

CLARK PRAYER UPDATE

PRAYER CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2022

Another beautiful wedding at Camp Berea!



Alma, with her 4 children, and Arón, the day before he and Almita were married.

In the past few years, since Miguel Roa went to Glory, we have often asked you to pray for Alma and her children. These have been hard years for them, but good years, with solid spiritual growth in each one. Alma has diligently managed Hávilah, the downtown Bible/Coffee shop, working with our son, Nathan, to raise up this ministry, which has also been used by the Lord as a means for her support. She is a faithful evangelist, taking every opportunity to speak for Christ to those who come into the shop each day. She and her son, Isaac, have used the location to meet one-on-one for Bible studies with some who are seeking.

Soon before his departure, Miguel Roa asked Ted to watch over the spiritual needs of his son and daughters, so it was a joyful privilege to preside over the vows of this young couple, who have given a strong testimony of their love and service for Christ, and waited patiently, to the age of 33, for the Lord to send the right one! You may remember Almita's touching story of coming to faith in Christ, which Annie wrote about over a year ago in our prayer update for July/August, 2021. This is the "happy ending" to that story—though not an ending, but a new chapter! We appreciate your prayers for this young couple, that their lives would be used for God's glory.

Our son Caleb gave a clear gospel message to begin the ceremony. We pray for its impact on the lives of many unsaved family members who attended.



Almita has been a dear friend and spiritual example to our girls throughout the years.



SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS

Once again, we thank you for praying, and rejoice to see how the Lord answered and blessed each of these camps!



BOY'S CAMP (above)

Our son Nathan planned and directed the young boys camp, while four stalwart men, and their co-counselors, devoted, during those 5 days, every waking (and sleeping) moment living with, and discipling these 28 boys. This camp is always heavy on physical activities and excellent Bible teaching. Please pray for the spiritual lives of these boys. The need is great and the battle is fierce.



YOUNG ADULT CAMP (left and above)

The following week, 92 youth, ages 18 and older, attended their camp, led by Michael and Sofi. Again, Bible teaching is strongly emphasized, along with training in ministry. Each of the 6 teams carried out Daily Vacation Bible Schools for children in nearby villages. ↑

Ted's team for young adult camp



What a joy for us to have these long-time ministry partners from far away join us to carry out our summer youth camps! Here, Ted is with the Persson brothers from Arkansas, and Denny Norris (center), who came from Oregon to participate. →



GIRL'S CAMP

Our final camp, we had over 40 girls, ages 13-17. Some fresh ideas for activities, along with excellent Bible teachings made this an extra special camp. Pray with us for the continued work of God's Spirit in the hearts of each of these girls.



Choir practice with Arlene Norris, resulting in a beautiful presentation on the final day

Many girls chose *learning to hand-make tortillas* as one of their workshops. City girls are not as familiar with this art as rancho girls. They had fun with it.



Besides the choir, each team presented a drama, and a pre-recorded comical radio program the last day. Then they were rewarded with t-shirts having a verse from Isaiah 55, the chapter they each memorized in order to come.



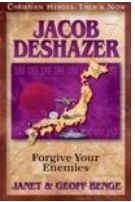
Jorge, Ana and their 3 children

We have asked you to pray for Jorge, a new believer from our nearby village, whose wife, Ana, was so strongly opposed to his new faith that she hid his Bible, which he had been reading avidly at every opportunity. However, she began attending some special events at the camp with him, then, occasionally, church services, and then a weekly Bible study with Michael and Sofi. Annie determined to develop a friendship with her, though it was not easy, and she tried to faithfully pray for her salvation each day, considering her one of her "impossible persons". Despite all this contact with us and exposure to the gospel, Ana always bluntly clarified that she was **not** a believer. She comes from a strongly Catholic family and still identified herself in that way.



In May, after an AMOR Divino presentation, Annie turned to Ana and asked her if she had yet come to trust Christ as her Savior. Ana slowly responded: "I think so..." then she clarified, "No, I know so." For such an honest person, this confession was a breath of fresh air, and a great answer to prayer. We have seen fruit in her life, as has Jorge. She is concerned about the salvation of her family and talking regularly to her mother about Scripture. Her mother is actually quite open! Praise the Lord with us and please continue to pray.

