



Bible Art Ministries

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Report from Colombia

By German Rozo

Buses

With the schools closed for exams and then the Christmas holiday and our summer break, we have been preaching more on the buses, and visiting the jails, where extra visits are especially appreciated at this time of year.

We have focused on Romans 10:10 *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.* Many people heard the message, and many of them repeated the prayer to receive Jesus, and often did so in a loud voice, in public, not being ashamed.

Jails

Pastor Ricardo Leon Quintero often visits "La Picota" jail, as does Julio. We told you several months ago about a baptism service he held in the prison that we helped out at. He asked Julio to join him in the ministry at another local prison, "La Modelo." Pastor Ricardo obtained permission for Julio to join him for Monday services. They shared the story of the prodigal son, and of Psalm 3 (written by David as he fled from his son Absalom -- from the Lord comes deliverance).



An open air service in the prison yard



Visiting in the recreation yard

We are not allowed to take pictures in La Picota jail, where we regularly minister. But photos in La Modelo are allowed, so we have included some here. Though its name, translated, means "The Model Prison," this is a tough prison, with 11,000 inmates and lots of violence.

At La Picota jail, an inmate who had heard the gospel message many times when he was "on the

street," has been faithfully helping our prayer group. He had been reading and praying on Psalm 91 (it begins *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow the Almighty, I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.*) He wanted to change the cell block he was in, because the cell block where he was had many drug addicts who were still using. Shortly after that, a guard came with a list of inmates who were being transferred to a better place. His name was the 91st on the list! We pray that he maintains his faith and successfully returns to his wife and family on release.

We also use the Mailbox Club lessons in the prison. One inmate, who was studying the course, "A

Country Named Heaven,” gave thanks for being able to learn more about God and be guided in his ways.

Kelly Velez, who volunteers as a missionary at the women’s prison, uses the time when waiting in line with other visitors to be admitted, to listen to the family’s concerns. One young lady, Tania, told of how her husband was in La Modelo jail, and gave Kelly the name and Kelly arranged for her husband Julio to visit Tania’s husband. The man has begun to be receptive to the Word of the Lord – after spending years not wanting to have anything to do with evangelism.

Tania was very sad, Kelly gave her a word of encouragement and urged her to move forward.

On December 7, Kelly met with a sister of the faith who was delivering toiletries and clothes for a



Julio (on left), Pastor Ricardo’s sister, his wife, and Pastor Ricardo

young woman from the countryside who had been sentenced to 12 years. Kelly offered her support with learning “the system.”

Schools

Some months ago the “Humble School,” a poor, private school in one of the poorest neighbourhoods, was promised additional

funding by a non-profit organization. There has been no action in support of that promise, and the school principal is concerned that the money might not come through. We are praying the organization will make good on its promise.

Happy New Years, and many blessings in the New Year.

From Canada

By Rev. Stan Crookall

We are blessed to be able to report that, for the second year in a row, we have had a surplus of income over expenses. We have asked German to hire a third missionary and thus be able to increase the number of presentations and the number of children taking Mailbox Club lessons.

The Board of Bible Art Ministries met in December, and provided additional direction, re-emphasizing the ministry to children, supporting the use of the Mailbox Club follow up, and

suggesting that I prepare a book that includes a full page picture of each of our paintings, along with a full page description of the painting, its message, and how it has been used. They also approved an increase in salaries. Our missionaries are Colombian nationals and are paid according to Colombian standards, which is much more efficient than paying North Americans to go to Colombia as missionaries. We gave a small honorarium to the volunteers, and a necklace that had a faith motif.

Prayer has always been an important part of my life. As a child, my mother made sure we brought in each New Year on our knees, praying, at midnight.

When praying, I thank God for all the blessings he has given. I ask for a new cleansing from all sins, known and unknown. I pray for his favour in my work. It is that simple – praying about everything, praying without ceasing, as in Ephesians 6.

If you aren’t experienced in praying, simply ask God to bless our mission, keeping your prayers simple and specific, about gaining permission to present in a school, about supporting the 4,000 children taking the Mailbox Club lessons, about the prison ministry, about the people on the buses. We need and appreciate your prayer support. It works for other areas of your prayer life too.