have when it comes to something terrible happening to our children. The Lord told us that he's in good hands and HE is in control. Come to find out, it was a great thing that we didn't trust our own wisdom and we followed the Lord's direction through other people. Cristian's appendix had ruptured into the colon, and the colon, along with the appendix, had started to become necrotic and gangrene; the doctor said that if we would have waited even thirty more minutes, his colon would have needed to be removed in addition to the appendix!

The situation was worse than we could ever have imagined, but the Lord was showing himself mighty to many. Everything from the timing, to the people the Lord put in our path, to the faithful prayers of the saints was amazing. After three weeks of recovering, Cristian still has another month of recovery ahead of him. He has to watch how much he eats, and he can't exercise until his colon is completely recovered and Lord willing he won't have any problems with it in the future. We sincerely appreciate the prayers and encouragement from everyone during that situation! God is great!

We were able to renew our passports at the American Embassy in Puerto Vallarta about two weeks ago. It was a little difficult for Cristian, but the Lord helped him through it. I would ask for continued prayers for those because we still don't have them in hand. They are supposed to be mailed to us in a few more weeks and that is the part that concerns me. Pray they would arrive timely with no problems.

Our family is doing well for the most part. My wife's stomach issues have popped back up out of nowhere. We know that her healing process is going to be a long one with flare ups every now and then, but this one is the worst in a while. This is why I keep her on the prayer list to the side; it's hard to keep up on everything while she is down. Keep her in prayers please.

Along the lines of the ministry, things seem to be going great. There are people faithfully coming every Wednesday to do the outreach ministry and pray together as a church. We have seen some fruit from it as well. Two weeks ago the very first house that I approached we ended up spending about a half hour with a lady and she received Christ as her savior!

We are also starting to fill up the church on Sundays as well...with foreigners. From November through April in this area is a time of snowbirds. There are many Canadians and Americans that live here six months a year, and through the years they have been a huge blessing to this church. For a few weeks now I have been doing bilingual services. It's been quite a task to flip back and forth, especially because I'm still learning Spanish, but God has been giving me grace to get through it, and it seems the message is getting across; after all, it is the Holy Ghost that does the work in the hearts of the people, and that's what I'm praying will happen each week.

We've been having children's church each week for about 2 months now, and it is going very well! A young woman named Esperanza is helping Sarah with that ministry. Next week will be the start of a weekly bilingual women's bible study. This is a ministry that we inherited from years past, and have recently taken on as a church ministry. Sarah will be leading that simultaneously in both Spanish and English. Also this month, we will be taking food, blankets, and clothing to a mountain village to give to the elderly in need. The church has visited this village many times in the past, and they have asked for someone to come and start a work as well. We will be presenting the gospel to them, and be returning to that same village in January with school supplies for the children. We are praying that God would give us the opportunity to present the gospel to them as well; the school has never allowed it in the past. I've always prayed that God would allow us to start many works within our time in Mexico, so we are keeping the door open for a possible future opportunity. As always, please keep praying for our Spanish skills to improve with the many things God has us doing already, and for the various ministries that we are looking forward to in the future.

Through all of the things we experience, it reminds me of the whole body working together as one. We feel unqualified for many of the things the Lord would have us do, but through the mighty prayers of many and the faithful financial giving of others, God is able to accomplish many works in and through all of us. Just as he grows, matures, and uses us for his purpose, glory, and honor- he is doing the same through you. We continue to pray for you, and we are seeing the works of your prayers for us. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ really is amazing!

Brothers and sisters keep up the good fight!

God bless- The Russell Family -Adam, Sarah, Cristian, Kendra, Braden