



The Russell Family

Missionaries to Mexico

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

I love serving the Lord in his calling and seeing him work through us. Let me brag on some great things that He has done this last month.

A few weeks ago the rainy season started up in the mountains, and when it started, it hit hard, resulting in a huge flash flood that went through a town called San Gabriel. There is a great church, right on the river in that town. When the flash flood hit, the entire town had less than a five minute warning. (See pictures below) Many of the buildings were completely filled with logs and mud, their walls were taken away by the river, along with their belongings. Unfortunately many people were swept away as well including the mother of one of the brothers from the church.

Our little church responded by donating clothes, household items, toiletries, and food. Between our church and another neighboring church just a few hours from us, we had a lot of material donated. It reminded me of Acts 11:28-30 when the church in Antioch relieved the church in Judea. What a blessing to be used by the Lord! Pastor Daniel of the other church and myself hand delivered the items to the church in San Gabriel, and I believe it brought a huge encouragement to the pastor and members.

As we were trying to encourage them, the Lord filled our cup with blessings and encouragement as well! A brother named Lino, whose mother was swept away, told us that he had found some believers in a small neighboring ranch town where they don't have a pastor or anywhere to worship the Lord. "I brought my bible, some hymnals, and my guitar and I'm headed there now to have service for them... you're going with me right?" he asked. Well you can't pass that up! We arrived at 8 pm, and held a service with songs, specials, testimonies, and preaching that completely filled their hearts full of joy and eyes with tears. It was so refreshing to get out of the typical service where people sleep as you preach and instead see believers cling to the Word of God! When it came time for the preaching, brother Lino put me on the spot and asked me to give a message to the folks...in Spanish, with no notes and no notice!! I might have had a mini panic attack inside, but I knew it was something the Lord was telling me to do with confidence. The Lord filled my cup because, regardless of all my short comings, I know the Lord did a great work in their hearts and mine. Like I said, I love watching the Lord work through people...especially me! Haha.

This month has been filled with many blessings! We are starting our first discipleship with a young lady in the church. She is inviting all her family and friends that would like to come (please pray the Lord would use this to reach many others). The new Wednesday night bible studies are really encouraging the church (many are even taking notes). We were able to acquire a little space next door to ours to have kids classes and Sunday school. There is a group here from Texas this week to do VBS with us as well as a dental clinic (pray we could get more kids in church growing for the Lord). When we count the blessings one by one we are able to see them and praise the Lord; please join us and praise Him with us!

However, that doesn't mean there aren't any battles, because there definitely are. Some different things to pray with us about: Sarah has a confirmed Achilles tendon tear (pray she would heal well), and after nearly two months she still is barely walking. There has been an electricity problem with our house for months now and the owner says it's not his problem. I have fixed various shorts already, which has helped with the bill, but the problem is that something is going to ground and using WAY more electricity than it should. Because the bill is too high for us already we can't use AC. The ambient temperature INSIDE our house is typically around 92° with humidity so we are easily dehydrated and it's hard to sleep which makes for a grumpy sleep deprived family at times. We are praying the Lord would find a new house for us to rent that would be more accommodating with the heat (please pray with us).

Praise the Lord for your prayers and His mercy to help us through the battles and keep contending for the faith. Especially praise the Lord for the handfuls of purpose to keep going. I'm going to attach another page for pictures and links to videos. Thanks for your faithfulness and encouragement.

Brothers and sisters keep up the good fight!

God bless-

The Russell Family

Adam, Sarah, Cristian, Kendra, Braden

SENDING CHURCH

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PRAYERS

Fluency in the language

Church in Lo de Marcos

Property for the church

National "Timothy"

Safety/well being of our family

Sarah's Health

Cristian's trip



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Left: Aftermath of the flash flood.

Right: Inside of the church in San Gabriel



Left: The flood dragged many vehicles downstream and mangled them.

Right: Inside of the church



Left: More wreckage

Right: All the pastors involved in helping while we were there



Left: The house in which brother Lino's mom was swept out of. You can see the hole in the wall to the left of the sign. Along with the sign he put up afterwards.

Right: Holding a service for a few believers in a small village.



Left: You can see where the flood took out whole walls of buildings. That was one of the largest stores in San Gabriel



To view some videos of the flood go to www.russells2mexico.com and look under blog. There are three videos as well as pictures