



The Ortegas Newsletter
December 2024



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Dearest ones in Christ Jesus ~

Christmas is such a special time to appreciate God’s many blessings in our lives. And when these blessings take the shape of young precious lives changed by the power of Jesus Christ, well, all I can say is that it does not get any better than that. Even more so when these youngsters tell you: *“Pastor, I want you to hold me accountable before God; I need to commit myself to the LORD!”* My wife and I are very excited with the new wave of people who are coming to church. We are now overflowing with them and our sanctuary is getting packed Sunday after Sunday. Now, both parking lots are just as full and we continue to have “the same good problem” as when we only had one.

On Sunday November 10, some of our young worship members put on an evangelistic program to share the gospel with youngsters their own age who do not know the Lord. We called this our NEW GEN Event. This is the first of its kind and we ran the entire program in English. Caro Sanchez has quite the evangelistic spirit and is currently sharing the gospel everywhere she goes, confronting her friends about their sin, praying with them, holding Bible studies, etc. I led her to the Lord just a few months ago, and just baptized her this past Sunday, along with 3 other youngsters. What an exciting experience this has been for so many of us who continue to be absolutely amazed by God’s grace.



We have been going non-stop, but will have to make some changes, especially if we go to two different services, one in Spanish and the other one in English for our new younger audience.



All this comes about when our assistant pastor has announced that he is stepping down as such and out of Maranatha to start another venture all together different. We are having to restructure fast for 2025. All the while, I have added a new class on hermeneutics for next month for those who want to study, interpret and hopefully teach the Word of God.

Pictured to my left is Caro Sanchez, fresh out of the water, after joyfully obeying the Lord in baptism. To her left is Mario Serrano, a God-fearing young man who, along with his wife, Kerena, is teaching these college-age youngsters. They both have their hands very full with this vibrant group.

Pictured between Mario and I are Andee Gomez, Caro Sanchez, Michelle Villanueva and Brandon Ibarra. These are all very young in the faith of Jesus Christ, in their first love for the Lord, and already sharing Christ with



their friends. This has been a great year as far as making new contacts and sharing Christ with so many of them and seeing them coming to

Christ and also growing in Christ. As physically drained that I am, I have often concluded that their hunger for the Lord is my own spiritual nourishment and great source of personal encouragement. Please help us in prayer for additional strength to keep going into 2025 with the same level of passion and commitment in sharing the message.



Our daughters, Sarai in San Antonio, Priscilla with husband Brad and children Ollie and Levi in Austin and Sylvia with us in McAllen are doing well and also pushing forward in life.

Finally, my wife and I would like to deeply express our profound sense of gratitude to those of you who make our ministry in McAllen and in Cuba possible. We are really looking forward to what the gracious Lord has for us next year.



May the Lord grant all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025!

By God's Grace;
For God's Glory!

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