

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

+52 (347) 105-8803
1611 Brookhaven Mill Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27406
Rolanzwot@gmail.com
WWNTBM



GROWING FAMILY

Spiritual growth is an interesting thing. It often feels so slow. Sometimes it feels totally stalled or even like it is going backwards, but if you actually take the time to look back and you see where you were five or six years ago, you realize something is actually happening. When you compare your child to the marks on the door post every day, it seems like they stopped growing, but when you do it every few months, you are suddenly surprised.

Seven years ago, we only had one child. Now we have five. Six years ago, I didn't know a single saved soul in San Miguel. Now there is a handful of new believers. Five years ago, we had our first services and had to do everything because no one else was ready to take charge of even the smallest tasks. Now we are seeing people step up to help. Four years ago, there were only 12 people in Arandas' abandoned mission plant. Presently we have an average of 45. Three years ago, Hannah and I were the only ones who knew how to play for church. Now we have two others who are learning to play, and several of the youth are learning to sing specials. Even as of two years ago, people hated us passionately. Some of those are now dear friends and brothers and sisters in Christ. As of one year ago, there were things we thought we would never get through, and now they are a fading memories.

Praise the Lord, the family is slowly, but surely, growing.

We have Isis and Isai who help us with the sound system. We have Vero, Alma, Paloma, Celsa, and Vianey who help us with kids class and kids events. We have Jimy, Eduardo, Hilario, César, Carlos, Jonathan, Horacio, Sandra and several more that help by constantly sharing the gospel with others and inviting people to church. Jimy and Noe help with congregational music from time to time. We have several who help as ushers. Jimy, Donald (a brother from Uganda), and Antonio help with pulpit responsibilities when needed. We have José Luis who studied to be a priest but got saved and now is studying to be a preacher. Soon I hope to plug him in as well. We have multiple families that help clean the church. César helps repair things that are broken around the church, for free. Noe and Celsa love making big meals for church events. In San Miguel we used to give everybody rides, but now some come on their own. In Arandas everyone arrives on their own. Several families bring food to make packages to take to the lost and needy as an opportunity to share the

PRAISES:

- Seeds planted in VBS
- Growth in the family
- Growth in the church family
- Salvation and testimony of Horacio
- God's protection over Luis' son from the fire
- Tyrza's MX paperwork
- All the help God sends

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- More souls
- Growth for all
- Upcoming Baptisms
- Tyrza's US paperwork

Gospel.

No, not everything goes smoothly, but I see many differences.

One sad piece of news is that Trino, a 40-year-old man who has been coming to the San Miguel mission church constantly for over a year, passed away in his sleep. He was trying to overcome his drinking problem and had seemed to grow and then fall back. He professed Christ several times, and I hope that he really did believe from his heart. Since several in his family are Christians, they allowed me to preach at the funeral. Trino's nephew Jonathan began sharing his faith as well with as many of his family as possible. He told me that his uncle's death, rather than discourage him, challenged him to reach his family.

Carlos, the man I mentioned who used to practice Voodoo and had burned his talismans and necklaces, now has begun asking about baptism. Also, Pablo and his wife, a couple from Argentina, have voiced that they want to be baptized. Pray for these and others as it always seems to take a long time from when they start taking about baptism and when they finally take that step.

Luis, the man I mentioned baptizing last prayer letter, had watched the movie War Room and decided to make himself a prayer closet. He has an adult (unbelieving) son living with him, and Luis told him to seek Christ as his Savior. He also invited him to go to his small brick prayer closet to seek Him whenever he needed help. One night, Luis' wooden/brick house caught fire with his son in it. The only part of the house that didn't collapse in flames was that small closet where the son had escaped to. Pray God would use this to bring his son to the Lord.

We had VBS the last week of July and there were up to 48 kids by the last day. Other than a fist fight at the end of the week, we had a good response. It always burdens me that the kids who truly get saved often go back to parents that don't let them come to church. I have had to counsel more than one that changed behavior, attributed to what God did in them through the church, will be one of the things that convince their parents to let them come. Still, it is an uphill battle for them.

Our daughter Tyrza was born on the 14th of July in the early morning. She weighed 7lb 14oz and has been a good sleeper. One more eternal soul and full-time disciple has been put into our care. We have already begun to pray that she would be saved and become a servant of God. Please join us in that prayer. Amadeo, on the other hand, is now praying for a baby brother! (Though he absolutely loves Tyrza.)

Growing in Christ,

Rolando, Hannah, and kids

