

News from the Tyas family
Serving in WA among the Hispanic community

From the Notes of Ed and Gerry...

March 2022

Dear friends and family,



This is what has been happening in our lives in the last couple of months.

- For the last couple of months we have stuck to community assistance both in helping out in the Resource Center (flood relief) in a Church in Sumas and the food bank in Everson. Many times there was a need to just translate or love on people and often both. The Resource Center ended the end of January as they switched to another phase in flood Relief but the food bank continues on all year. We find God has gifted us with a gift of encouraging people. We pray that this leads to more opportunities with families. Many are hurting in our communities whether as a result of flooding or otherwise.
 - We continue to support CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) with their clubs with Hispanic kids. We pray this leads to more opportunities.
 - The visiting with families has been an off again - on again outreach for the last 2 years . Mostly off as the cases of Covid have risen and fallen in our local area. We are very encouraged right now as the mask mandate has come off after 2 years which means more freedom in all of our ministries. This ministry has been a favorite of ours. Gerry has been privileged to visit ladies during the day and is having great success with this.
 - She is not only visiting them but being sensitive to their social network and how to reach out even more. These are some stories that come out of her visiting recently.
1. One day she was going to visit Lupe. Lupe said she thought she was free because she wanted to go to the funeral of a friend's father to encourage her but she didn't know where it was at and so "yes" ...she would be home. Gerry asked whether she had the address and she said yes. Gerry assured her that she had a GPS on her phone and so off they went. As this was a time after much time spent in isolation it was great to be in a group. Even a funeral....Masks were worn by everyone both inside and at the graveside. The inside service was 2 ½ hours and was typical in our experience of a hispanic funeral with the casket open up front the whole time and little kids looking in to see grandpa but it was a very special service as the Pastor presented the Gospel and how Grandpa had accepted the Lord and lived his life for Him and how he wanted other people to offer

their lives to Christ especially his kids. When driving to the cemetery this gave Gerry a perfect opportunity to share with Lupe. No decision was made but it was a good time of sharing. Only good things will come of this sharing and of sharing another's life experience.

2. Senaida is a special friend. The first contact with her was made at the food bank. After visiting her it became apparent that she was a Christian too. Since she is indigenous from Mexico, one day Gerry shared the Jesus movie in her indigenous language with her from her phone and a translation of the Bible in her own language with her. Senaida became so excited and immediately sent these things to her mother in Mexico with just the share button on her phone. This was a couple of years ago and Gerry is having a devotional time and English Instruction started recently once a week now. Gerry has also asked that Senaida teach her her brand of Mixtec, the indigenous language that she speaks with her family. We are interested in seeing these people receive God's Word in their own mother tongue but an idea of planting in her a desire to share this information with her people has also been formulated. As the time of harvest draws near in the fields around us we are seeing more and more people of Mixtec or another indigenous origin who are not speaking either English or Spanish but only their Indian language. Also there is a big community of Mixtec and Trique people who live in the agricultural areas about an hour from us. Senaida has been volunteering as a Mixtec interpreter for various agencies in some of these areas.

Since the lifting of restriction and the feeling of more freedom we have been able to dream of possibilities in our ministries. This is so good as the dreaming part has not been possible in 2 years. We pray that this will continue. Each day God has given us, there are opportunities to accomplish His purposes.

We will be attending a Be One Together Conference in Mesquite, Texas March 31-April 4. This will be the first one since before Covid 2 years ago. Pray for refreshment and encouragement.

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