



Account #801165

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*Engaging the One to Reach the Many*

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Dear Friends,

"...In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

As we reflect on the Easter story that recounts the final days, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, marking the foundation of what we, as His followers, believe. We can all recall the words in Luke, "He has risen, Jesus is not here." Because of the sacrifice Jesus made for us, we can share with you testimonies from Mexico and the Caribbean of lives transformed and serving the Lord.

NQ (name changed for security) shares, "I, as a Caribbean church Christian leader, do not want to get involved in political issues; rather, I want to walk alongside the Caribbean Church, accompany believers, and serve communities with faithfulness and respect for their context. My call now is to serve as a bridge, encourage and strengthen brothers and sisters in faith, and coordinate support in a discrete and responsible manner. Trusting that God sustains His church even in difficult situations."

Yos (name changed for security) shares with us how God transformed his life; he is now a believer and serving the Lord: "One night, I arrived at a house church close to my home. I had no desire to attend the meeting they were having, but something attracted me to go in. When I entered the home, people showed incalculable love; they shared a meal with me, and honestly, I was hungry.

After I ate, I decided that I didn't want to remain there. I left the house meeting and walked a long way from the house church. I decided to return, but I began to hesitate about whether or not I should enter the house church, but something pushed me inside. The music and the words that the pastors shared gave me a lump in my throat, and I began to cry; I was unable to contain myself. The pastor asked if there was anyone who would like to decide to follow Jesus. I don't know how, but my hand raised up and I realized that I was receiving Jesus Christ in my heart. I have suffered a lot and have made others suffer, but God gave me another opportunity to be one of His children. I have joy in my life to be able to serve my Savior."

#### A CITY OF CRISIS, A MINISTRY OF LIGHT

In Acapulco, Mexico, violence and vulnerability shape daily life. Pastor Fernando and his wife, Manoa, are bringing restoration through OMS' Satura Mexico ministry. Fernando understands bondage firsthand. Once addicted to crystal meth, he now seeks opportunities to minister in rehabilitation centers, including those run by cartels. Manoa, a trained psychologist and survivor of human trafficking, leads outreach to women with similar trauma, offering expressions of God's love. Deeply rooted in their community, Fernando and Manoa intentionally engage local youth drawn to narco culture. The most recent community event drew 80 participants, and the community is asking for more. Signs of renewal are emerging in a once-dormant church. One woman accepted the Lord and asked for prayers for her son battling addiction.

Cartel presence and violence remain daily realities. Still, Fernando says, "The enemy tries to instill fear, but God keeps encouraging us. Remember us in prayers for protection and courage for those serving in dangerous areas, healing for individuals facing trauma and addiction, and open hearts among the youth."

In His service,

Willie and Joani Hochhalter