CLARK PRAYER CALENDAR—SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022



SEPTEMBER 1-10 The weekend of the 9-10th of September, we have a Parents in Action camp, reviewing the book of Ruth, as well as the biography of Jacob DeShazer, a US soldier who became a Japanese POW, and later a missionary to Japan. Pray for wisdom as we try to help the parents. We have come to see recently, how powerfully evil is the battle the enemy is waging against these children with the use of modern technology. We fear the loss of a whole generation of children, as we have come to see the forces captivating even many of our teenage church kids. Please pray with us for the Lord's wisdom and direction as we try to appeal to the parents and warn them of the danger. Pray for insight and boldness on their part, to act, and follow the Lord's leading to save the lives of their children.

SEPTEMBER 11-17 This Saturday our church will once again host the popular Noche Mexicana (Independence Day celebration outreach). People in communities surrounding the camp, and even from Morelia, love to be invited to this event, where each church family sets up a booth to offer a special Mexican delicacy. The feast is followed by a joyful celebration of Mexico and its culture, and then a clear gospel presentation. Please pray for the Lord's hand to be on this event, for the salvation of many souls.

SEPTEMBER 18-24 You may remember Moisés and Esperanza, (parents of a well-known soccer player), from our last update, who began a Bible study with Miguel and Abril, after seeing a gospel presentation during AMOR Divino in their park. For weeks, they did not miss a study, began attending church regularly, and showed increasing signs of understanding the gospel message and being close to receiving it for themselves. But in late July, they both became sick, and it took them weeks to recover. Since then, Esperanza has continued to struggle with other health problems as well, related to her back, and neurological issues. She is constantly seeing new doctors, and recently had some concerning fainting spells, perhaps from the huge number of medications she was on. We were with her for one of these episodes and tried to comfort and pray with her. We met her sister and niece at this time. The niece, Fernanda, seems quite open to talk of spiritual things. Please pray for this family, that the Lord would continue to work powerfully to bring them to Himself and would mercifully touch Esperanza's body and mind, to bring relief from her suffering, that she might again focus all her attention on knowing Him.

SEPTEMBER 25-30 We're praising God for an answer to prayer for Ana, our faithful girl from Cd. Hidalgo. Her dad in the US had forbidden her from continuing her high school studies with our program or having ongoing contact with us. He said he wanted her to be a "normal" girl, not a religious fanatic. We prayed with her and helped her write a letter of appeal to him. She did a great job expressing her love and respect for him, but her greater loyalty to Christ. For weeks, he did not look at her letter, but finally read it and responded with his blessing for her to do as she thought best. Please pray for her as she struggles with rejection from her family here, because of her faith in Christ and desire to please Him. She loved participating in the youth camps. She will be 18 in October.



OCTOBER 1-8 This week, we import 20,000 more gospels of John and begin preparing for an upcoming AMOR Divino outreach the week of Oct. 30-Nov. 4. Please pray for wisdom in planning, and for the Lord to put in the hearts of those believers of His choosing, to come and participate with us. Pray also for preparation of hearts of those who will hear the gospel during that week and receive the gospels of John and tracts. Pray for the importation process and the travel involved.

OCTOBER 9-15 Please continue to pray for Berea Coffee and our legal challenges. We really have no new developments, except to say that those working on our case presently seem determined to do all they can to help us and work for our good. Pray that they may be given insight, zeal and influence to this end.

OCTOBER 16-22 Pray for the planning for our November family camp, which takes place in about a month, and then the preparations for the Christmas outreach presentations to take place during the month of December. Our desire is for the Lord to use these events for the edification of His church, and for the salvation of souls.

OCTOBER 23-31 During the youth camps, every one of our discipleship kids from 2021 was able to return to Camp Berea, to help with the camps and celebrate a reunion. We had a sharing time, and many told of their efforts to serve the Lord in their new locations. Even Ester, from Denmark, was able to join us. She brought her two sisters with her, and they were a great blessing during the camps. She has been working hard on the translation to Danish of Mark Cahill's book, *A Heartbeat Away*, which the Lord used to bring her to Himself last year. Sharing the gospel in Denmark is not easy. We appreciate your prayers for her and her sisters as they seek to live for Christ and be a light in a dark place. (See pictures on following page).



