

Dear Family of the Lord;

As I begin to write these words I must thank our Lord for His faithfulness and yours too for the work in the kingdom. I am writing with a grateful heart thinking about the things the Lord allows us to participate in. I must confess every day that passes I feel smaller and less capable to do anything unless He helps me. Thank you Lord for allowing us to serve you and work in your eternal purpose.

October

The Church celebrated the diversity of nations at the park. After service, everyone showcased a different dish from their country and some even sported typical dresses for the occasion.

The ladies are very good in having all kinds of gatherings where not only they are being edified, but also as an opportunity of evangelism. Pompano ladies asked me to drive them to a ladies' tea in Daytona Beach. The Holy Hill congregation united about fifteen congregations to have a lesson while having cake and tea. About ten ladies from Pompano attended.

November

For the past four years Luis Olivo our beloved brother has hosted and organized along with four other brothers including me a men's conference that focuses on our spiritual growth and service for the Lord. It has been a refreshing time to put a pause to our daily work and rest and listen to the Lord's word with different speakers from across the country. This year Jorge, Ismael, Alvaro (I have something else to say about him later) and I drove all night Friday to be in Greer, South Carolina where a Spanish congregation lead by brother Carlos Hugues worships. The trip itself was part of our learning experience. Saturday evening as the conference ended, we began the journey back recharged. We made a stop in Savannah Georgia and worshiped the Lord at the park where the Riverwalk is. We sang, we prayed, we listened to God's word, we had communion with the Lord's supper and yes, we were reminded of our offering to the Lord. It was a special moment as we worshipped with songs and people stopping what they were doing to just be still and for a moment be a part of something bigger that was happening. Something that reminded us all of who He is, and who we are because of Him. Thank you, Lord, for who you are and who you have called us to be.

Brother Ivan, a preacher from the Naples congregation, took advantage of our brother Julio Meza that came from Monterrey Mexico to the men's conference and celebrated his birthday with a Bible lesson given by brother Julio. Ivan bought a pig and stuffed it with rice and put it inside a barbecue pit for hours. That night we pigged out again ha ha!

The ladies in Pompano have a weekly bible class on Tuesday mornings, that allows them to be in the middle of the community. Several ladies have come to the bible studies and have obeyed the gospel because of this effort. It was then befitting that the ladies take a Tuesday in November to have a thanksgiving celebration. They were rejoicing over the recent decision of sister Johana a brand-new addition to the body of Christ that had been part of those studies for almost four years.

Between preachers we always help each other out, but sometimes is more special than others. Our brother and sister and friends for years Pedro and Nila Bolivar of the West Orange congregation; asked me to perform their 25th anniversary ceremony. I was honored and very excited to be able to take on such a privileged role.

Pedro had double intentions when he asked me, because he then asked me to teach and preach the class the next day Sunday morning.

After service in Orlando we drove back to be a part of a joint thanksgiving service with our brothers and sisters in Coral Springs. Only by the grace of our Lord, we made it on time and it helped that their service was starting at 4:30 pm that evening. We enjoyed the fellowship afterwards with a pot luck. By the way now that I think of it, that was the day I began to gain a little bit more.... Well not knowledge if you know what I mean.

We continue praying and planning with the brethren of the Broadview Church for a possible Spanish Church/Ministry in their congregation. We had a luncheon together to plan our first bilingual service. That Sunday our brother Jorge Palomeque from Pompano was asked to preach and I translated. It was such an amazing moment seeing, and hearing Jorge preach the passage of Acts 9. The Lord used him mightily. Some moments while translating I had to hold back tears thinking about our great God and how he changes our lives. Jorge preached his first sermon three years ago, on thanksgiving after just six months of being baptized and to see him there preaching reminded me of the power of the Lord.

We celebrated that day with the whole Church as Emilio and Irma, our sister's Betty's sister came forward to be baptized. Praise the Lord!

Marriages are very important in the Church and we have had an initiative from Eduardo and Janet to go out to dinner, lunch, have an activity at someone else's home with the couples. We try to have this once a month, with couple's that are already in the Lord and couples that have yet to be. A devotional is always given, with an opportunity of discussion.

The Flagler Church had one of those activities for couples and invited me to give a lesson. Pompano couples went that evening and together we drew the garden with our spouse and remembered how blessed we were to have a person by our side to walk hand in hand with the Lord.

