



Gutierrez Missions Update

<http://www.mtwsa.net/people/ngutierrez/>

November

Our support level is at about 75%. Please continue to support us in this ministry!

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November 20, 2006

"Are you any good?" Henri looked me up and down as he asked with a scowl.

"Yes," I politely said as I put on my soccer cleats. I had recently heard about a Saturday morning pick-up game in San Diego, and was a little nervous since this was the first time I was playing soccer with this group of hispanic guys.

"Listen man," Henri returned, "I'm serious, don't waste my time; I don't want anyone on my team who messes around! If you can't play hard, get off my team." Shocked by his rudeness, (and use of some inappropriate words), I decided just to play. Henri was right, he didn't want anyone on his team who didn't play well, and any mistake that a team member made (including me) was met with colorful comments and insults. It was clear that Henri was better at making enemies than he was at playing soccer.

After the game as I walked off the field, I looked around to see who the Lord might give me to

witness to, since I was there for that purpose, not just for exercise. I pulled out a sports drink from my backpack and looked around for an opportunity. As providence would have it, my eyes focused on Henri. He was sitting right next to my car keys. *Oh man! Are you serious? This must be one of those "love your enemies" situations that I would have rather saved for a different enemy at a different time!*

Fortunately, the Lord is more powerful than my will, and before I knew it, not only was I handing Henri the drink, but we were talking about Jesus and his salvation *in my car* as I gave him a ride home! About three hours later, Henri told me that he "almost got it." He was

repeating what I told him in his own words, and even apologized for how he had treated me earlier, but he needed a little more time to think about it. We parted ways until the next soccer game, and I am looking forward to continuing a friendship with Henri. Please pray with me for his salvation and that his heart would continue to be softened as he hears the Gospel.

Alicia and I are still enjoying our ministry with the church, Mision Vida Nueva. As the months have flown by, I have been given more and more responsibilities in the church, and we have been asked to take on more projects for the congregation. Our most recent task is putting on the Christmas program.

Because the church is so small, they have never done something like this before. We are excited to organize this and hope that it can even be used as a tool to bring in un-churched family and friends.

Every other Saturday night, we have Youth Group for all of the children in our church. We have been teaching them from 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter, and challenging them to memorize portions of it. Every time these children see us, they run up to us excitedly reciting the verses they were supposed to be learning for the week.



It is such a joy to take part in training children how to hide God's Word in their hearts.

Just yesterday, after the church service, we celebrated Thanksgiving with the whole church. As we looked around, we realized that these people have already become part of our family. We laugh and joke around with the adults, hold their babies, play with their children, and share our hearts with each other. Thank you for helping us be a part of this ministry. We are so delighted that God has brought us here, not only for seminary, but especially for the opportunity to be a part of this church and to work with people who we truly love!

With love,

Nathaniel and Alicia

