

The planting of a new church !

In the first place I would like to say that the Lord is the one who opens the door of the gospel, because the opposition is strong but I am weak. Any man no matter how strong has feet of clay. Rev.3:8 and Colossians 4.3

The beginning is difficult!

The Lord brings into my pathway different people through whom I arrive in some villages to preach the gospel, I am attentive only to what the Spirit wants from me. It is difficult to find a bridgehead, namely a key person, a family. I like what I once heard: "Paul when he entered into a city was interested to find out where the prison was, and how it was there, because he was almost sure he would arrive there". Today there are preachers who when they do evangelism are interested in where the most expensive hotel is so they know where they will stay.

If I find a family where I can stay (usually a poor family with a lot of children) I begin to befriend children, young people and all types of people. How do I do this? Making myself known through different jobs I can help them with. I have ability in many jobs, but where I haven't got the ability, the Lord helps. I pray and he gives me wisdom. Many times I have done jobs that I have never done before, only through prayer: welding, electrical and sanitary installations. Evenings are spent talking to people. Usually in the winter there is a lot of time, people are very open to dialogue. I make use of technology showing different Christian films or animated pictures to children and young people. Sometimes I "disturb" not only the orthodox priest in the community but also other Christian groups. Usually where I am placed I don't usually leave until I have finished the work. I am very tenacious and patient knowing that my Lord is working.

My discussions with people are pragmatic, about important subjects such as the education of children, marriage, divorce, sin and its consequences in a person's life, and of course salvation through grace, through Jesus Christ.

For a long time I was preoccupied with preaching the Word of God very well, to do it like a professional. Therefore I asked the advice of some brothers in Christ and many pointed me towards a holy, clean life, towards different books, but few advised me that if I want to have power, I need to be a witness (see Acts.1:8) Then I saw the fulfillment of the verse in Matthew 10.20. So the Lord works not only through me but in me also.

Growth is necessary, and needs a lot of effort and patience !

When I have some people, some families, I invest in them. I spend time with them, we study together, we visit large churches, we go together for evangelization in the village. There I see the preparation, fear or courage and love for people. This helps me for the future when I encourage them in public work. The group formed meets in houses, and sometimes this lasts 3,4 years. During this time the group needs to demonstrate that it wants to be a Church ready to fight with the Gates of Hell. If the group has grown and swarms like a new swarm of bees, it needs a hive, a place to gather. Then and only then we begin to seek the will of God with regard to the location of a gathering place. The place where the new group will be situated is very important. It needs to be independent of a man, whoever he may be, so as not to have problems later on.

Sometimes the end is painful!

When the group has elders, a place of worship, then it happens like in a family when children grow up. They need to be left to go on alone. No longer do I command what they have to do but they consult me for a time and I leave them to make their own decisions to correct something if it is the case. If they make mistakes I am ready to help. But in the end I need to leave them to continue without me. Leaving the mission isn't easy to do too. They don't want me to go because they are linked with me, and usually several months pass before I leave them completely. The time I spend with people in a work is 5-8 years. After that I don't interfere in their problems even if they make mistakes. I know they will be corrected: "I don't want to proceed like the child who wanted to help a baby swan to come out of the egg more easily – he cut the shell with scissors when the chick was fighting to get out, but the fight was making his heart pump blood to the tips of his wings. By not fighting the chick was never able to fly."

A child goes through different periods, namely: "dependent, independent, interdependent". It's the same in the spiritual realm.

Personally I haven't known in my life a bigger spiritual growth than when working, while working. Therefore I want to grow, I want to preach with power, I want to be a faithful worker, and at the end of this information I say: "Lord I am an unworthy servant I have done that which was my duty to do"!

Be blessed !