

CLARK PRAYER UPDATE AND PRAYER CALENDAR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2021

ANSWERS TO PRAYER—SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS

We praise the Lord for His gracious hand on our 3 youth camps in July/August.

- He protected and provided in a myriad of ways.
- A number of campers made professions of faith in Christ.
- The outstanding teachings provided rich spiritual food, both for the seekers and for the believers who attended.
- Once again, we had a sense of the Lord's presence with us, and ended our three intense weeks with the perception that this effort was more than worth it! We believe we will continue to see fruit in the lives of these young people in the years to come.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR PART IN PRAYER!



Each of the four teams during the young adult camp spent the mornings going to four different nearby villages to teach Vacation Bible Schools to young children, who delightedly gathered to hear the gospel, do handcrafts and play games.

After the camp, we heard that the youth from several churches who attended the camp went home to do a Bible School for children in their home town! This is our greatest desire and prayer for the young people who attend our camps, that they would not only know Christ and love and follow Him, but use their lives to lead others to the knowledge of Him as well. **Please pray with us to this end.** There is still such a need for the light of the gospel in Mexico.



CIUDAD HIDALGO—PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERS TO PRAYER...



Ana, from Ciudad Hidalgo beside our Annie

For 3 years we have been taking weekly trips to Ciudad Hidalgo (1 ½ hours from home) to teach Bible studies to people who expressed interest after AMOR Divino in that city. Our hope is to see the beginning of a church there.

In all that time, our greatest highlight and encouragement has been Ana. She was 14 when she began attending the Bible studies we taught to her aunt and uncle. She was a deep thinker and full of questions. Having been abandoned by her parents as a baby and raised by her grandma, Ana was full of bitterness and given to depression. She comes from a very large, very Catholic family, with many aunts and uncles.



Ana with Isabel Tuohy

A year ago, at age 15, she attended our young girls camp, where she was continually confronted with the gospel message and the witness of many other girls her age. She returned home confused, as all she heard at camp was strongly contradicted by her family and their religious objections. She asked the Lord to show her the truth, and within a few months, she knew the answer and trusted in Christ to be her Savior.

We have seen such a beautiful change in Ana. She faithfully reads her Bible. She is still full of questions, often carefully written down in a notebook she brings out at the end of the Bible study each week. They are good questions, based on the Bible reading she has done during the week. This year, she attended the camp again, and everyone could see the glowing change in her, compared with the year before. But she returned home to face strong opposition from her family. A few in her family support her somewhat in her new faith, but most are opposed, and some quite strongly.

An uncle in Atlanta who basically supports the family, often calls her grandma and warns her not to let Ana attend anything with us, and if possible, to keep her from reading her Bible. The grandma has been in favor of Ana's change, and has allowed her to come with us, (sometimes secretly), but she is really nervous about losing the support of this son, which is basically her living. Pray that the Lord would work in this man's heart and somehow, nullify his influence on the family.

Ana longs to be baptized, but her family expressed violent opposition when she mentioned the idea. Please pray that we would have wisdom to know how to counsel her and help her in her spiritual growth.

As you know, we have been praying for a missionary family who could move to Ciudad Hidalgo to take over the work and be on the ground full time to work more closely with the people and see a strong Bible-believing church raised up there. A number of cities and towns nearby could also be impacted by the presence of a missionary in this area.

Our son Michael and his wife Sofi and family are willing to go, and have been looking for a house to rent in the city. However, rental houses seem to be rare and some they have found are excessively expensive. Please pray that the Lord would open up just the right housing situation for them, and guide them specifically, as they look toward a move to that area the beginning of next year.



PRAYER CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2021

SEPTEMBER 1-11 This weekend, September 10-11, we have a Parents in Action camp. Please pray for the spiritual encouragement of each family who comes.

Another prayer request for this time period is regarding Berea Coffee Co. The courts are expected to make a decision on our case any time in the coming weeks. Pray that we may have favor in the eyes of those making the decisions, and that justice would finally be carried out, after all these 9 years of waiting! Elsa's recent appeals to a key magistrate and a tax office administrator have seemed positive, but we know only the Lord can bring about a good outcome for us.

SEPTEMBER 12-18 On Sunday night, September 12, we have our annual Noche Mexicana party to celebrate Mexican Independence day. This is an evangelistic outreach hosted by our church. Each family brings a special Mexican dish to share and decorates a booth to serve their specialty. After joyful folkloric dances done by the children and youth, a gospel message is presented to all the guests. We often have a very large crowd of unbelieving neighbors and friends attending this event. Please pray for the Lord's working in the hearts of all who come.

The following day, (Monday, 13th) we will be driving to the Texas border where Priscilla will spend some time with her mom, and Ted will fly to the Northwest to take part in the Oregon camp for the Hispanic churches. Please pray for the Lord's protection and blessing on our trip. Michael and Sofi will be attending to our Bible studies in Ciudad Hidalgo.