Discipleship kids from 2021, reunited this camp season



Ester and her sister, Katrine, with Ana during camp.

FAMILY PICTURES

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!



Our son, Nathan, has become engaged! We have known Keyla since her parents were saved, and she was around 5 years old! They are from Los Fresnos, the village near the camp. In fact, Annie wrote the amazing story of her mother, Lupita, in our final update for 2020! Keyla is now 17, and Nathan is 27! They are planning for a wedding in January, after her 18th birthday. Both Nathan and Keyla have their hearts set on serving the Lord in a needy place here in Mexico.
(Below—beautiful nearby spot chosen by Nathan for proposal)

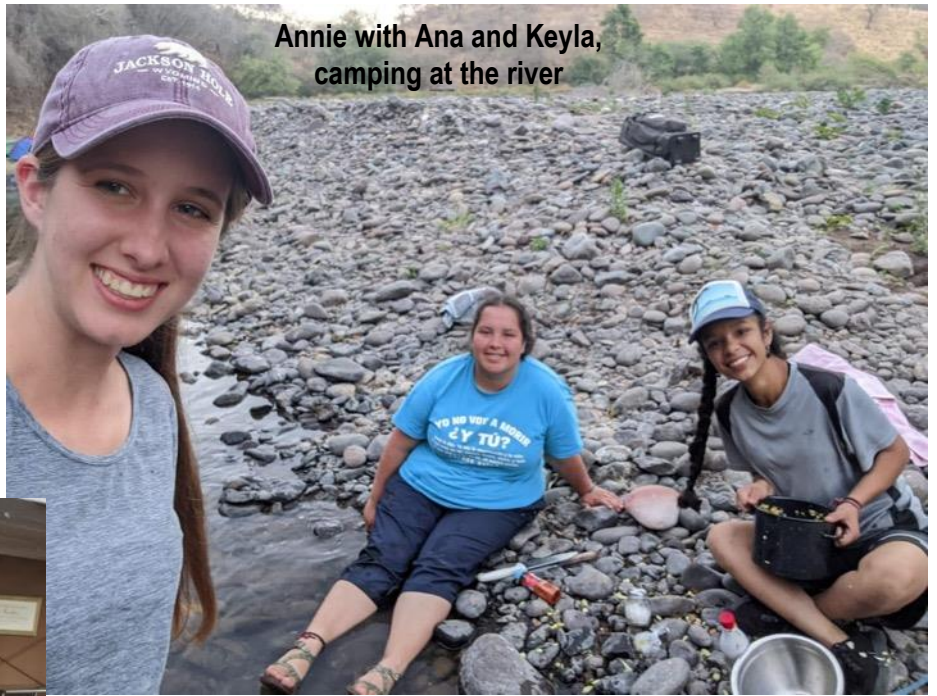


Bread and milk are two of her favorite foods!





Annie and Keyla at last year's Noche Mexicana outreach



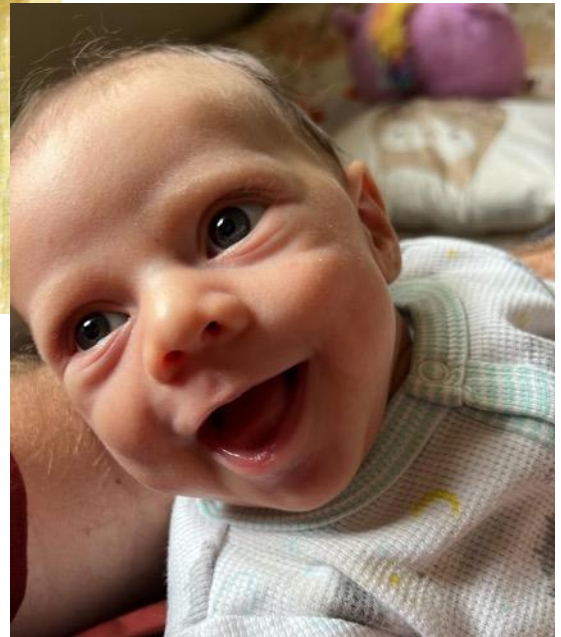
Annie with Ana and Keyla, camping at the river



Most recent grandson, Ben Judah Ted. Born to Michael and Sofi on July 5.



