

CLARK PRAYER UPDATE AND CALENDAR

Dedicated to the Memory of Eldon J. Clark

May/June, 2024



The Lord allowed us the privilege of spending 6 weeks in Washington state to do what we could to support Ted's parents during the final weeks of his dad, Eldon Clark's life. He was 89 years of age and so anxious to go home to glory. Many days, he still commented on his hope of the Lord's return. Upon knowing his time was short, he wrote a very stirring note to his kids and grandkids, rejoicing in the truths of Psalm 23, and in how God had become more real to him than ever. Then he challenged us.... "Redeem the time, Keep the faith, UP AND AT IT, LET'S GET THE JOB DONE. It is on your shoulders now. You have my blessings. Grandpa." He departed peacefully to the Lord's presence on April 2. We will miss him, but are rejoicing in his great gain, and determined to fulfill his challenge!



One desire Dad expressed in his last weeks was that everyone who walked through the door to see or attend to him, would be blessed. God fulfilled this wish. Particularly, we saw this in the life of Holly, his hospice nurse (above, left). She is not a believer but seemed very open to spiritual truth. She shared about her pain as her best friend's 3-year-old daughter Ellie had just been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. Ted began to pray for Ellie each time Holly came, and then she began to ask spiritual questions. This led to numerous opportunities to share the gospel with her and give her a Bible, which she began to read immediately.



His favorite food in the final weeks was ice-cream. He ate amazing quantities of it every day!

The Lord gave Ted the grace and the words to give the gospel at both the funeral and the burial. He used the sermon outline his dad always used in the countless funeral services he conducted: **"2 Masters, 2 Paths, 2 Rewards."** A great many unsaved friends and relatives heard the message. Please pray that many would come to Christ as a result.



Before her final visit on April 2, we were able to get a Bible for her friend, and Bible story books for Holly's young boys and her friend's children. Please pray with us for Holly and her boys, and her friend Nicolette and Ellie. Above all please pray for light to understand Scripture and to be saved!



Michael and Sofi's kids at Grandpa's display table.





Easter sunrise service

The annual Easter camp took place in our absence. We saw the Lord's great kindness to us in providing so many very capable servants of Christ to throw in and help create a smooth camp with deeply edifying teachings and rich fellowship. Juanita, a faithful believer from one of the churches, rejoiced greatly to see her husband, for whom she had prayed 20 years, come to Christ! He expressed to her his newfound love for the Lord in their tent one night. Needless to say, she did not sleep all night as a result of her thankfulness and joy.



For the first time, a group came to the camp from the new little church in Ciudad Hidalgo. The believers who came were so encouraged! One unbelieving couple, Carlos and Adriana, attended the camp and were greatly impacted. They have attended church faithfully for a time in Cd. Hidalgo, as well as weekly Bible studies. Carlos expressed to Michael a deeper understanding of the gospel and they appear to be very close to making a decision for Christ. Please pray that Satan would not take the seed from their hearts and that they would receive the love of the truth, so as to be saved! (2 Thes. 2:10)

←Annie has a WhatsApp group in Spanish to send information to pray for Israel. A few of her group posed for this photo with their t-shirts at the Easter camp. Many more joined the group upon hearing of it. They were excited about the opportunity to each receive the names of 7 Israeli Christian soldiers for whom they could pray, one a day, each week. (We received a list of 400 from a cousin in Israel). Two men who were formerly in the Mexican military took this challenge to heart with enthusiasm.

Also, a generous offering was given by the believers at this camp for evangelism in Israel--altogether \$1,800 (USD!). We were amazed at this heartfelt love poured out for Israel by Mexican believers, in spite of the extremely negative and misleading press they receive here (as in all the world!).

You may remember Trini, a young believer we asked you to pray for many years ago, when her husband ran her off and threatened her life. She was heartbroken upon losing access to her 3 young children through his scheming against her. Eventually, he remarried, then died. She is now married to a growing Christian, Manuel. (right)

Her children, as young adults, have come back to her and most exciting of all, her oldest daughter, Jania, has recently come to Christ! For quite awhile, Jania forcefully rejected the gospel and resisted her mother's efforts to bring her to church. But around a year ago, Jania picked up a Bible and began to read, and could not put it down! Since believing in Christ, she is a transformed person with a transformed face! She witnesses for the Lord at every opportunity. Trini is still praying for her other children. The youngest, Jazmin has made a profession of faith but we are unsure of her sincerity. Her son, Johnny, has a young family. His wife is staunchly Catholic, and he currently resists the gospel message, though as a young boy, he also made a profession of faith at a camp.



