



July 2022

Beloved Supporting Team:

Greetings from Guatemala! It has been a while since we last contacted you. Even though we haven't been in touch, we want you to know that we thank the Lord frequently for your commitment to the work of God in the world.

Last week, Lorenzo and his family paid a visit to our ministry headquarters. Their visit was a great blessing for Ginny and me for several reasons. First of all, this man was a member of our first graduating class back in 1995. Ever since then, we had not heard from him, as is often the case with many of our graduates. However, someone else had told me that Lorenzo wanted to get in touch with us, so I called him and he was delighted. Then he proceeded to tell me that he wanted to visit us. He also asked me if he could bring along his wife and maybe some other members of his family. I could tell he was excited when I told him it would be a blessing to receive them.



Lorenzo and his family

Two days after he called, they arrived and the first thing they wanted to do was to greet Ginny who was in the kitchen preparing coffee for them. This request was a bit unusual. Generally speaking, when people come to see me, they usually come for ministry business and leave without talking to Ginny, but not Lorenzo and his family. They wanted to greet her in person, or so I thought. When Ginny came into the room, they immediately hugged her excitedly. Then they proceeded to give her gifts: eggs, milk, cereal, and typical bread from their area. Then Lorenzo proceeded to explain the reason for his visit. He wanted us to know how very thankful he is for the Bible training he received at our teaching center in the early nineties. He expressed that, because of his training, he is now one of the main pastors at this growing church. He cannot believe that as a semi-literate person, he could achieve such a high honor. His accomplishment is even more amazing because we allowed him to receive his training without any formal schooling. Nevertheless, his Bible knowledge helped him and his family, especially during the pandemic when churches were closed. When he told me this, he began to cry.

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Then his daughter, who is a university graduate, picked up the conversation expressing her gratitude for the training her father received with us. She said that during the pandemic, her father would gather their family three times a week to have their family service. She said those Bible studies were what encouraged them and strengthened their faith when their neighbors were dying. When Lorenzo regained his composure, he said: "I brought my family with me today as witnesses of the power of the Word of God manifested in our family."

Needless to say, I was very touched by their testimonies. I told them that very few students have come back to express their gratitude for the Bible training they received through our ministry, and, if they do come, they come alone and usually without gifts. To listen to this family, who traveled many miles to come to express their gratitude to us, was very touching.

Finally, I want to leave you with another short story. Ginny and I saw this note on Father's Day. It was written by Manuel Guarcas' son (Manuel is the president of our local ministry board). This note was very special for us because it shows that our graduates are passing on the importance of STUDYING AND OBEYING GOD'S WORD to their families. In his note, Manuel's son was thanking his father for guiding him through life but especially for emphasizing the importance of the Word in his life and for showing him how to love and serve God. We thank God that the next generation is being trained through our trainees!

I share this story with you because it shows what God has graciously allowed us to accomplish. And you are a very important part of what has been accomplished here. We would not be able to do this work without your help so we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your faithful prayers and support!

Praises:

1. How we praise God for each one of you and for the churches that are partnering with us to strengthen the Quiche church by training its leaders!
2. For the Quiche leaders who are ministering to their families as well as to their churches.
3. We praise God that Isaias received his permit to travel to the U.S. to renew his green card.
4. We praise God for our itinerant teachers who are teaching weekly in different locations.

Prayer Requests:

1. Please continue to uphold David in your prayers as he raises his ministry support. At times he gets discouraged about some of the responses.
2. Please pray for Isaias as he has been elected by the local water committee to oversee the normal functioning of the new water project in the community. It has not been easy to deal with community decisions about the water.
3. Please pray for wisdom and physical endurance as we juggle ministry and community responsibilities.

Sincerely,
Isaias Colop-Xec

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