



Emiliano

Raquel

We have seen the Lord John 20:25

These were the words of the disciples to an incredulous Thomas who was absent, disappointed, angry, and ashamed. These were the precise words he needed and that we needed to hear the beginning of this year. On January 7 at dawn, the Arraigados church from Nagarote where we serve was robbed. Armed people entered and stole everything they could: the effort and investment of five years of work was lost in three hours.

What happened, Jesus? Why are you letting us go through this? Why do the bad guys get away with it? Why are we paid poorly for good? It was a difficult start to the year, full of work to recover things and look up at the sky again. But we can say the following: “We have seen the Lord” and we have declared, “My Lord and my God.” We want to share with you how we have seen the Lord this year so that you too can see him and declare, “My Lord and my God.”

1. In the Robbery

Vulnerability, shame, fear, anger, and doubts. These are the feelings we had after the robbery, but after reading Psalm 37 we understand that justice in this world is not our goal. The justice we seek is the one that comes from God: that is where we set our sights and understand that suffering is part of missionary work. Furthermore, for there to be much fruit, the tree must be pruned; the gold must be passed through fire; the seed must die in order to give life. Jesus had to give His life to defeat the kingdom of death. We have seen the Lord through suffering, because we can say that this was something necessary for our church and for us. That is why we declare, “My Lord and my God.”

2. In our Brothers in the Faith

Thomas needed his brothers in the faith to tell him, “We have seen the

Lord!” No matter what else, Jesus is alive! We have seen the Lord through the Body of Christ during these first months. We received messages from many people and churches that were praying and supporting financially. Also, the church and people from Nagarote, Nicaragua, joined together to raise funds to recover part of what was lost. The way we see the risen Jesus is when His Body works in unity. That is why we declare, “My Lord and my God.”

3. In God’s Support

It has been almost nine years since we began serving here in Nicaragua and time has passed quickly. The Arraigados church from Nagarote is growing, not only in the number of people but also in leadership. The leaders of the ministries are now native to the church and the church is beginning to manage and sustain itself without us. This little church is starting



Youth group



Planting project at the church



Maynor teaching



Ministry in the dump

to walk on its own! That is why we have plans to move to another place in Nicaragua next year. We can see the work of God and His support. That is why we declare, "My Lord and my God."

4. In You

I want to end this letter by telling you that we see Jesus in your faith. Jesus told Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." It seems incredible to me that you pray for us. It seems incredible to me that you support us, and much more incredible that you believe in what is being done in Nagarote, Nicaragua. Your faith is proof for us that Jesus is alive, because you believe without seeing—this is something that for the world is madness, but for us who believe, it is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:25-27). That is why we declare, "My Lord and my God."



This is us

Prayer Requests:

- Teams from the USA for this summer: we will have a team from Parkside Bible Church who will come to work on construction and partner in our ministry.
- In July, we will have a big evangelistic activity for children and we need a lot of help.



Worship services

- Wisdom in the decisions we are making.
- We desire to be parents, but so far this has not happened.
- Those whom we are discipling: Anthony, Hamilton, Mercedes, Maynor, Harold, Karlin, Kendell, Ana, Marvin, and Maryam.

"But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" Acts 20:24.