In our last update, we asked prayer for the people from our February AMOR Divino in Maravatío, who expressed interest in the gospel message but did not provide contact information. We continue praying for the seed sown in their hearts, that even yet, they might contact us through the number on the tract. We have not received any requests from Maravatío on the ministry phone since our time there.

However, the Lord **did** encourage us not to give up on those who have received tracts and not responded. Caleb and Alma shared two recent stories of people who had been given our tracts in the past and only recently, contacted us! One was from a door-to-door outreach in Zamora, with a group of young people in October. The other is a young woman who received a tract from our team 3 years ago at the hospital in Morelia. She had become hostile to the gospel message when her mother, Yolanda, came to Christ after studying the Bible with Alma. This girl, Erica, did not want any part of it. But one day recently, she was cleaning a desk and spilled a glass of water. She quickly moved a stack of papers, and there, found our tract, which she identified as the same type of tract her mother had. Somehow, this opened her heart and she sought out Alma to learn more from her. Please pray for her salvation!



ISABEL AND EDY

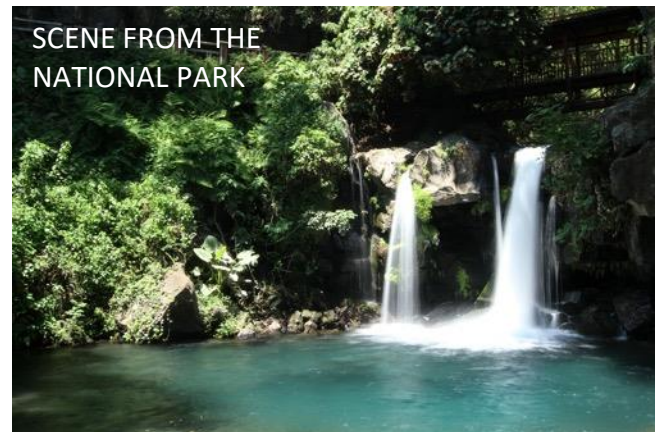
Michael and Sofi have begun weekly evangelistic Bible studies with 6-8 people in Maravatío who had requested a study in their home. Edy and Isabel, a young, newly married couple, have been helping them with these studies. They are hoping to move to this area in the near future, to give themselves full-time to the spread of the gospel. Please pray that those who are receiving these studies would quickly come to understand their need for Christ Jesus and believe in Him as their Savior.

NEXT AMOR DIVINO OUTREACH, COMING UP!

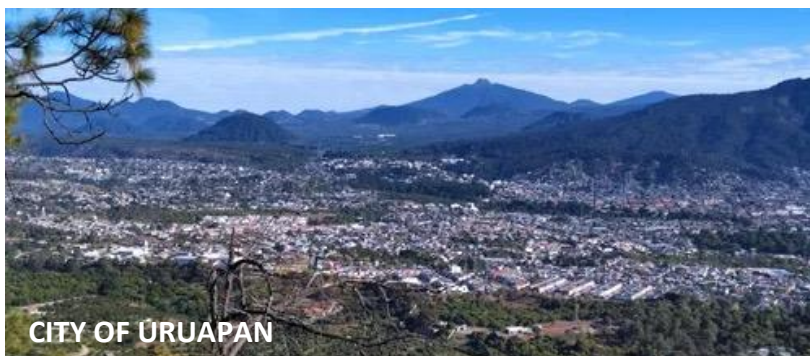
We are excited to announce our next AMOR Divino outreach, from June 2-7 in the city of Uruapan, 2 hours south of us. We value your prayers for this event more than we can express! *“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.” (Ps. 127:1).* We know our labor is all in vain **unless He is in it.**

Uruapan is the second largest city in Michoacán. This semi-tropical city has a large, breath-takingly beautiful national park with an abundantly flowing river and many exquisite waterfalls.