Ella and Owen at 1 1/2



Great Grandma Kendal
(Priscilla's mom) with
newborn Ben Judah
and siblings.





Grandma Mackie (Priscilla), with all 7 grandkids.



Jemimah with MK friends



Eldon was thrilled to take part in the boys camp as the team "mascot". Grandpa hosed him down after he crawled through the mud for the obstacle course.



All 3 of Michael and Sofi's boys now have July birthdays!



Michael and Sofi's kids making tortillas with a friend, Pilar, in Cd. Hidalgo. Please pray for the salvation of her and her husband, and for the work in Ciudad Hidalgo.

JUAN'S STORY

(By Annie Clark)

"Where am I?" wheezed Juan, as he tried opening his red, swollen eyes. The light from the overhead lamppost outlined a dark street dotted with small houses, a lop-sided sign screwed to one of the houses, and a scrawny dog jumping up and down on the other side of a nearby fence, yelping wildly. As Juan tried taking in his surroundings, he wished he hadn't opened his eyes. It only made his headache that much worse. Besides, he was in no shape to get himself home, even if he had known which direction home was. How long had it been since his soccer buddies had left him? Three hours? Four? Maybe more. Juan had no way of knowing, nor did he care. He was used to this kind of lifestyle. He tried lifting the beer bottle lying in the ditch next to him, up to his lips to see if perhaps there was one swig left. The houses started spinning around him and the barking of the scrawny dog grew almost inaudible. Juan felt terribly dizzy as he let his head fall back on the hard concrete sidewalk. Finally, even the last ray of light from the lamppost was swallowed up as everything went black.

And that was a very real image of Juan's whole life. Even the last rays of hope seemed to have been snuffed from his vision.

"Time for lunch!" called Elia as she stood outside her brother's bedroom door. "Ohhh..." groaned Juan as he heaved his groggy self out of bed and stumbled toward the bathroom. 'Lunch?' he thought to himself. 'What time is it anyway?' As he washed his hands, Juan stared at the man looking back at him in the mirror. With swollen, bloodshot eyes and a flushed face, there was no mistaking the toll alcohol had taken. Was that really who he had become? It certainly was not who he wanted to be.

Far from lacking opportunity in education, Juan had excelled in his studies since his youth, and had gone on to take courses in higher education in the nearby city of Morelia. Besides his love for academics, Juan came to be absorbed in sports, specifically soccer, in which he also excelled. However, this became his downfall. His soccer buddies had a routine after every game: If they lost, they would drink to drown their sorrows. If they won, they would drink to celebrate.

Some of his companions seemed able to stop drinking when they needed to, but Juan felt totally helpless to resist the power of the bottle. And worse yet, he had not found anyone who could help him overcome this slavery. He had tried Alcoholics Anonymous, but to no avail. He had tried making solemn promises to never drink again, but it hadn't worked. He was sick of living with this burden, which people told him was an illness; but with nowhere to go, he sunk deeper into this pit, until he became known as the town drunk.

But then came Jesus...

One day as Juan was approaching his home he heard voices from inside, "The Bible says, 'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,'" a female voice spoke. "None of us are good enough to get to Heaven through our own works." continued the steady voice.

"Only through Jesus' finished work on the cross can we get into Heaven. It's through His merits, not our own." added a second voice. He heard his mom's grunt of approval coming from the other side of the room.

'What on earth?' thought Juan as he managed to sneak in quietly through the side door and make a break for the privacy of his room. He knew his mom was strongly Catholic, and from the sound of it, these people, who she had apparently invited into her home, didn't sound very Catholic. After they had left, Juan inquired from his sister who the ladies were. She informed him that they were Christians who lived at the camp which the

“gringo” had started. Juan had heard about the gringo many times, but he had never met him face to face, and these young ladies, who had come to visit his mother, were the first people Juan had ever heard talk about the Bible in such a way.

