

Salvador Lara

Missionary to Mexico.



Greetings my fellow brethren,

I am finally back from my trip to Mexico. It was a fun and busy trip. My pastor had everyone busy. Especially in December. The first thing was that I have been teaching classes in our night school about Youth Leadership. We have at the moment seven students in our home church. We are teaching Homiletics, Doctrine, Minor Prophets, Youth Leadership and classes for young women to become Christian wives. My pastor is teaching Homiletics, teaching the young men how to become preachers. It is surprising to see how some of the students can pick up preaching real quick and others how their stage fright gets in the way of their potential of being preachers. One of our brothers in my church is teaching Doctrine to the first-year students. He is enjoying teaching Doctrine. Some of the students have told me that he is strict with Doctrine. That is a good sign, because when it comes to teaching doctrines of the Bible, we need to teach it with authority, if we do not, then our students will not have a strong fundamental faith. My pastor's wife is teaching young women how to become Christian wives. I was teaching Youth Leadership while I was there. It is a great course. The book that we use is by my pastor's father, Brother Jerry Shaw Sr., and it talks about how the youth ministry should be. We teach how parents need to be a part of the youth ministry, we talk about the dangers that can happen in the youth ministry, and we show some examples of what some mistakes youth leaders can make. Some of our students are in their third year of the night school program. You can see the growth in them every year. It is an amazing thing to be able to see how people can grow because they have been studying the word of God.

In December, became a month where I learn new experiences. In Christmas week, my pastor went to Indiana to go visit his sister because her husband has been fighting cancer, and it does not look like he is going to make it. My pastor went to support her by spending Christmas with the family. Meanwhile, back in Mexico, our church was in charge of the Christmas Program. This was the first year without our pastor, so some of the leaders in the church had to step up and take leadership. It went well. One of our leaders was in charge of running the program; I was in charge of the music and the Lord's Supper. One of our missionaries came to preach. For our pastor being away and our leaders running our Christmas Program, it went well. Everyone had a good time. It was fun and a huge blessing to be with my church for Christmas.

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Another thing that happened in the same week was that one of our church members passed away. Her name was Sister Lidia. This happened on Christmas Eve. She was getting ready to go visit her family in another state in Mexico. She fell from the stairs and hit her head. She was taken to the hospital immediately. On their way there, she passed away. We had her wake on a Friday, then her funeral the next day. That was a tough night for our leaders being in charge of her funeral while our pastor was absent. We know our sister is now in the presence of our Lord, but her family is not saved. She was the only one in her family that has accepted Christ. To see the suffering that the family was going through broke my heart. We made sure that we preach about the Gospel at her funeral. We did the invitation of salvation, but no one decided to receive Christ that day. We continue to pray for Sister Lidia's family. We continue to pray so that one day they can receive Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Although it was a tough month for our leaders, we can tell it was a test that we had to go through as a church. We cannot control what God has planned. We cannot control the timing that He has set out. But we can be sure that when God is in control it is so that we can grow spiritually. We use this as an experience for us to grow spiritually. Now, I have returned to deputation. I was not able to finish my course in the Bible School; my pastor had to take over. I will never forget the new experience that I learned this December. It is a new year; I still have a lot to learn. I have faith that I will continue learning new things. If there is a bump in the way, God will help me through it. I ask you to continue praying for Sister Lidia's family, I also ask for you to continue praying for the students in our Night School program, and I ask to pray for me as I can continue this road of deputation. I want to finish quick so I can go back to start working.

Your Missionary,

Salvador Lara Jr.