

Church of Christ Monte Kristal

Dear Brothers in Christ:

As you well know, we have been thru some complicated situations, but I'm happy to tell you all that God has greatly blessed us and we are continuing with the work, carrying out some activities and having others to do in the remainder of the year.

We have felt God's mercy and its strengthening through brothers and through His word. We continue to work in His work because we have the belief and love for the community, to the initial purpose when it was thought there was no more than ground. We continue with the goal of being part of a flock chosen for God.

Below we share some pictures we've taken of the moments we spent and the activities that we've carried out.

Sunday Worship, Fellowship, and Celebration between brothers

We had some brothers return who wanted to be with us and some visitors. We have worked with some neighbors, inviting them to join us and listen to the word of God. Every Sunday we had services and we had some activities and we have plans for the coming months.

There are classes on Thursdays with some sisters and neighbors in Monte Kristal, sisters who went away but want to return to the congregation.

With the support of some other congregations, we will welcome young people and brothers from other places. In November we are planning to support a regional youth meeting to greet young people from different parts of northern Mexico either with lodging or carrying out some activities of the meeting.

We're having meetings to organize ourselves as a church, women and men. This helps us to have more communication and order, the collaboration of all members in different ways.

Sisters organize the food preparation and the men organize the classes and preaching issues. We know that God likes order and organization in a congregation, and we've received support from each of the brothers, so we thank God.

In the children's classes, we have had few visitors; however, we are working to bring in more children since some had family issues or had changed addresses. My daughter is currently responsible for the children's classes, with different activities and teachings about God. We know and understand that education at this age is very important and very necessary since our children are very vulnerable to the problems that exist today in Monte Kristal. We pray to God to give us wisdom and knowledge of His word to teach these little ones the way to salvation.

We know that God has sent us to these places to work, to find people and children who need to hear the word of God. We give Him thanks because there is always someone happy to listen to His word, and even when sometimes there are only 2 or 3 children, we know that they are special and have value to God so we are put to work even for one.

Father's Day the children made a present, a special work for every dad. It's important to us that, even though the parents don't want to come, they allow their children to attend church. It is very gratifying to know the fidelity of these little ones and that they are examples for their parents.

We have 3 brothers in the congregation who have been faithful for a very long time. We've talked about them in different reports that despite the family situation, they seek a refuge in the church. We have seen their effort; they walk more than 4 km. to attend church. We had the pleasure to support them with your material for the school. Since their parents didn't buy this material, they aren't permitted to enter the school. Some brothers wanted to collaborate, and we were able to gather all the material for these little ones. We know that God sends us cases such as these so we may demonstrate the love of God for our neighbor.

We have had moments of joy and communion in the congregation. We have time to talk. We organize different activities, knowing that God has placed each brother in this congregation to collaborate and work in His work.

Fellowship and Conviviality with the Brothers

In these months we conducted the monthly get-togethers and shared food with our brethren and visitors. It's nice to know our brothers and share with them more than a single Sunday. We talked and had a nice time in the family of Christ.

We received very good response from our brothers. Thankfully we had an abundance of food to share and we received the example of our visitors who also collaborated. *[I think he means they also brought food to share.]*

To God be the honor and glory for He gives us joy and love to share this work with the people who need it as do we Christians also.

In addition to the gathering, our brother Miguel invited us to his house to share food. He said he wanted to do that because he likes to spend time with the brothers. Selflessly and with the gift of service that God has given him, he received us very happily along with his wife Amalia, and we some very tasty tamales.

Medical Campaign in La Huasteca

The medical campaign took place August 17-21 in different places in Huasteca Potosina. My wife and I traveled by bus to Xilitla where we would receive our brother Angel Guzman since brother Inocente de la Cruz had to leave Xilitla for health reasons. Tuesday we arrived at the village of Nacimiento where we received

brother Angel and his son Daniel; it was a treat to see them and know of the work they have done. We talked about the need there for medicine and medical attention and the help that is more than once a year is missed. We talked of his family and the insecurity that exists in those places where the government doesn't help even with the most basic drugs. Government health centers don't have drugs or doctors serving in the evenings.

Tuesday we met to launch the campaign in those places and began to consult. We visited: Huichiguayan, Limontitia, El Nacimiento (2 days), San Antonio

Thanks to God and because of the medical necessity, we had on average 60 patients a day presenting various common diseases. However, we had the unfortunate experience of cases that worried us – symptoms of skin cancer and kidney cancer, others such as preinfarctions and heart failure. We had the case of a brother who is a member of the church of Christ with our brother Angel – this brother has heart problems and suddenly faints; he has not been treated yet due to money issues and the medicine he'd need is controlled and very expensive. Their symptoms were diverse and required some studies such as electrocardiograms and sonograms, but due to their condition that hasn't happened. We supported with special help as he is an active member of the church, but he told us they don't have doctors or medicine in these villages due to the government.

I apologize that we were unable to take a dentist with us. We even changed the date of the campaign to accommodate a dentist who confirmed but finally cancelled on us. We sought interns from the Faculty of Dentistry and contacted one other, but we were not successful – most didn't want to go due to the insecurity, one couldn't get permission to miss work. It's difficult for people to leave work, add the insecurity and travel by bus. However, help was carried to different locations and the people of these villages appreciated the support and that we had not forgotten them.

It is really comforting to be part of this project. We know the people of these places are grateful despite the time that has passed. My wife and I had an experience when we reached this village while waiting for brother Angel, a young woman approached and asked where we were going. We told her to Nacimiento with brother Angel; she surprised me by saying if I was Dr. Santillan, she remembered as a small child consulting me during a medical campaign. They greatly miss these activities and she would visit us with her family in this village. This made us very happy; it's incredible how many people can remember the work that was done in these places and remember it with great affection.

We were sharing food with the family of our brothers Angel and Daniel, his son, and telling stories, commenting that many people were baptized through campaigns in those times and that's when the church grew greatly in number. We're still working and preaching the Word and remembering those times with much appreciation.

We send greetings and thanks for the church of Christ in Marble Falls for the love toward those places and for supporting these much-needed campaigns. They told me that they hope we don't forget them. The support from the church is very helpful in these areas neglected by the government of Mexico.

All this work, time and trip have paid off. Finally we know that we have a spiritual purpose in each of these people, knowing that we can support them and through medicine were able to relieve somehow the pain they suffer. That's the best gift of this path that I chose more than 30 years ago. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve God through your support and to serve my people and the people who most need it.

This would not have happened if we had not had the support of brother Angel, his son, and their families. Thanks to God for these brothers who were available and love to receive us.

I'm sharing some pictures of the brothers who received us to carry out the medical campaign – our brother Angel Guzman, preacher of Nacimiento, along with his wife and the family of our brother Daniel Guzman, preacher at Limontitla.

As every year, I am very grateful for the love and trust that you have in your servant, for my family and for the people of Mexico. There has been so much violence, corruption, and poverty that this type of campaign and support has been very refreshing in these times. I give thanks to God for making you available, for your love, your support, and your confidence.

I send a big hug and greetings on behalf of my family who have supported me in this ministry tirelessly despite all adversities. God has blessed me with a family that believes in our God and serves Him.

Thank you again for the support and for continuing this dream of serving all these years.