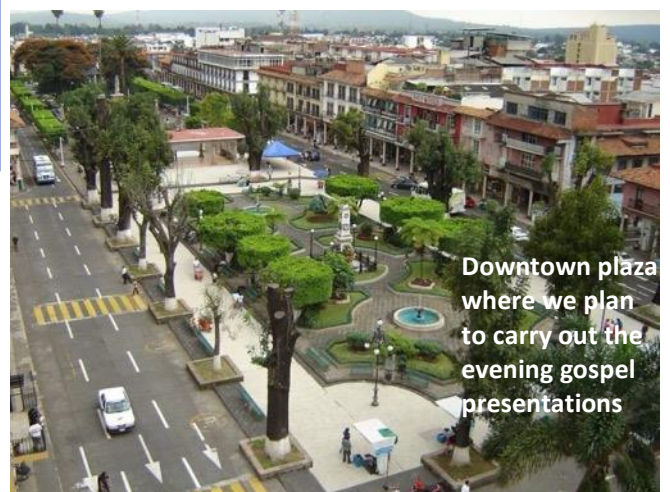
In 5 days, we hope to distribute gospels of John and tracts to at least a third of the homes in the city, with our team of 100+ faithful believers, who, amazingly, delight to take part with us in this project which has many elements that are not so easy. But the fellowship with kindred spirits in the gospel makes up for the hardships many times over! On this occasion, we are rejoicing to have a number of “gringos” from the US joining us again!



SCENE FROM THE NATIONAL PARK



CITY OF URUAPAN



Downtown plaza where we plan to carry out the evening gospel presentations

CLARK PRAYER CALENDAR—MAY, JUNE, 2024

MAY 1-11 The first weekend in May, we have a church camping trip at a high mountain lake near Ciudad Hidalgo. Believers from other churches will join us and all the church from Ciudad Hidalgo plans to come out and have a church service together on Sunday morning. Please pray for the Lord to use these family times to turn the hearts of the parents and the children to one another for His glory. Pray for the new believers in the brand new work in Ciudad Hidalgo to be greatly encouraged through their fellowship with other believers. Pray for Edy and Isabel, as they prepare to serve Christ, that He would lead them every step and provide for all their needs. Another young newlywed couple, Isaac and Hannah, also plan to serve the Lord full time and need prayer for His leading and provision. We are so thankful to see these couples and others, who are an answer to our prayers for “laborers for the harvest” for the state of Michoacán. We need more laborers yet, so please continue to pray for this need with us!

MAY 12-18 This weekend is a Parents in Action camp at the camp facilities. The families have been reading the amazing story of Zvi, the Jewish boy who alone in his family survived the Holocaust in Europe, moved to Israel, came to Christ, and became a faithful soul-winner there to the end of his days. They are also studying the book of Titus. One family in our church (Jorge and Ana), have assigned the memory of one chapter in Titus to each parent and the oldest daughter, so they will be ready for the quiz! Ana is a new believer, just beginning to read her Bible, so we are thrilled by this initiative. Pray that the Lord would use this study, and the fellowship and prayer time with believers, to strengthen each family.

MAY 19-25 Please pray for the countless details involved in preparing for AMOR Divino in Uruapan. Pray for strength and health for each believing family planning to participate. Pray for the preparation of our hearts to share the gospel with the people in Uruapan—for the Lord Himself to give us HIS zeal, HIS love, HIS wisdom, HIS courage. Pray that HE HIMSELF would make us Fishers of Men.

MAY 26-31 This week, please pray with us for the Lord to prepare the hearts of those people in Uruapan who will be receiving gospels and tracts at their doors, and those who will be hearing the presentations in the parks each evening. Pray that even now, these people would begin to have a strong distaste and dissatisfaction with their current beliefs, and begin to long for the truth and for true righteousness, that they might be filled (Mt. 5:6). Pray that the Lord would prepare their hearts to recognize that the message we bring them is the truth, and that their hearts would long to hear more.

JUNE 1-8 **Pray with us for all who will be joining us for AMOR Divino, for traveling mercies over the many hours of driving on the highways of Mexico (as well as those from the US flying in). Pray also for the Lord’s protection on our travel around the city of Uruapan, for protection from dogs (this is always big in our minds and often a threat in many neighborhoods), for protection from perverse and evil men (2 Thes. 3:2), protection for our children, and for so many other needs of that week, which the Lord knows about, but we are sometimes unaware of. Again, pray for the people who hear the message, that the Lord would open their hearts to respond. Pray for courage for them, and a willingness to lose all for the incomparable value of having the righteousness of Christ. Pray for their eyes to be opened to the truth. Pray for strength and health for the cooks, and for each of the workers. Also, please pray for the perfect weather for each event this week. It can be quite rainy by this time of year in Uruapan.**

JUNE 9-15 Please pray that the material left at the homes in Uruapan would not be lost, but would be preserved until the time that the Lord would allow those in the house to pick it up and begin to read. Pray for the follow up with those who express interest. Pray for love, wisdom, zeal and strength for this work, which is usually the long-term project.

