

Sanchez Family MISSIONS REPORT

Hola Family in Christ!

We are alive and kicking here in early 2024 even though it saw a lot of good and a lot of stretch in our physical and spiritual lives! Normally we send out the Christmas cards, the end of year emails, post on the gram and the socials but this year literally was a blur. Over these last three months glory to God we have had 8 more baptisms. I thank God because without the help of the church we would not be able to do a good job of evangelism, since they are the same brothers who make the contacts so that we can come to their house and talk to them about the gospel, it's all a team effort.



Me and 'The Julio's' in downtown Santiago!

But one of the best blessings was that Julio Cedeño, one of the Elders from the Northwest Church of Christ, our overseeing congregation of our mission work here, and his son also named Julio Cedeño (different middle name) an amazing man of God and fantastic brother in arms of ours from the Hollywood Church of Christ came and visited us in December and encouraged us, poured into our congregation here in Nogales and in the Church plant we serve in the city in Antofagasta in the north of Chile. It is beyond what words can write to tell you the encouragement it is to us to have you all come and meet the people we serve and just encourage us and see the work up close. We loved getting to be blessed by their visit, their wisdom, their teaching and their love.

At the end of December we had the loss of Laura's Grandmother, (who she was very close to) two days before Christmas. We thank God that we were able to spend time with Grandma Jo with our girls when we were last in the states during our time in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Grandma Jo was a woman of faith but who showed her faith through her love and dedication of to her family. Due to the timing of everything Laura was not able to fly back and be with her family for families arrangements but we were able to channel that love and that ache into something beautiful this Christmas. We had already organized a big Christmas potluck dinner at our home for around 45 people, all of whom were far away from their own families. About 7 nations were represented. We put out Grandma Jo's picture and shared about how she showed Jesus's heart of belonging. It was a night of food, trivia Christmas games, karaoke, lots of laughter, great international food and even some salsa dancing till late (Its a South American Christmas thing!) We had a Christmas full of celebration, love and joy in the middle of our sorrow. It kinda is like that as we wait for Him to come back anyway right? We look and make the moments of joy as we navigate a world that carries on through so much loss and separation. It is beautiful to see How Jesus can both cry and dance with you through both, and occasionally at the same time. As for January Our home congregation of Los Nogales church of Christ continues to grow! These are technically our summer vacation months but attendance is still full and our building still has people standing at the back due to lack of chairs on Sunday mornings. As you know we have been in a building crisis for a while. Well our elders, with the support of the congregation have taken a big step of faith as



Our Christmas Celebration for families away from family.

church and put our building up for sale. Over the past month of February we have had three interested buyers and it looks like one may be buying soon. The sale won't provide enough for us to purchase a new building. But another congregation has kindly offered us their building in the evenings which is much bigger in the city center, close to public transport access so that we can continue to meet as we save money and continue to pray for God to open the door to a larger and more permanent home. We thank God for the Church of Christ of Nueva Valdez for being so gracious in hosting us during this time. We ask for your continued prayers as we seek God's will for our future physical location as a Church.



**Our Church, Los Nogales busting out the doors
(the weekly normal)**

Our next prayer request is one of a personal nature, over the past years, it has been hard for me personally to find a balance with work and life. I have over the last 8 years very rarely taken whole days off and that had greatly affected my family. During the month of February I think I was experiencing what my wife had been warning me about for years, which is burn out. I took a week off for some personal reflection with the lord with a trusted brother and fellow missionary friend from La Serena. I am now taking Fridays completely off starting this year and dedicating more time to my kids and wife who greatly needed more of me as well. It is so hard sometimes to get this balance right when you see that there is so much to do and so few workers. Please pray for us as a family as we are tired and weary right now and are trying to find a better balance in ministry and life as our church and ministry continues to grow. I want to especially thank Julio Cedeño for guiding me in this area as well as Alan Taylor, elder from the Mountainside Church of Christ who also has encouraged me and poured into me as we have opened up about our struggles on the field in this area. Thank you also to Don Henson and my father in Law Ed for reaching out to Laura and I as we walk through this.

We love you and thank you As you all know we have made a commitment as a family to do what is in our power to come back every two years on furlough to touch base with you, our supporters and partners in this ministry. We are looking at dates for around 6 weeks during July and August. We are still at the planning stage but would need to get organized with you all as far as availability times to meet with you all to present in person with more detail about the work over the past two years, also to organize some fellowship time together would be wonderful. We could also use some help financially to help cover travel costs as we having been saving towards this trip but that wont cover everything. We hoping to visit Texas, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Montana, where our current supporters are. Laura's family are helping personally with costs for us to visit family. If any of you are willing to help us come and see you all please feel free to email us directly. Any donations towards our furlough can be sent to our overseeing congregation at Northwest Church of Christ specifically earmarked, Sanchez Family Missions Furlough costs. As always, we are an open book and that includes our financial realities so no problems in walking through things with us! :) So as we continue into March of 2024, we pray for wisdom, rest, renewal and resources. I know these are global needs of the Lord's church but as your missionaries please remember us in your prayers too. We are working hard for God's kingdom to grow and we too get tired and can feel overwhelmed at times. Right now my wife is encouraging me and herself with Philippians 1:6 but to encourage you all as well, check out verse 5...

'for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.' Philippians 1: 6-9b

Much love in Christ,b

Pablo, Laura, Daisy and Lili Sanchez

December through February's Baptisms!



This girl Kleidy, was at our Christmas Dinner and after studying a month following that dinner with her family and I, she decided to be baptized! Glory to God!