SEPTEMBER 19-25 Pray with us for Michael and Sofi, and the Lord's provision for a house in Cd. Hidalgo. Pray for the Lord to work in them to prepare them for the work before them and prepare the hearts of people in this area.

SEPT. 26—OCT. 2 Please continue to pray with us for the group of 12 young people living with us at the camp this year, taking part in an in-depth discipleship program. In these final 3 months of the program, pray that we would all put our hearts into it, and finish well. Pray for the Lord to work in the heart of each one, preparing them to serve Him with their lives, to go out from here to become bright lights for Him in a dark world.



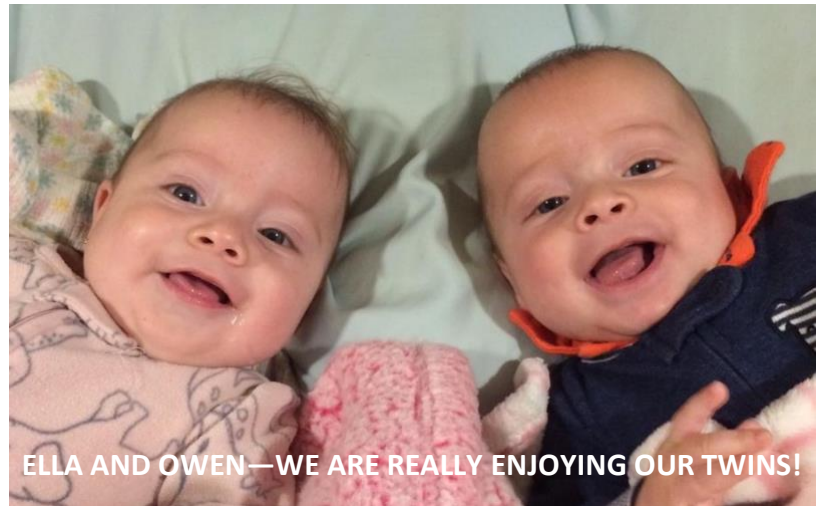
OCTOBER 3-9 Please continue praying for the Hávilah book ministry and for our son, Nathan and the Roa family heading it up. The Lord has heard our prayers and slowly, more people are becoming aware of the place and especially, purchasing many Bibles, as well as valuable family and spiritual growth books. The milkshakes also seem to be gaining popularity at the downtown shop. It has been a great place to teach Bible studies and witness to people. Thank you for praying.

OCTOBER 10-16 This week, we plan to carry out our next big AMOR Divino project in a new city called Moroleon. A young couple from one of our churches is moving there soon with the hopes of setting up their business to make a living, and using all their spare time to share the gospel and begin a church. We hope that we can cover the city with gospels of John and tracts and locate people searching for truth and interested in studying the Bible, so Chucho and Karla can follow up and begin Bible studies with them. Please pray for the Lord's hand on every aspect of this project. If you are interested in possibly coming down to join us, please let us know and we will send you more information.

OCTOBER 17-23 This week, we ask your prayers for a group of dads and youth from our churches who will again take a bike trip to the coast. Pray for the Bible teachings and discipleship happening along the way, and for the Lord's hand of protection on every turn of every wheel!

OCTOBER 24-31 Please pray for Ana this week, for her encouragement and growth in Christ, and for the Lord to work wonderfully in her family as well. Pray also for each of the kids who attended our youth camps this year.

FAMILY PICTURES



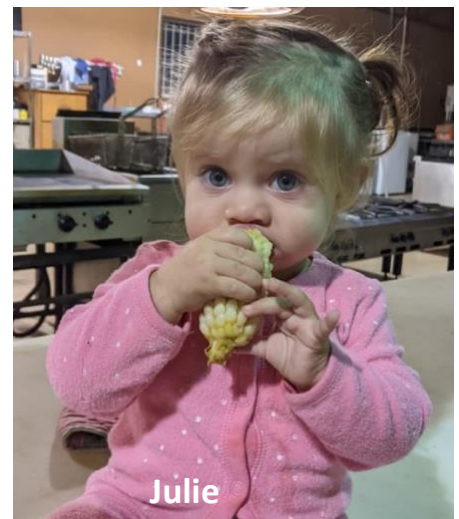
ELLA AND OWEN—WE ARE REALLY ENJOYING OUR TWINS!



Eldon with his friend Arón



Annie's high school graduation party



Julie



Our Christmas donkey surprised us recently! Here Eldon, Jemimah and Levi are enjoying the new addition to our camp farm.



Annie and friend Abby Norris with the twins



SUSANA'S STORY

By Isabel Tuohy

"Life is too boring!" Susana thought as she walked home from school one sunny afternoon in Puruándiro. "My parents never let me do anything."

She began to wistfully think of her friends and all the things they had that she didn't. "If I only had a phone, a boyfriend, and new clothes, I'd be happy!" She decided.

At fourteen years of age, Susana had always been a nice girl. She was obedient and didn't do the crazy things many did at that age.

As the years went by her heart grew more and more discontent. She longed for happiness. She needed more fun, something to satisfy her empty soul.