JUNE 16-22 Please pray for Jania and her spiritual growth. She attended the last AMOR Divino in February for the first time and loved it! At the end, she was excited to know when the next one would take place! Please pray for the salvation of her siblings. Pray for encouragement and growth for Trini and Manuel.

JUNE 23-30 Pray with us for encouragement for Alma (who was in our discipleship group—a relatively new believer and an excellent evangelist!). She had to return home to Lázaro Cárdenas to care for her sick grandmother, and she has been struggling with discouragement. Pray for the Lord’s hand of comfort on her and for her continued growth and especially that she would find fellowship with other like-minded believers.

FAMILY PICTURES

ANNOUNCING THE BIRTH OF GRANDCHILD # 9—EMILYN RUTH, born to Regis and Katie (and Owen and Ella) on March 22, 2024.





NATHAN, KEYLA
AND SHEBA



ANNIE WITH
EMILYN,
ONE DAY OLD



SNUG AS A
BUG IN A RUG!



JEHOSHEBA --2 MOS.
(BETTER
KNOWN AS SHEBA
OR SHEBITA)



ELLA—MAMA'S
HELPER



SHEBA 2 MONTHS
EMMY, NEWBORN!



TWO SLEEPY GIRLS!





DOUBLE WEDDING AT THE CAMP IN MARCH! ANNIE CELEBRATING WITH HER FRIENDS



Johana & Abraham
09 - 03 - 2024
Hannah & Isaac



Grandpa's other favorite—Root beer floats!



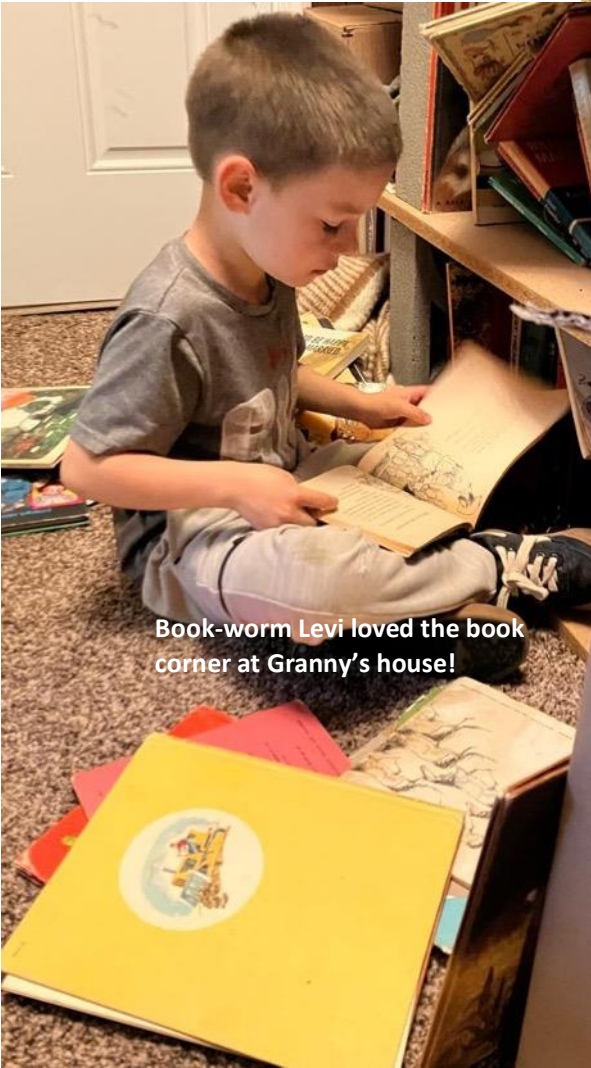
Caleb and Alma under Grandpa and Granny's cherry tree in full bloom!



Owen and Ella—great helpers!
(Most of the time)



Julie and Ben Judah toasting
marshmallows after the funeral



Book-worm Levi loved the book
corner at Granny's house!