Thou shalt not neglect the youth. Many of our youth are part of single parent households or broken families, blended families and so on. Maribel and I invited the youth to a thanksgiving dinner at our house where she set up the table specially for them, and we cooked and sat down to eat together giving thanks to God for family in the Lord. He is the one that makes us complete, He is the one that makes us one, He is the one that mends the broken and abandoned. He is the one that we give thanks to and we must convey that to our youth that in this world we live in, we can see God's love in God's family.

Samuel, our sister Janet husband, invited us to his house to eat a thanksgiving dinner. Again, we had an opportunity to go to a house where more than half of the guests did not know the Lord. He cooked a Pig. Yeah! You guessed it we pigged out again. But we also had the great opportunity to have a Bible study that same night. About twenty of the guests sat around to listen to the word and we were grateful to our Lord for providing another opportunity to share of His word, with people we had no idea existed. How Great Is Our Lord! The possibilities are endless. Edwin, Claudia, Myrna, Maria and many

others were paying attention at God's holy word. We pray that it will not come back empty and we are sure, because of what the Lord says that it won't.

Every year on November 28th we celebrate our anniversary. This year was our 19th and so far, so good. I honestly think is because of our Lord's grace and mercy that He put us together. I told Maribel one time that if she ever left me...I was going with her. I told her that if I could turn back time and could choose who to marry, I would choose her in a heartbeat. She is a wonderful woman of God and I came out ahead when she said yes to me. She is truly a blessing in my life and I know that she is in our kids' lives and the Church as well. I am not going to lie though, it hasn't always been easy. She is from Colombia, I am from Mexico, she is from the coast, I am from the city, she is hyper active, I am just active. One thing unites us, our love for our God, and His people. I thank God for my wife. She is a precious stone in the Lord's holy building.

December

Talking about building and Maribel, she mentioned to me that they were renting a space in Pompano. We have been growing thank the Lord and we needed something bigger. I went to see the place and with the Lord's help we have moved in. We are praying that one day we can find a place for the congregation, but in the meantime our Lord has shown His faithfulness and has never let us down.

Brother Tony Bustos from the Palm Beaches congregation was a 46-year-old brother that in our beginnings in Pompano came and helped in anything he could. He was an evangelistic brother and was passionate about the lost souls. Brother Bruno Valle from Nicaragua came one year to Pompano where he preached for us at the park. There Tony and Bruno met and made a bond like the one David and Jonathan had. Tony went several times to Nicaragua to evangelistic campaigns with brother Bruno. Sunday December 4 as we were going home we received the news that brother Tony collapsed while preaching. That was the way the Lord took him. Tony loved preaching, sharing the gospel and God took him doing what he loved. It was a bitter sweet moment. Brother Bruno flew from Nicaragua and led his service. Brother Tony wanted always to see the auditorium full, well he did it. That day the auditorium was full of people that the Lord touched using his son Tony. We remember him with this note.

Our brother Bruno preached for us the next day, and Jorge, Ulbert two more preachers called us the very next day to have a meeting where we could prepare others for ministry. Tony's death was a wakeup call for all of us. Time is our best resource to invest in eternity.

Esteban Pineda is a brother from Panama. He befriended us in facebook and one day messaged me to ask me a question. From that point on we have gotten together Sunday nights from 10 to 12 to study different topics of the New Testament. He lives in a rural area in Panama and grew up in the Church, but his father passed and now he feels he should get more involved and wants to prepare himself. I thank the Lord for the opportunity to share with him.

A new avenue has opened up for us to preach and teach the gospel. Every time now we get together we share the study or the full service live in social media. Some 200 to 300 people watch or share to their contacts making it possible for us to be in Pompano and basically any place in the world at the same time. The Lord is good!

Sister Betty invited Jorge, Erika and her three daughters to service. They have come sporadically, but we are praying for an open door. Also, Claudia and her two kids started coming and now they want a Bible

study at home with Rudy her husband. He is Catholic, but does not mind a study at home. Pray for this opportunity that the Lord will touch this family with his word.

Giovanni, Noelia, Andres, Alejandra, Cyndee, Mateo, Carlos, Rolando, Roberto, Pamela and a few others have been coming or have been a part of a Bible study recently. The Lord is calling His people. That is why we are having discipleship classes with the men on Friday nights, Ladies on Tuesday mornings and the whole week in homes to be ready for whomever the Lord calls to him.

The ladies had a teacher's workshop taught by our sister Janet. Preparing them for the teaching of the kids.

