



“...but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:31).

The words “Read This First” have taken an important role in the packaging of modern consumer products. Most consumers think life is too short for instruction manuals, so the packagers state it plainly: If you cannot read the manual, at least read this very important part. “Read This First”—it is for your own good. The gospel of John makes a similar claim. It is the only book in the Bible that states its purpose clearly and succinctly: it was written to tell individuals how to find eternal life. This clearly identified purpose sets the Gospel of John apart from the other Gospels. It is not so much a life of Jesus as it is a powerful presentation of His deity. According to John, believing that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the world, is the beginning of eternal life. What could be more important? John’s statement about his Gospel is as good as a “Read This First” sticker for one’s entire life.

Well, Dan finished the Gospel of John in Palmarito about a month ago and started with the book of Acts. He had started at the beginning of October of last year with the Gospel of John and had wondered how long he would be able to have an open door with them... and here we are, seven months later, still having an open door! When he starts in a new community, he always starts with this book. I love it!



As usual, I am having a hard time deciding where to start, and I cannot start from the beginning...so will start with Pastor David Mercer and the group he brought from MT. We so appreciate them as they take the time and effort to drive such a long way to come and serve with us and bless us beyond words. 'Thank you, pastor David and group, you guys are such troopers, we love you all and look forward to seeing you again in the near future!'



Dan translating in Navojoa



Dan just finished Revelations in San Antonio de los Ibarra

They went to the different communities and shared alongside us ...Pastor David even flew to Palmarito with Dan, being a pilot himself, he was happy to go, Dan was happy to take him. We thank God for that open door and continue to ask for prayers for the people there for God to do a work in their lives. They so need Jesus!



Pastor David, his group & I had the opportunity to present the Gospel to Consuelo and her son Gildardo, (pictured above, both have white hair, but he is the son), from 'La Aduana' (a small and colorful, old mining town near Álamos). Pray the Word of God does its' work in their lives...This picturesque and quaint little town needs Jesus. I have always had an interest to go there and share the Gospel (we have done it on many occasions, but never on a regular basis), but so far we haven't gotten clear direction to start something there, although it's very close to us...PLEASE PRAY for God to continue to guide our steps and send us where He would want us to go...



Our long time friend, Colie Hamilton, (also from MT), with his sweet and kind daughter Rachel also came to visit and were a blessing to have. Colie is an amazing guitar player, besides his many other talents...



We had baptisms last Sunday! Rachel was one of the ones that got baptized...Also on Monday, April 27th; Dan had baptisms at the prison where four guys were baptized. The MT group got to be there for that.



This is the rest of the people that got baptized, including Julia...We met Julia less than two months ago (March 21), you already heard the story in our last 'update,' and she has been faithfully attending the Sunday morning Bible studies, and also the Tuesday night ones. I also started a Bible study in her house 3 weeks ago (April 20th), and it's been a blessing to spend time with her and her daughter Marielvy...we've also met several other of her relatives, including her sister Balvaneda, (I think I told you already she's a worshiper of "Santa Muerte," among other things. I have invited her to come and read the Word with us, but she hasn't accepted...I did give her a New Testament...Also met another one of her sisters, Luz Aída, she lives in the mountains of Chihuahua (Canelas), but came to Navojoa for medical reasons...without making an exaggeration, every time I see Julia, I learn some new tragedy that has struck some member of her family...



Julia's daughter Marielvy and her 85 year old aunt, Doña Luz...

I met this sweet elderly lady yesterday (May 4th), and I had the opportunity to share the Gospel with her. It is amazing to see how the Lord is so merciful. Doña Luz is also from the mountains... Julia tells me that 30 years ago, when she got shot, there was an American girl, a missionary there in her community, that gave her a Bible, she still has that Bible. But sadly, (as some of you already know), it wasn't till last year in August, when her brother Gildardo knifed and nearly killed their nephew that she gave her life to the Lord. We marvel how the Lord uses the tragedies in our lives to finally bring us to His feet. She vowed to serve Him if He allowed their nephew to live... and even though he was in a coma for 20 days (his jugular vein was cut), he lived. The brother is in prison since this event happened and brother Pepe (that works with us) has gone to see him at CERESO Navojoa, and will probably start going there to share on a regular basis... again we ask for your prayers...