Eldon, Jemimah, Levi, Julie, Ben Judah,
at the cemetery



Paddleboat on
the pond at Granny's

CHUY'S STORY

By Isabel Tuohy Mora

Prologue

Chuy hesitated awkwardly outside the church door. The sun was setting behind him; in front of him people were walking in, with Bibles in their hands and smiles on their faces. His coworker, Guicho, spotted him from inside and, beaming, made a beeline to go greet him. He heartily shook his hand and led him into a large room filled with chairs and a pulpit in front. They took a seat in the back. Chuy observed several gringos, some playing instruments, others seated among the attendees, with children or Bibles on their laps. The whole setting was strange, yet had a slight tinge of familiarity. Everyone seemed relaxed and happy to be there. After singing a few songs, none of which Chuy had heard before, the “guero” (light skinned one) Martin, of whom Chuy had heard, walked up to the front and began reading and speaking from the book that seemed so important to this place: the Bible. It all reminded Chuy of things he had heard years ago, when he was a child.

Chapter 1

“Jesus Christ calls you to repent and believe in Him! He will forgive you your sins and grant you eternal life!” A strong voice rang out through the small plaza of the isolated village. Chuy held on to his mother’s hand and pressed close to her as the crowd stirred and murmured. The man standing on the box with Bible in hand looked strange to him. However, there was an attractive streak to him and his message. Chuy liked to listen and learn. His father did not, however. He especially hated anything about God and religion. Chuy knew if he found out what he and his mother were doing right now, he would beat them.

“Come on, Chuy,” his mother tugged his arm as they walked away from the gathering. Nice as the man seemed, she preferred to stay out of trouble.

It was 1997, high up in the Sierra Madre mountain range of the state of Guerrero, Mexico. A place far, far away from civilization. But it was a paradise. Anything could grow in the fertile soil. Patches with rows of beans, corn, squash and many other vegetables dotted the hillsides. The fragrance from mango, avocado and lime orchards wafted in the air. Clear rivers filled with nourishing fish snaked through the valleys and gorges. The forest abounded with deer, hares, cougars, and other wildlife. A rainbow of flowers and greenery added color and spice to the picturesque scene, while the birds and crickets made it vibrate with nature's music. The people lacked nothing, if they were willing to work.

Chuy's father would take his son with him every day to work up in the mountains, plowing fields, tending to the crop and clearing land. He didn't let him go to school; he could see no use in book learning. His wife could, however, and managed to occasionally let Chuy sneak away to the local schoolhouse. He would crouch on his bare feet outside as the class began, and peek through cracks in the wooden slabs that made up the wall. If he could find it, he would take a pencil and scrap of paper and very carefully write out the letters and numbers he saw the teacher putting on the whiteboard. Soon enough, the teacher realized he had an extra student. He spoke loudly so that Chuy could hear him reading from the textbook or explaining a certain subject. Chuy was hungry to learn. But he had to keep it a secret to avoid beatings.

Chuy was also a wild little boy. He loved to swim in the creek that ran right in front of his little house, climb trees, ride his donkey and get himself into mischief.

His life changed drastically, however, one night in December, when he was eleven years old. He immediately felt uneasy when he saw three of his uncles walking towards his house, two of them carrying guns. Not that it was uncommon; you always wanted your gun close in case you saw a deer nearby. But the angry looks on their faces! Chuy wanted to get out of their presence, and fast. His mother had also sensed the danger and hurried her six children out. Chuy caught a glimpse of his father sitting at the table, beer in hand. He was half drunk already. He owed these uncles money he had bet at a rooster fight, but which he had spent on beer instead. Chuy squeezed his eyes shut at the sound of gunshots. There was a short grunt, and silence. His father had paid with his life. And Chuy would never see him again.

Chuy's mother quickly took action. It was a long night of travel for the children. Over mountain after mountain they hiked, until they finally reached the closest city. She wanted them away. Away from the murder and hatred that filled that broken paradise.

Chapter 2

Life in Alto Mirano was different from what Chuy had previously known and loved. He was angry for a long time. "When I grow up," he would say to himself bitterly, "I'm going to buy a gun and I'll shoot the men who killed my father!" Chuy's mother, however, had a different perspective and constantly reminded Chuy that God had a plan and purpose with everything that happened, and there was nothing one could do to change the past. Chuy worked on odd jobs here and there, and although he was fatherless, he now remembers how God would place people in his life to direct, teach and help him as he grew and matured.

