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THE STORM "AGATHA"

On Friday, May 28, we were surprised by the arrival of "Agatha", the first storm of the season. We did not expect to receive so much rain. It was necessary to suspend our Sunday morning service on May 30 because of the condition of the land and the fact that we do not have an adequate roof to protect us from the rain. On that same Sunday, I received a call concerning a certain refugee community that some of you have visited with the medical teams. They told me that 28 families from the community had to evacuate their homes because of the rain. They were moved to another refugee center and did not have some of the basic items they needed for their care. I went to see what they needed and was able to visit many brothers and sisters in Christ who told me their experiences. They all had to leave with just the clothes on their backs and had to walk through mud up to their knees with the mountain seeming to fall down upon them. I contacted different members of the church and we were able to help with basic items like soap, shampoo, toilet paper and a bit of food. Thankfully, the government was taking care of their food needs and giving them a place to sleep. However, on June 4, they were told to return to their homes. They were very fearful to do so. The community was built right on top of an area filled with natural springs. Even the name of the community "Springs" speaks of the condition of the land. Please pray for these people that are in such desperate need: (1) That they will receive consolation from the Word of the Savior and be able to give their burdens to the Lord and (2) That they might receive the help they need to live in safety in this world and be able to care for their families.



THE SEED HAS BEEN SOWN

During the last 3 years, many people from different churches have visited us and participated with us in the ministry of preaching the *Gospel* here in Santa Ana. Many people have been contacted, knowing that in the Lord's timing there will be fruit. During these last few months, two testimonies have touched my heart:

1) A young man from the telephone company came to my house to make some repairs. When he came into the house, he commented that he already knew me because two years ago we had been in his school with a team from the United States and preached the *Gospel*. He told me that on that occasion he received Christ as his personal Savior and that now he is attending a church on the south side of the city and is studying in a Bible Institute to become a pastor.



2) A couple that are both doctors with whom I had a casual relationship attended a special dinner in the year 2000 for doctors and nurses that we gave at our church when a music group from Liberty University came. The team sang and we preached the *Gospel*. This was this couple's first contact with the *Gospel of Jesus Christ*. For years, I did not have any more contact with them. But, two months ago, they came to our church and expressed a need to come to the Lord. They

had never forgotten that night so long ago and they wanted to be under the ministry of God's Word. I am meeting with them periodically and they are attending church. We hope that each day they will affirm their relationship with Christ. After living so much 'religiosity', the only hope they have is repentant hearts and living their lives in a personal, daily relationship with Christ.

For all of us that have the privilege of preaching the *Gospel*, I want to tell you, "Do not faint or give up." The fruit will come in its time. The Lord is always opening doors to preach the *Gospel of Jesus Christ*!

FILM MINISTRY

Christ is opening places to carry the *Good News* by means of *Gospel Films*. Together with pastors of communities with great needs, we have been able to deal with themes of great interest to their people in the churches and schools during this summer.

The way has been opened in a school located on the outskirts of town that has serious problems with delinquency and violence. I am beginning with the smallest children between 8 and 12 years old who are in great danger of mistreatment and abuse in their own homes and easily fall prey to the gangs. The purpose of each talk is to take these little ones to Jesus. I pray that the *Seed of the Word of God* and the *Truth of His Love and Life* will be sown in their hearts so that when the days come for them to make decisions in their lives to choose between good and evil, they will give their hearts to Jesus. Please pray that the *Word* will be given in clarity and power, with much love, so that Christ will fill the emptiness of their hearts.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- God's care for the people in perilous living conditions and provision for their needs
- The people we contact with the Word of the *Gospel* will have a true and personal encounter with Christ
- Christ's protection in my life each day

In Him,

Leonel Arriaga