



Shotgun Journals: Ministering Where You Are

Ministry:

The sun is shining, the palm trees are swaying, and the waves are crashing. But don't let the sun shining in the background fool you...or the beautiful palm tree in our backyard...or the pretty beaches of our area...we are surely not on vacation. We are in ministry on the mission field in Mexico, and although we are richly blessed by a God who always provides, always protects, and always remains, there are still many needs to get all the work done ahead of us. We covet your prayers for us!! We so appreciate your encouragement! And we need your financial support as God leads. Whatever He's calling you to, He wants to get things to us and through us to get things done for the kingdom, and we are so thankful for your faithfulness!!

Last month, we finished our 1st session of Spanish. During our break, my mother in law and sister in law visited us and blessed us tremendously. It was so good to see them! Last week we started session two. We are so thankful for such an intense but thoroughly immersed program.

Being Involved:

My question since we got here has been- where can we be involved in ministry in the church? We've always been involved in church so it would only be natural that we would just jump right in. Our focus is learning Spanish but we want to be used where we are planted!

But God in His infinite wisdom has ways of refocusing and showing me exactly where the need is. "Your ministry is right outside your door." The children who come everyday to our door to play with our kids and stay for a movie night on the weekend...they are our ministry! The people He sends our way are who He wants us to minister to. Our neighbors and the people of this town! I can love them! The kids need a place to go to be unconditionally loved, have fun, and be safe! We can teach them respect, speaking life, and Godly character- but most of all we can just love them and share the love of Christ to them! The children can come to our home and feel at home! People can feel at home with our family because at the center of it is Christ! In addition to the people in town, we have been able befriend, encourage, pray with, and get to know many of the Spanish school missionaries. It's been a blessing to get to know each of them and pray for their needs in adjusting and living this life as well! God is showing me He brings the people to you! He brings things to you for you to do. He brings people to you love and to minister to...you just need to be willing and ready!

When we first got here, my husband met a man who came to our property looking for money. He smelled of alcohol, angry he did not get paid for a job, and thirsty. My husband offered him water because he was thirsty and had the opportunity to share Christ with him. "When you know Jesus, it's Him who provides for you and not man." He was so excited when my husband shared..."your talking about the word!! I know the word, I know Jesus." And my husband got to pray with him.

Again, another day, the man came by this time saying he was hungry. So my husband asked him if he wanted something to eat. He did and so we fed him. He did not smell of booze this day.

Another day, again, he came by after a hard day at work and said "hi" to my husband but to not come to close. After working and sweating all day, he had still not gotten paid and had no money for soap to take a shower. My husband gave him an extra soap bar we had so he could take a shower.

All the while, people in town told us not to talk to this guy...his family left him because he was too drunk from a party. He's a drunk, he's no good. But the Holy Spirit was saying different in those moments we encountered this man. And what does God say?

"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me...And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"

-Matt 25:35&40

It's being love to the unloveable; it's being hospitable to and encouraging those around you. It's giving that which you have to those who need it. And it's loving on those who God puts right in front of you!

So I will do what he puts before me as small or big as He desires, and we'll minister to those He puts in our path all the while learning and bettering our Spanish...

Pray for us...

- Pray for more opportunities to minister, to love, to share
- Pray for my husband! He has had some physical attacks on his body since we got here that we know are just that- lies, attacks, distractions! And we speak against them all in Jesus name! We want him 110% healed, whole, and well! So pray for him and God's wisdom in dealing with every situation that comes our way!
- Pray for more continuous, consistent support- God is so good and there is ALWAYS enough!

- Pray for our Spanish Session 3 (and 4 & 5)

We are both paid up through Session 2! Praise the Lord! But we will either need our school paid for or the means to pay the rest ourselves.

The cost for each session for the both of us is \$1100. We know that God is more than able! If you would like to specifically help toward our schooling, please donate to us using PayPal.me/cadenaclan and specify "For Spanish school" in the notes or donate directly to Roca Blanca at <https://dlnelsonroca.com/rocablancaspanish/cost/> and specifically state the donation is for us, James and Ivonne Cadena, and please let us know you have done so! We are so excited to watch God provide for every single need!

- Pray for wisdom and direction in our steps ahead. Possibilities will come and go...but we don't want good things; we want God things for our lives!!

As always thank you!! You mean so much to us and your prayers and support are so needed and so much appreciated!!