Talking about kids, Ismael's lawyer donated money for the kids to have gifts at Christmas, also the Pompano kids were invited to the Homestead congregation where they received gifts as well. We emphasize to them of course that our best gift is Jesus and incomparable to anything.

Pray for Felipe, Catalina, Ilaria, to obey the call. Also pray for Roberto Carlos, Alba, and Caroline. For Bryan and Silvia. They have been coming for at least a year and have participated in Bible studies.

Broadview Church had a garage give away to reach out to the community. We have been invited to participate in their evangelistic efforts. They went out with some of the Pompano members to sing and pray throughout the community for the Lord to open hearts. That week we also had a prayer breakfast the day after the President was sworn in and Sunday we celebrated again with another bilingual service.

Every year during Christmas we hosted a bonfire for the teen agers where they played a game called white elephant and have a devotional thought. This year the bonfire was held at Benigno and Maria's home. And the devotional was given by Fabio Quintero Jarley and Arturo's dad. He emphasized the need for us to have the gift of eternal life through Jesus.

Maribel also had her end of the year party with the group of ladies she studies with on thursday nights in Boca Raton. Pray for them to come to Christ. We were saddened by the death of Gladys's Nayibe's mom recently.

Christmas is a very special time for our family because we set aside time to be the eight of us together. This year we were not sure that would happen, because Jarley lives in Honduras, Arturo lives in Atlanta, and Isabella lives in Oklahoma. The Lord provided a way and we spent the 25th and 26th together. Celebrated Giancarlo turning 20 and Arturo turned 17 on the 31st of December. God is so good.

There is a place called Riverside retreat on the west coast of Florida. About thirty five of us signed up to have a New Year's retreat. We did it last year at the CFBC, but this year we wanted to go somewhere closer. We had a great time around the bonfire looking at the river. Remember God's promises to Abraham and looked at the sky that was filled with shining stars. Later on we went inside to have dinner and pray for the year 2017.

January

We went to bed not too late after that and had the worship service where Jorge brought us a lesson about the Lord being our GPS who would guide our steps throughout the year and our lives. After the service, when we were getting ready to go for a walk, Sarai; Maria's daughter and our sister in Christ came with Yasmin, Joel and Lety's daughter, shouting "Yasmin wants to be baptized!" Praise the Lord! Starting the New Year with the Lord. The river was waiting and we went down with her and took her confession. The water was cooooldddd! Never the less The Lord warmed us up with His love and Yasmin became a new member of His family.

While we were there celebrating, the rest of the Church was in Coral Springs with the Church there in their new place of worship.

We started the year running literally!

Alvaro is like a son for us. We met him and his sisters about 17 years ago at the Hialeah congregation. Alvaro spent many weekends with Manuel another boy now 28 years old as well. We saw them grow up and Alvaro after a year at Harding decided to enlist in the Marines. He finished his service of eight years and we had not had much contact with him, but one day as he was praying for God to guide him, I sent him a message by mistake or so I thought and voila!. He was back in our lives and more important in the Church's body. He has been actively serving every weekend with us since October. He had asked us if we would drive him to Disney on January 8th to run a marathon. We took him with the condition that we would go to service afterward there. It was about 30 degrees that morning and even though we took him to run, he decided it was too cold to do it. We worshiped that day with Pedro and Nila at the West Orange Church and after service celebrated my birthday together. We took advantage to start talking and planning about this year's Bible camp. After we finished we drove to Palm Coast to visit with Mario and Iliana whom are working on the new Spanish ministry at Bummel C.O.C.. They also are involved in foreign missions and asked if we could go this year with them to La Esperanza, Honduras. Please pray for us to be able to go from June 6-14. We need to raise \$1200 to do it. We know if the Lord wants us to go, He will provide.

Preaching in Hialeah with our family there has always been very encouraging. The Lord has blessed us with family that love Him, and where we grew up in our faith. They have always been very supportive and we love having them very close to us and in our hearts.

The Church is not only growing because of people converting, but also because there are more babies now. Sister Kayla, Mauricio's wife from Coral Springs was blessed with another little girl Emily. The Church had a baby shower for her and showered her with love.

Luis, Esperanza and Jacob have been called up to serve in the new Spanish ministry at the Church of Christ in McKinney Texas. We are praying for them and are helping as a Church for their support. Please keep them in your prayers.

Family, please continue lifting us up in your prayers. The Lord has no limits. He will do and fulfil His plan on us and we ask that everything that He has planned for our family come to pass in the name of Jesus. Amen