



Northwest *FOCUS*

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

JULY 2018



Sanctified Electronics!

As much as we have a love-hate relationship with our modern electronics, sometimes the Lord can use those for His glory. A perfect example of God "sanctifying" electronics to accomplish His purposes happened to Jose and Ruth Alvarez, NICE Missionaries pastoring Iglesia Biblica de Evergreen in Vancouver, Washington.

Jose and Ruth were biking and camping with family and friends near Crater Lake, Oregon. There was no cell phone signal, but Ruth kept her phone with her to take pictures. She was surprised then, when, in the middle of a bike ride her phone rang! Ruth relates what happened:



Jose and Ruth Alvarez

"It was the church secretary, and a Spanish-speaking family had just come in to the office asking for someone to please explain to them the truth! They had a lot of questions and wanted to know exactly what was true. Their high school son had done a research paper on Martin Luther and brought some interesting conversations home. This precious family had been raised in the catholic church but Sundays were becoming miserable for them as they found themselves arguing, uncomfortable, and dissatisfied on their way to or from mass. A stranger had knocked on their door the week before, offering them a pamphlet by Watch Tower Publications, including a local phone number and address. So on a Thursday afternoon in August, the family climbed into their car and set out to find the location listed on the back of that pamphlet. Twice they tried but failed to find this place, finally ending up in a church parking lot hosting a sign that read "Servicios en Español." The father of the family checked the church website, in the off-chance of finding doctrinal information in his native language. Note that a mere 6 days prior, we sent the Spanish

translated statement of faith over to the office to be posted online, just in case someone might look for it someday! With some language barrier, our beloved church secretary gladly gave the family a Spanish Bible and Jose's phone number, then promptly called us to let us know of the visit. As soon as we returned home the following day, Jose met with the family, and both the husband and wife accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior! Now nearly two years later, the López family have become dear friends, especially their daughter with our daughters, and their son goofing around with our Daniel as if they were brothers. Mr. Lopez has become our passionate leader of youth ministries, his heart burning with a desire to share the gospel and to disciple. We shake our heads in wonder as we see how God used a research paper, pushed a cell signal through a remote campground, messed up a GPS, and shared His Truth through a document on a website. God bless the López family! Please remember them in your prayers."



Iglesia Biblica de Evergreen Sunday Service

What a comfort to know that God can use whatever or whomever He wishes to make His name known! Even less than perfect electronics! To find out more about Jose and Ruth Alvarez and their ministry in Vancouver, you can visit their blog: alvarezinancouver.blogspot.com or visit the Evergreen Bible Church website: www.evergreenbible.com and follow the link to the Spanish church. Remember the Alvarez' in prayer as they reach Spanish-speaking individuals and families in the Vancouver area.

So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. I Corinthians 3:7