

THE BODY OF CHRIST

GOD IS AT WORK

Last week I went down to Tecate, Mexico with a member of our church to plan for an upcoming outreach opportunity. The guy I traveled with, Miguel, happens to be a diesel engine mechanic who has a powerful testimony, love for the Lord, and passion to serve Him. It was great hanging out together. As we pulled up to our partner church, we climbed out and immediately found ourselves on a construction site. Piles of cement block stood on one side of the yard, stacks of rebar were close by, and there was a trench running around the perimeter of the yard where the foundation was being set. It was not a picture of a shuttered church waiting to regather, but a beautiful picture of a church on the move. As we greeted Pastor Francisco and his wife Graciela, we learned that while people in the community were forced to stay inside and isolate over much of the last year in Mexico, the foundation of this community church was being established and broadened day by day.

We soon noticed a gentleman working on a huge cement mixer, trying to get the engine started again. Within seconds, Miguel came alongside to troubleshoot the engine and help get it running again. As they worked, Francisco shared about the ongoing work of the church. He talked about discipleship groups continuing to meet; he shared about outreach they had done to bless the kids of the community, and he talked about the leadership role the church was playing to care for people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Then Francisco mentioned a community on the other side of the mountain near them that had no gospel witness. Francisco described how he felt led to make the hour walk several times a month. He would go and sit under a shaded porch area and share Jesus with whoever God brought to him. I could tell in his tone that Francisco felt God's leading to launch a church in this new community. As our time drew to a close, we walked back outside. The cement mixer engine roared to life and smiles broke out all around. We promised to return soon to encourage the local church, and to demonstrate the love of Jesus to shut-ins around the community. Francisco promised to keep preaching and reaching others for Jesus.

ROMANS 12

The entire experience lasted just a few hours, but it has brought me joy again and again over the last week as I reflect on how God is at work through His people. He brought Miguel on the trip to help and encourage, he sent Francisco over the hill to preach and engage. He set Francisco's church in a community that needed a faithful witness and He created Cornerstone to do the same. I'm reminded of Romans 12:3-11, which says:

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

REFLECTION

Where have you seen God in action recently? How have you seen the Body of Christ working together to accomplish God's will? Before you begin to tackle the challenges of the day, allow yourself to be reminded that God's plan is unfolding right now and we're a part of it. Be encouraged.

May God be glorified in our lives today as we move with genuine love, holding fast to what is good, and outdoing one another in showing honor. Let us use the gifts God has given to us so that our lives might glorify His Holy Name. Amen.