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Subject: Prayer Update--May 19, 2009

“Please pray for me. I have a desire to attend church and learn more about the Bible but often I’m distracted by my friends who want me to drink whiskey with them or I’m distracted by other things in this world.” A man whom we’ve shared the Gospel with on numerous occasions made this statement at the end of our Sunday afternoon Bible study this week. Pompilio comes from a Roman Catholic background but says he enjoys attending evangelical churches and Bible studies. A couple of weeks ago he asked me why evangelical churches don’t have crosses in them. (**Side note—this is typical in Mexico —because Romanism is the dominant religion in Mexico most evangelical churches do not display a cross in their buildings.) I explained to him in the United States often evangelical churches will have a cross somewhere in the building but unlike the crucifix in the Roman Catholic Church, the cross is empty. Christ is not on the cross. This seemed hard for him to understand. “Why would you have a crucifix without Jesus?” It was just another simple question that opened the door to share the Gospel:

“What did they do with Jesus after He died, Pompilio?”

“They put Him in the tomb.”

“And what happened after 3 days and 3 nights?”

From there it was an open door to the Gospel. Pompilio’s closing comment: “you know, I’d never really thought about an empty cross. I think I’ll ask my Mom (who is a strong Catholic) why the Catholic Church keeps Jesus on the cross!”

“Do you think God directs the steps of someone like me who is not yet a follower of Christ?” Carlos recently asked me that question after I had shared with him how I was confident that God had directed our steps in leading us to live and work in La Poza. Wow, talk about another open door to walk right through! The shortened version of my response was something like this:

“It’s not like God is unaware or unconcerned about what happens in your life, Carlos. But the real issue that He desires most of you at this point in your life is that you repent of your sin and trust completely in Him as your Lord and Savior today. If there was an orphan living in La Poza I wouldn’t have any real input in the life of that child. But if I went through the legal process of adopting that child as my own then I would have a personal interest in the welfare of that child and giving instruction and direction to him. When we’re adopted into God’s family, He takes a personal interest in our welfare—in directing our every step.”

At that point I challenged him once again directly with the truths of the Gospel and that if he truly wanted God’s direction in his life, today was the day to repent and believe. He listened but made no real response. He and his wife are open to meeting regularly with us for a Bible study.

“La Poza is a hard place to start a church because a lot of people are just interested in getting drunk and having a good time.” Just yesterday as I was working on the truck in front of our house Jose Luis stopped by to talk. As we talked he asked me how long I thought we’d live in La Poza.

“We’ll be here until God directs us otherwise. Our desire is to see a church established here in La Poza and that’s not something that usually happens quickly, so I think we’ll be here for a while.”

It was at that point, Jose Luis made the above statement. And once again, the door opened to point him to Christ and the divine sovereign power of Almighty God to change the most wicked heart.

The truth is, we don’t know how long it will take to see a church established in this community and while we might be anxious to see *more* happen *more* quickly, we rejoice in every opportunity God opens like the ones mentioned above and know that He will do *His* work in *His* time.

Praises & Prayer Requests

- Do pray that God will work in hearts of men like Pompilio, Carlos, and Jose Luis to convict them of their sin and draw them to Himself.
- Pray for many of the women that Robin interacts with on a *daily* basis in the clinic that God will be at work in their hearts as well. We long to see Christian families established in La Poza.
- Speaking of the clinic, we’re so thankful for a newly renovated and enlarged building. Our sending church, Christ’s Covenant Church in Winona Lake, Indiana, recently raised the funds and sent a construction team to La Poza. The five men and two women team tore down the old clinic and rebuilt a new one in its place. Be sure and check out the pictures on our blog: <http://www.mexicohenrys.blogspot.com/>
- Finally, rejoice with us as we reach another milestone in married life. We celebrate our 30 year wedding anniversary today—May 19!

He is *always* faithful!

Steve & Robin