

The Russell Family Missionaries to Mexico

January 2019

Buenos Días, mis Queridos Hermanos, (Good Day, my Dear Brethren,)

After dealing with many battles over the last year and a half, it seems as if we are seeing some great works from the Lord this last month. We have been looking at property and other buildings for the church for a few months now, and after realizing it will be a while before we can get something better for the church, we decided to do improvements to the current place that we have. This month, within a two week period, we did tile work, electrical work, concrete work, and painting of the whole inside. It was a huge need for the look of the church, and afterwards there were many people, even some who don't go to the church, who told us that they appreciate the church not looking so run down. I believe the Lord has blessed those efforts as well, because the very first Sunday after the clean up we had the highest attendance ever and we continue to have many visitors; and it has been a great mix of Mexicans and foreigners. The

church has been so full, that there are people sitting out on the sidewalk in chairs to be part of the service! We continue to ask the Lord to fill his church and grow it spiritually.

There is something that I have been anticipating and waiting for since before we came to Mexico that finally came to be; leading my first soul to the Lord in Spanish! I've been patient with the language barrier knowing that it will come with good time. Well, this last Sunday I was led by the Lord after the service to have an altar call, and there was one Mexican young lady that rose her hand wanting to be saved. After the prayer I tried to find someone that could help me with this young lady because someone's salvation is something that I don't want to mess up being lost in translation. The Lord provoked me to "stop worrying and just give this lady the truth", so I led her through various verses explaining true salvation and asked her at the end if she understood everything that I was telling her. After being confident that she understood how to be saved, she asked for help to pray; so I asked her cousin, who was sitting next to us, to lead her through the sinners prayer. I am just so thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to explain salvation thoroughly in another language, Praise the Lord!



Last month we went to Zapotan to give out blankets, food, and preach a message to the elderly. This month we returned to Zapotan, but to the schools to give out supplies to the kids. The couple from Canada that has headed up this ministry for years had enough material donated for over 300 students from kindergarten through high school, which they have done for the last four years. The one thing that they have never been able to do is preach a gospel message. We found out that it is illegal to have religious groups go into schools in Mexico, and that has always hindered them in the past. After praying for the last month on this, we got word a few days before the trip allowing us to speak with the kids...not preach.

I asked a young man named Javier that recently graduated bible college here in Mexico to go with us and preach to these kids somehow. He was allowed ten minutes with every single class in elementary, and then for the middle school they gathered all the kids together. Javier spoke of health because of his nursing background and turned it into a spiritual conversation about needing Jesus Christ to fill their spiritual needs. He even gave the call to receive Jesus through the sinners prayer at the end and about half of the kids did so, which was about 35. The best part about this is that when they were asked who received Jesus Christ into their hearts, the first person that raised their hand was the director of the school! After handing out the gifts of school supplies the director stopped us for a couple minutes before we left to tell everyone, in-

cluding the kids, that after four years of seeing the gifts brought to the kids, this was the best year. He really appreciated the message of Jesus Christ that was delivered to the kids and said it was the most important thing that they could do, is receive Jesus into their hearts!! He told us that we are welcome back anytime, and his house is open to us as well. The Lord gave us a great open door to preach the gospel, we took it, and we saw the Holy Spirit work a great work in their hearts.

We are more than appreciative to see handfuls of purpose of what God wants done, and we continue to pray that he would help us reach as many people as possible, as quickly as possible. Please continue to pray for the health and safety of our family, and for the fluency of the language, for the church, for another trip we are going to make to Zapotan this month, and the furtherance of the gospel. Thank you very much!

Brothers and sisters keep up the good fight! God bless-

The Russell Family Adam, Sarah, Cristian,, Kendra, Braden

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PRAYERS

Fluency in the language

Church in Lo de Marcos

Property for the churh

National "Timothy"

Safety/well being of our family

> Sarah's Health



