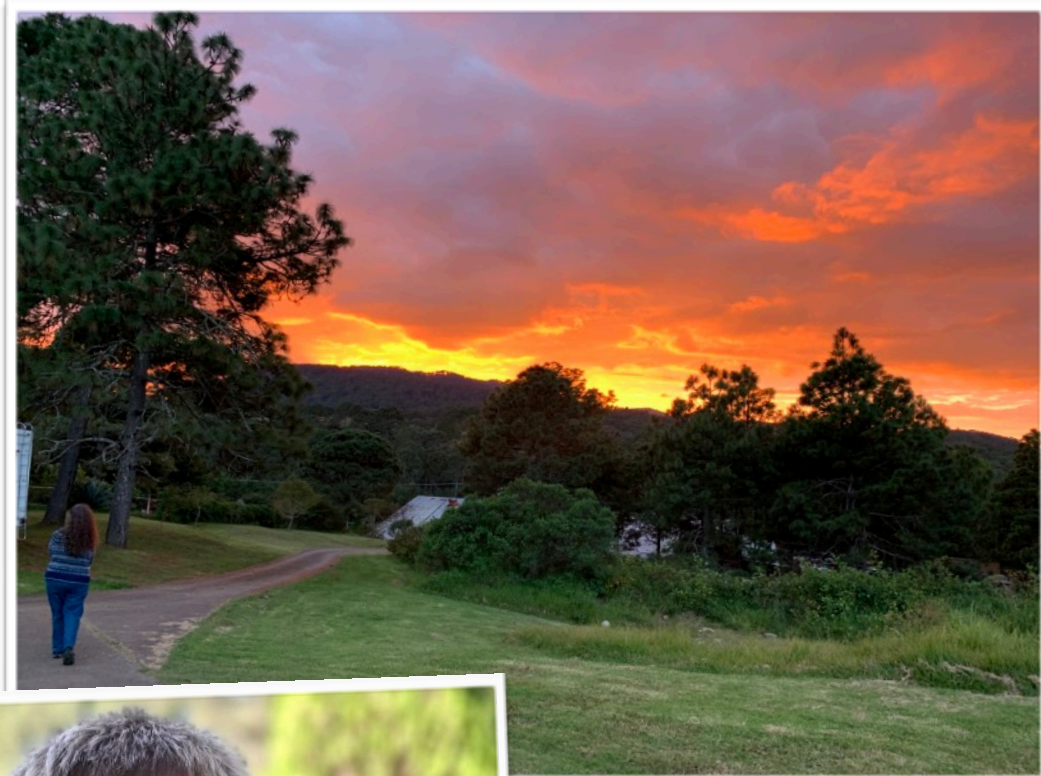


# *Christ, Only Christ!*

Proclaiming HIM    Following HIM



December 2019

## The Sacred Hour

O tell me not of worldly lore—And treasures of the earth!  
To him who draws from Heaven's store—They can be little worth.  
I sail a sea of Love divine—Unfathomed and unbound;  
I search a deep and wealthy mine—Where gems of Heaven are found.

The Spirit's breezes gently blow—That I may sail this sea;  
His is the light to search and show—God's deep, deep things to me.

O Book of wondrous depths and heights—Of wisdom ever new,  
Which in ten thousand various lights—Brings Jesus into view;  
Whatever truths in thee I trace—New aspects meet mine eye,  
And of His glory and His grace—Page unto page doth cry!

Of Science and Philosophy—I've heard the spreading fame;  
They're broad and deep, and urged, they say—By many a pressing claim.  
'Tis said Philosophy hath charms—Which prove celestial birth;  
That Science, with distended arms—Grasps heaven in grasping earth.

I know not; neither have I tried—Their claims to disallow;  
A trusting heart is satisfied—With neither why nor how.  
They come from God if they be right—If true they lead to Him;  
But who would shun the noonday light—To grope in shadows dim?

And who would leave the Fountain Head—To drink the muddy stream,  
Where men have mixed what God hath said—With every dreamer's dream?  
How dim is every earthly light—When suns celestial glow!  
No earthly visions lure the sight—Where God His face doth show.

'Tis sweet in prayer on God to call—While He my voice doth hear,  
But sweeter when His sayings fall—Upon my opened ear!  
For this I leave the paths of men—And shun my friends' abode;  
No earthly claims can stay me when—My spirit pants for God!

O not for wealth, nor fame, nor power,—Nor love, nor truest friend,  
Would I forego the sacred hour—Which with God's Word I spend!  
I steal it from the hours of sleep—If leisure be not given,  
For only thus the soul can keep—In touch with God and Heav'n.