The two ladies to Julia's right, the closest one is her sister Luz Aída... about 5 years ago, her 19 year old daughter shot and killed herself in her own room... The other one is Reina, (Julia's cousin) is involved with one of Sonora's drug lords, has two children by

him, one of them, 10 year old Lupita whom I had the opportunity to share the Gospel with. And as you can see, both of these ladies attended the Tuesday night Bible study last week. Please pray for the Lord to save them! (Julia is working so hard to see her family saved!)

It overwhelms me at times to hear the sad and tragic events in these people's lives. About 8 years ago, Julia's brother Quico, (Dan has met him and his family), had three of his daughters (8, 5 and 3 years old) get intoxicated with a pesticide he had in his house (which he used for his "crops"), and only one survived! So when I say tragic things have happened to this family, I mean TRAGIC...

Julia's living conditions break my heart...Marielvy has seen, heard, and experienced way too much for being so young. They live in a room that is attached to Balvaneda's, and this lady has no problem verbalizing and showing her sinful lifestyle in front of Marielvy, and her own 10 year old daughter Karely. I have had the opportunity to share with Karely as well.

I don't mean to overwhelm you with all this information, but I do want you to pray specifically for the Lord to intervene in their lives...As you can tell, the Gospel was taken to Julia's community, at least 30 years ago (who knows, maybe a lot longer than that), but it took Julia 29 years to finally make a decision! We are so amazed and thankful for those that have gone to these remote and hard to reach places and have endured hardships to take the precious Word of God, and now we're watering! May the Lord cause His seed to germinate!



On a more happy note, Nicole, (Dan's niece whom we love!), is here visiting with her 6 children...one of them, Antonio, (oldest boy, Sierra is the only girl and she is the oldest of them all), has been here staying with Josh for a while...it is a blessing to see all of them. They flew in "Volaris" and brought two cases of Bibles and reading glasses...you should have seen all the suitcases they had...Nicole did a great job packing...what a

blessing..! We are so thankful to her church, (Crossroads Church in Temecula, CA) that contributed with all these things!



PRAYER REQUESTS:

PLEASE PRAY for Brian & Rochelle as they get ready to head back this way to work with us...we are so excited!!! Pray the Lord works out all the details... there are many things that need to take place there, as well as here...The Lord knows, and we rest knowing "He is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think..." (Eph. 3:19). Also, please continue to pray for my husband as he continues to seek direction in

starting in other communities in the mountains...we know the need is great, but we want to make sure it is the Lord guiding us at every step...do pray for clear direction, for discernment and wisdom to know it is His hand guiding. Continue to pray for Eliezer (my nephew) as he continues in the hospital in Hermosillo. Pray for his mother & wife that take turns staying with him. Pray for my brother Miguel Ángel in the mountains of Chihuahua, he is not really walking with the Lord anymore and that grieves us all. All my four brothers are lost...pray for God to take hold of their lives. Please pray for Dan as he is seeking to get his private pilot's license...the Lord's will be done in ALL we seek to do, and may He open doors as He sees fit. May we live for Him to do His will...



Pray for each one of our children, for the Lord to guide their steps and show them the way they should each go each day! We are so thankful and blessed with our seven wonderful grandchildren the Lord has given us! Thanks to all of you that are a part of what God is doing here, thank you for your prayers, your love and your support! May the Lord repay your kindness to us and continue to use your lives!



Daniel's perspective

I love the way that the Lord teaches us like a loving Father. Sometimes I wonder what the lesson it is that He is teaching me and I realize that with God, the lessons are on so many levels that it can be a whole lot of things at the same time. Point in case: As most of you know I have been seeking His perfect will for a long time. I've spoken before about His permissible will verses His perfect will but in way of reminder, there are a lot of good things that we can be doing for the Lord and they may not necessarily be His perfect will. Since He has indeed prepared good works for us to walk in, I want to walk in those. So my prayer requests of late have been for direction on which doors to go into and which studies to turn over to others. I know that whatever we do for Him, it won't be wrong, but I don't want to do the next best thing, I want to do the best thing. The older we get and the closer we get to His return, the more I want Him to redeem the time in us. So, last Saturday as we were returning from Palmarito I got a little lesson that I thought I would share with you all. (It helps me to do so 😊)

Most of you know what a "windsock" is. It tells you which way the wind is coming from. The wind direction is pretty important when landing and you want to have the wind coming at you to slow down your ground speed when you finally touchdown. On Saturday I lined up with the wind coming straight up the runway but as I was about to touch down, it turned around 180 degrees. I powered up and did a go around and landed from the opposite direction. Then 10 seconds later as I was taxiing up to the hangar, the wind did another 180 degree change! So where is the lesson in all of this? As much as I have been seeking Him for His perfect will, where to go, how to go, who to send where, etc. etc., when I saw this I realized that I have to just keep my eyes on Him and not take them off. Look what Jesus said to Nicodemus about those that are lead by the Spirit: **"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."** (John 3:8)

So just like I need to keep my eyes on the windsock when I'm landing, I need to keep my eyes on Jesus when I am walking with Him, which should be always.