And so Susana's pursuit for happiness began.

When she entered high school, Susana decided that now she would take advantage, and do all the things she hadn't been allowed to do before. Now she would be happy! She gained a circle of friends that she constantly hung out with. She chose them over her own family. At home her parents would just fight. With her friends Susana felt whole. They would party. Partying led to drinking. Drinking led to wildness. It was all so fun and exciting.

"What!! How could you? No!" Susana slammed the door behind her as her parents yelled after her, "Susana! Come back here! Now!"

She ignored them and stormed out of the house. She couldn't believe it.

Her father had just told her that he was moving her and her sister Silvia to Panindicuaro, a town several miles away. Miles away from her friends and everything that made her happy.

Her parents had decided that their daughters' wildness had gotten out of hand. She needed to be distanced from this bad company that was influencing her.

A few weeks later, in spite of their protests, Susana and Silvia were left alone in a rented house in the remote town, away from parties and friends.

Everything seemed so empty and meaningless now. Overwhelming loneliness and depression took over. She would never be happy like this.

It had all slipped so quickly through her fingers. Was anything in this life guaranteed?

Susana's family was Catholic, though they never really went to mass. Susana had heard about God and the Bible. That very year she had taken a Bible study from her best friend's aunt, who was a believer. They had invited her to a youth camp once too. But she didn't like it, and the truth was, none of this "religious stuff" interested her.

This summer Susana was dying of boredom. When they invited her to the youth camp again, she and Silvia agreed to go. What else did they have to do in this backwater town, with no friends to hang out with?

This camp was different. The teachings, the testimonies, they all seemed to make more sense now. They were actually impacting. Susana longed for the happiness she saw in these young people. It wasn't the kind of happiness she had found in her friends. It was something that ran deeper. She understood that to get this peace and happiness, she had to trust in Jesus Christ to forgive her of her sins. She knew very

well that she was a sinner. She had sinned so much these past years. Too much. She supposed God couldn't forgive her. She wasn't good, like these people were. She had done way worse things than any of them. God could forgive them, but not her. But then other young people stood up to give their testimonies, youth like her. Some of them said they had been wild, rebellious, or drunkards. This gave her hope that she could be saved like them and be happy. But, would it really work? Would she be happy?

She couldn't leave her friends, her life. They were all she had. The teaching that helped change her perspective was one given by a gringo, Nate Persson. He was good at telling stories. And he told the youth a story in that particular teaching that struck Susana and made her think a lot.

"There once was a young girl that lived alone with her father. They were very poor. Her father had to work all day in the coal mines to provide for her. The little girl had never owned anything valuable. But one special day her father came home with a present for her. The little girl was so excited. He drew from his pocket a string of plastic pearls. Oh, the joy! They were so pretty! The prettiest thing the girl had ever had. She squealed in delight and held the pearls tightly in her hand. She held them up to the firelight to watch them gleam. How happy she was! Gazing lovingly at her, her father asked, "My daughter, do you trust me?"

Still in awe of the pearls in her hand, she nodded.

"Then throw those pearls in the fire."

The girl's head jerked up in shock. What? Throw away this precious gift?

"Father, no! I can't throw these away! They're all I have!"

"Trust me, my daughter. Throw them in the fire."

Struggling to understand, she looked questioningly at her father. Could he really mean it? She had always trusted him. But this? This seemed too hard to do! She didn't want to let go. But finally she decided to trust and obey her father. With a trembling hand she tossed the precious plastic pearls into the fire.

Smiling, her father put his hand in his pocket. "Daughter, I have something else for you. Something better." He drew out a string of real pearls. They were much more valuable than the plastic pearls. More lasting. Even more beautiful.

The girl gasped, her heart filling with joy. How glad she was that she had trusted her good father, exchanging that which she thought was so precious for something far better."

Nate proceeded to explain how God often calls us to let go of things in this world, to give us something better. Susana thought of her friends. She knew God wanted her to leave them to follow Him wholeheartedly. But it was so hard! Deep down she knew she wasn't happy. She felt good for a while, but when the party was over, she was left feeling empty and guilty. God was offering her something better! Deep, lasting happiness! Forgiveness of sins! He had died for her, because He loved her! And He was now calling her to let go and trust Him.

After talking to a lady there at the camps, Susana decided to surrender her life to Christ. Through that very same teaching her sister Silvia also came to believe.

It was a struggle at first to leave her friends and find other things to fill her time with. But quickly Susana realized that her friends weren't real friends. As soon as she told them she didn't want to drink anymore, they made fun of her. They left her. As easy as that. As Susana read her Bible daily and grew in her faith, she experienced the happiness that she had been seeking her whole life. Jesus Christ was the One who loved her, knew her, and filled her with joy. He was the purpose of her life. And it was wonderful.

(Left) Susana (far left), with her sister Silvia and Isabel.
(Below) Susana teaching a Bible class to children in Puruándiro.
This past year, Susana has been part of the discipleship program at Camp Berea.

