



Update From: Travis and Paula

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The local kids gathered on the street corner eager to inform us of the circling helicopter. I was back briefly on the border to work in the drug mission with Joe and the city was and continues to be under heavy pressure. The Mexican government sent in around 700 troops to try to tamp down the escalating violence and prepare for the Mexican President's visit. Add in the outright free-for-all in the human trafficking business, aided by our government and the entire area is a giant powder keg on the verge of exploding. Many of the residents we visited and ministered to were on edge. The beauty in all this... many gave ear to the Word of God. Most notably at the puntos we spent time at. Yes, you will note the use of puntos vs punto. There is an additional area that has opened to us. Common sense would indicate, at a time like now, becoming connected at an additional area is a bad idea. There were some additional difficulties because of the fighting taking place in the city, however, we had favor and once again I am humbled by God's faithfulness and care.

At the new punto I approached the main leaders, introduced myself, and received permission to evangelize the area. Two were quite friendly and assured me nothing would happen to me, the third hesitated shaking my hand and after a brief conversation kept a good distance from me for the evening. With the chaos in the city I didn't blame him for his skeptical nature. After sometime, witnessing to many coming to buy, I noticed a man leaning on the hood of his car parked on the side of the street. Joe was speaking with a group in a vehicle waiting on their drugs. Rather than loiter, I moved across the street to speak with him. I greeted him and he briefly stared at me, before asking, "Are you government?". It turned out this man was another seller at this punto, who was off shift, and Joe had spoke with him the week before. He relaxed once I told him who I was and we connected quickly. He quickly began asking me questions about God. He told me about 5 years earlier, the city was under similar violence and he was here at night with his friend. A group of armed men came, they were agitated and anxious, they shot his friend in the head and left. "When will God repay evil?" He asked. "Now? Or later? Tell me, when?". I could see the tears in his eyes, he was clearly burdened by what he witnessed. His question is a common one we run into. Why does God permit evil? Why does he allow bad things to happen? The irony is the ones asking these questions are often the ones bringing about the same harm to others. Yet, at the core of man is this nature of sin.... And it continues its path of destruction. Why does God not stop it? It is a good question that deserves an answer.

I spoke to him 2Peter3. The coming day of the Lord. In short, God does not take joy in sin, but rather God's wrath is being stored up against unrepentant and stubborn hearts. Romans 2:5 speaks of this day as the day of God's wrath; when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. Why has it not happened yet? Because God is patient towards us, not wishing any to

perish but for all to come to repentance. A day will come when all sin will cease and righteousness will dwell in the land, the new heaven and new earth. Take courage!

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Local residents shared these photos of the road blocks and fighting thru out the city. The government enforced a curfew and worked to tamp down the conflict. Pray for the continued ministry and opportunities to preach Christ.