Wednesday we finished our study in Revelations with about 20+ children with us in San Antonio. We don't have anyone right now to teach the children separately and I loved having them with us in Revelations! (I believe that is what the Lord wanted for them and the direction was from necessity).

On our way to Chirajobampo we picked up several people, one of them, Manuela, who we ended up taking to the Bible study with us and then taking her home to Navojoa. It turns out we have evangelized most of her family over the years, and Carla and Rogelio, on one of the trips there, actually led this lady's grandmother to the Lord. The grandmother is now 92 and one of the sweetest ladies you will ever meet. Her daughter Micaela used to go to the Bible studies with us 12 years ago. She is now a young mother and still doesn't "know" the Lord. Her mother is a lady that we have shared with on SO many occasions and is a leader in the community. (Yes Chelsea, her mom is Doña Toña).

Manuela still has such a huge need. She was telling us that her dad is in really bad shape and we offered to go and visit him next week and present the gospel to him. I'm telling you all of these things in order but the funny thing is that I didn't know who this lady we were sharing with was until we had almost gotten her home. Now you see why I need to keep my eyes on Jesus all the time.

I've shared with Manuela's father on many occasions and I would have given up on this family many years ago, but I keep getting new opportunities to share with them and only Jesus knows which way He is going when He directs us to make so many multiple little changes throughout our day.

Will these people one day belong to Him? Only He can know that. All I know is that I have to keep on listening, keep on seeking His guidance and keep on asking you all to hold us up in prayer...to know and do His perfect will.

As many of you also know, I am feeling led to get my private pilot's license and also a different plane that we will be able to use to help other people by giving them rides to the hospital. (45 minutes in the plane can be the equivalent to as much as 24 hours in a pickup truck and sometimes they are death and life situations). I am so blessed with the people that the Lord has put in my life to help direct me with these decisions. I have been praying and investigating, but more than anything, trusting the Lord to lead. Just last night I got a message from Jerry that he has a plane that I can use for cost to take my lessons in. If this works out it will be a great savings. If it doesn't, I have no doubt that the Lord has another direction in mind. What plane to buy? I don't know. I'm also seeking direction there.

Another thing that happened this week: I have wanted to share the gospel with one of the drug lords of this area and have been asking the Lord for the opportunity. On Tuesday evening in the Bible study we were looking at the difference between the Lord's Table and the enemies: (Proverbs 9:18) "***But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of hell.***" Without knowing, I was able to share with his wife and daughter. I didn't realize how clear the message was until I found out the next day who Julia's cousin is married to.

There are so many other decisions on so many different levels that I could share with you, but I've probably already confused you enough for one day ☺ The important thing, as far as I can see, is to call on the Lord while He may be found, to seek His perfect will in all we do and to trust that He will guide each one of us as we do so. I know that He could give me a game plan with all of the details, but I think that He prefers that I just keep my eyes on Him and watch Him for the cues and changes He sends. (Which brings us back to the windssock on Saturday)

Thank you all for your prayers. They are so much more valuable than any of us can imagine. I pray that you are all having similar struggles as you seek to walk in a way that is pleasing to Him, and remember, we pray for you as well!

God bless you all,

Daniel & Ana

P.S. We will be using a new mailing service that I think will be a lot better and will give people a way to unsubscribe, if they desire. 'Thank so much David for the suggestion,' and thanks to all of you for your patience and please let us know if you have any problems with the new mail service.

If anyone wishes to make a tax deductible donation to the Rancho Maranatha Ministry, please click on the link below which will send you to the Go Ministries donation page. There you need to put in our account number, which is 1131, and they will send you a tax-deductible receipt and send 100% of the funds to the ministry. Thanks for standing with us, and keep on shining for Jesus!

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