As a young teenager he moved away from his family to another city, where he found a job washing cars. The owner of the business took Chuy under his wing, helped him administer his meager finances, find an apartment to live in and even buy furniture. He was the one who kept Chuy from a wild life of drunkenness and drugs. He taught him to make wise choices.

Chuy moved on, from city to city, wandering and searching. In 2011, Chuy by now in his mid-twenties, arrived in a town called Puruandiro, in the state of Michoacan. He was far from home now. He worked in different bars and businesses. He met a young girl named Paulina, with whom he fell in love. He moved in with her and found a steady job in the Ruiz bakery. Finally, he had found a place where he would settle. The murder, hatred and wandering would stay in the past. Or so he thought.

... BUT THEN CAME JESUS

Chuy was a rather shy and quiet man. Soon after entering the Ruiz bakery, he met Guicho, a tall, wide shouldered man with a loud voice. Guicho quickly befriended Chuy and began to talk to him about the Bible.

“Hey Chuy, come here and sit with me for lunch!” Guicho gestured with his hand to Chuy, and Chuy complied. To his surprise, Guicho then bowed his head and began to pray out loud, thanking God for the food and work He had provided. Chuy sat there awkwardly looking at him. *“Really? He’s crazier than I thought. How embarrassing.”* When Guicho finished, they began eating and talking. It didn’t take long before Guicho was telling him more about his religion. For the rest of the work day, as they kneaded dough on the countertop, rolled and cut it out into the desired shapes, placed it in the giant oven and took it out again, Guicho talked to Chuy about the Bible. Finally, Chuy just walked away, leaving Guicho talking alone. *“He really is crazy”* he told himself. Yet he had to admit it was intriguing. Like the preacher at the plaza back in the small faraway village, there was an attractive streak to him, something that made him stand out from other men. Day after day, Guicho would do the same thing. Coming home Chuy would tell Paulina all the things Guicho talked to him about.

One day, as Chuy was driving down the street thinking about what Guicho had talked to him about, a question formed in his mind. *“But why would God send His Son to die for a person like me? Why was it worth it for Him? What good could come out of it?”* The question would come back to him as he was eating, lying in bed and working. Finally, he decided, “Who better to ask than Guicho, since he’s so fanatical about it?” At work, Chuy shot the question at Guicho, who immediately had an answer for him. Then he invited Chuy to come to the Bible study at his church Thursday night. *“What harm could it do?”* Chuy thought, and attended that night with Paulina. He liked what was taught, and the people were kind. From then on, they began going to the services on Sundays and Thursdays.

Pretty soon Chuy came to understand the gospel. But did he really need it? Hadn’t he been fine all these years? He knew that if he were to accept Christ as His Savior, he would have to humble himself, recognize his sin, and his life would have to change. And he didn’t like that idea. But as the months went by, the Lord began opening Chuy’s eyes to his sin. He wasn’t the good person he thought he was. He was irritable, he was a liar, he was rude and inconsiderate to his wife... worst of all, he was guilty before God. He deserved eternal death. He needed a Savior! All he needed do was bow the knee and trust in His work on the cross for him. Was he

willing? Chuy felt a growing emptiness in his heart; nothing he tried was filling it. He felt like he was that teenager again, wandering from place to place, with no rest or security for the future, no purpose in life. Finally he cried out to God and asked Christ to fill that hole inside of him. And he did! Never had Chuy felt so complete, so at peace and full of joy!

And yes, as Chuy had predicted, life changed. His wife Paulina was happy. Now she didn't have to deal with a foolish and rebellious husband! She hesitated to trust in Christ for two years, fearing what her Catholic family would think of her. But one day when Chuy came home from work, the little statue of the virgin Mary that usually stood in their room was gone. "Paulina, what did you do?" He asked, pointing to the corner where it usually stood. With a trembling voice Paulina replied, "I know now that Jesus is the only one that can save. Not that!" The couple hugged each other for a long while. They were in the same boat now, on the same voyage. Shortly after, the Lord blessed them with a little girl, whom they named Valeria. A year and a half later, another girl was born, Victoria. Now the couple serves faithfully in the Bible church in Puruandiro and are a great encouragement to the believers. Chuy went from being a poor wayfaring stranger to a faithful pilgrim on this earth with a goal and a destination.