The young women kept on coming to Juan’s house to teach his mother and sister the Bible. After some time, Juan started noticing a change in their lives. His mother had always been so involved in the Catholic church and now she refrained from even attending their gatherings and rituals. Something had happened in their lives to bring about the many changes Juan was seeing, and he had a feeling that that something had to do with those ladies who came every week with their message from the Bible. Maybe, just maybe, the Bible held answers for Juan as well. Could there still be a slight chance in the world that there was hope for this miserable wretch? Juan was desperate to find out the answer to that question, so he told the young women he wanted to study the Bible too.

The Bible studies with Ted Clark began soon after. As Juan pondered Bible truths, he was confronted with his real condition before God. He began to grasp who God was, and who he was. He realized that he was even worse than he had thought, and that alcoholism wasn’t a sickness like everyone had told him; it was sin. His problem wasn’t alcohol, it was sin. He noted that he had been right in one thing—he couldn’t stop drinking on his own. Only Jesus could free him from the power of the bottle and from all his other sin which he now saw was just as evil in God’s sight as drunkenness. But would God want to? Would the Judge whom Juan had offended really be willing to forgive him for all his sin committed against that very Judge?

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us,” read Juan slowly, “in that while we were yet sinners,” he paused, “Christ died for us.” he finished the sentence, his voice etched with emotion and excitement, as the truth and full weight of those words sunk into his innermost being. “My ‘friends’ would always abandon me in my moments of crisis,” he later recalled, “But I realized that God was extending His hand of forgiveness to me in my greatest need of all.”

That afternoon in the Fall of 2002, Juan decided to receive the free gift of God. He realized that he was a great sinner, but that Jesus was a great Savior. A peace and joy flooded Juan’s soul that day as the burden of sin rolled away and his heart was washed clean in the blood of Jesus. He wept tears of jubilation that night as he experienced the freedom from the burden which had enslaved him for so long. Nothing could compare with the happiness he felt, and Juan declares that this joy has continued undiminished to this very day. He never seems to exhaust his expressions of gratitude for His blessed Savior, who did for him what no other man could do.

Epilogue:

Several years later, Juan married Bertha, (one of the young ladies who was part of the discipleship group at the camp, during the time the Word of God first came to Juan’s household). Bertha was a joyful, energetic, and faithful follower of Christ, who never missed an opportunity to share the gospel or encourage other believers. They were a happy couple, and the Lord gave them a beautiful daughter. After Lydia’s birth, Bertha suffered postpartum preeclampsia, and came dangerously close to death. As they faced this trial, Juan commented to Ted, “I’ve never confronted anything like this without recurring to alcohol.” The believers encouraged Juan and prayed that he might stand firm. Through it all, Juan refused to return to his previous master, which had enslaved him for so long, but rather found in his new Master, all he needed.

Bertha recovered, and they enjoyed a blessed marriage, serving the Lord together for exactly 12 years. On the day of their 12th anniversary in 2017, Bertha was called into the Lord’s presence, having succumbed to pneumonia. This was a grievous blow for Juan and eleven-year-old Lydia. But in the midst of this time, they

saw God's loving care. They did not deny their Lord while going through tremendous pain and loss, but rather clung to Him and found a shelter in the time of storm.

Juan presently serves as a leader in the Camp Berea church. Formerly known as the town drunk, he is now a respected citizen whom everyone in the village looks up to as an example. Neighbors trust him fully, and many illiterate people in the village turn to Juan for help in reading and for counsel concerning legal documents. Jesus came to Juan's life and he is a changed man. He is disciplined and faithful. His new love and devotion is for Christ and the Scriptures. His family and neighbors cannot deny the amazing transformation! "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." (1 Corinthians 5:17).



Juan, Bertha and Lidia serving their specialty at a Noche Mexicana years ago.



Celebrating Lidia's 14th birthday