And thus to hearken unto Him—For one sweet, fleeting hour,  
Is balm to wearied heart and limb—Restoring grace and power.  
Dear Book of treasures all divine—My precious, priceless store!  
How rich I am since thou art mine!—How poor I was before!

William Blane

# Christmas Plays

Over 250 people came to our five Christmas play outreaches! The Lord really seemed to answer our prayer: *"Bring many lost souls to hear Your call to be saved."*!



As the guests arrive they are warmly greeted by the folks from our Church. After being seated, they are served a delicious meal of tamales and champurrado. As they enjoy dinner, our people will spread out among the guests and try getting into spiritual conversations with them.

If you're interested, this is roughly what our Christmas play was like this year:

*As people finish up their tamales and champurrado, the lights go dim and the Christmas play begins. The search of the Magi and the announcement to the shepherds is retold as different people from our church act out the story. After the singing of different Christmas Carols, the lights come back on and the Shepherds and Magi tell everyone "Lets go see the Child!"*

*After moving into the auditorium and sitting down, the second part of the play starts. Joseph and Mary come onto the stage looking for a place to stay. But one by one, they are turned away, until the only option is a stable. Christ is born and the shepherds come while the choir sings a song. The narrator shares the heartbreaking fact that men still have no room for the Lord.*

*The mime begins and the actor is clothed in a robe with the large word SIN. Then he hears a voice proclaiming: "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH", and he desperately seeks for help. At intervals knocking is heard at a door in the corner, labeled "door of your heart". He almost opens it, but then covers his ears and leaves. He tries religion, yoga and atheism, refusing to open the door. But none of these things take the sin from his life and he ends his efforts in despair.*

*Then a person comes by with a Bible to share the truth of God's wonderful love! He begins to read and a voice declares "I AM AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK, IF YOU OPEN THE DOOR I WILL ENTER IN AND WE'LL SUP TOGETHER AS FRIENDS". Once again he hears a knock, but this time he opens the door. As Jesus comes in, 'His Robes for Mine' is simply and clearly sung. Christ takes his robe of sin, and in its place He gives His robe of righteousness. Bearing the sin robe, He dies on the cross and the amazing Gospel is shared!*



This has been one of the clearest presentations that we have ever done and I feel like the Lord used it powerfully!

- ▶ Heavenly Father, may many of the guests who came open the door of their heart to Christ in this coming year.
- ▶ Help us to be diligent to do follow up on these people.
- ▶ Cause these people to fear You more than they fear man. In Jesus name, amen.

# Company Christmas Party

Every year the Cappuccino business hosts a Christmas party for the workers. Many of the employees and their families do not know the Lord so we try to always share the gospel.



This year I was asked to briefly share. When the time came, I didn't feel as well prepared as I would have liked. But the Lord helped me and I really felt like He used me in in spite of me!

- *Dear Lord, convict these people of their sin.*
- *May the Holy Spirit cause them to realize how empty their lives are.*
- *And may they seek the answer to their need in the written and living Word of God! Amen.*

# Christmas Caroling

Usually we end up caroling in two of the small towns nearest to the camp but this year we were just finishing up the first village when it started to rain! Unfortunately it only rained, no snow. But we were grateful that at least we got to sing to the homes in the first little town.



These are Annie's photos of our caroling event. I totally forgot to take pictures this year! Sorry.

- ▶ *Wonderful Savior, may the tracts we left at every home we visited be read.*
- ▶ *May we be known for our love for You and for each other in our community. In Jesus name, amen.*

# Hymnbook Project

My goal was to finish recording all the hymns in our hymnbook this year. I didn't make the goal, but I'm a lot closer! And the good thing is that almost all the hymns that are the most sung and well-known are all recorded. Lord willing 2020 will see the finish of this huge project!

‣ *Heavenly Father, turn this project into a huge blessing for the Church.*

## What's Next?

I guess 2020 is next! I'm excited about the new year!

I believe the BIG event that everyone has in mind right now is my sister Katie's wedding. She is marrying one of my best friends, Regis! We are all very excited for them and there is a lot to do to get ready for the wedding.

- *Dear Lord, bless Regis and Katie with your abundant grace in their wedding and as a new couple.*
- *May our spiritual vision be 20/20 in this new year!*
- *And in our lives and ministry, may it be CHRIST, Only CHRIST! Amen.*

Thank you all so much for your amazing support and faithful prayers!

Happy New Years!

nathan,

Your brother in CHRIST!

‣ *MARANATHA!*