## Cuernavaca News

Av. Pso. Del Conquistador No. 318 Depto. A-1 Col. Lomas de Cortez, Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico CP 62240

January 8, 2011

Dear Ministry Partner:

I wish I could have videotaped my last Fall 2010 Bible study session. It seemed unreal what I was hearing! Testimonies after testimonies of lives changed because of the power of God's Word.

Let me give you a little background. Many times, women come to my Bible study for specific reasons:

- Their husband of 10 or more years left them for another woman.
- Their son is using drugs.
- Their 15 year old daughter ran away with her boyfriend.
- Or some other crisis, like extreme financial needs, alcoholic husband, or a homosexual family member.

There are many ways these ladies hear about my small group. They hear it announced at our church. A friend brings them. The mom is attending so she brings her daughter, or her sister. Or once in a while, I get a walk-in who is in such a desperate situation that she just needs to cry to a small group of women.

This was the case of Anna (not her real name). Anna knew there was a church in Las Palmas. One Thursday evening she saw the door was open and decided to walk into our church. I used to lead a Thursday evening Bible study but it has been changed to Tuesday evenings since last year. Unfortunately, the class she walked into was a closed discipleship class, so the leader of that Bible study brought her upstairs to my class. At that time, Fall of 2008, I was leading an open Bible study on the book of Proverbs. A closed Bible study means it is not open to new attendees; it is designed for those who want to go deeper in their walk with Christ. The leader requires assignments, scripture memorization and consistent attendance. An open Bible study is designed for newcomers, non-Christians or those seeking what it means to have Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.

The other leader told me that this woman belongs to my group and that she is in crisis. I had already started my lesson on Proverbs but gave Anna a warm welcome. I introduced the other ladies to her and got her a seat. I was going to continue my lesson when tears started flowing down Anna's cheeks. I knew I could not continue. She started talking about how devastated she was because her husband had been missing for a few months now. Her face, her body and everything in her told me that this woman was exhausted, desperate, and needed a lot of help and hope. I stopped the lesson and asked everyone to gather around Anna. One by one, I asked the ladies, especially the married ones, to pray and ask God to deliver Anna from this crisis. Interestingly, everyone prayed for an area that she would need. One prayed for strength, another for the authorities to know where the husband was, another for good sleep each night, another for financial provision and so on and so forth. It was amazing how the Holy Spirit guided each woman to pray!

Please send gifts to Crossroads Community Church 7708 NE 78th St. Vancouver, WA 98662 Kindly designate gifts for A. Velasco- Mexico. Thank you!

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Now, two years later, nothing of Anna's situation has changed. Her husband is still missing. We still have no news of what happened to him. But if you see Anna now, you would not believe that this was the same woman who walked into my Bible class that fall of 2008. Anna's face is radiant. She is consistently inviting new ladies to our Bible study. For this last session of our fall 2010 Bible study she brought her daughter and her co-worker. What happened to Anna?

She gave her testimony on December 7, 2010. She said, "I will not forget how I arrived in this group. I was devastated. Angle gave me a verse to hang on to, 'Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving.' Those words, 'Do not be anxious' kept ringing in my mind and I started to believe that that is possible with God. The Lord started giving me peace as I prayed and gave thanks." "I am very happy that God is also changing my daughter. The fact that she is here today is a great blessing to me. Slowly, she too, is understanding that spiritual issues are important things to pursue. I am very happy to be part of this group. What a blessing and privilege to know God and to know each one of you!"

My jaw almost dropped hearing those words. I also will not forget when she walked into my class in 2008. I remember the weight of that evening, hearing all the pain and anguish in her heart. I remember many days praying with Anna on the phone, crying with her and asking God to help her through this situation. The Lord still has not answered our prayer for us to know what happened to her husband, but God definitely changed Anna and me also. Anna's story taught me that sometimes God does not answer my prayers the way I want Him to, but God certainly changes me in the process. What a testimony Anna is to me of God's power to change women through His Word!

What a blessing it is to be here with my God-given gift of teaching, teaching many women like Anna to believe, claim and stand on God's promises! He never fails!

Thank you for your faithful partnership.



Happy New Year!

The ladies from my last Fall 2010 Bible study session

Sincerely:

Angie Velasco

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