



## Leonel Arriaga

Ministering in El Salvador,  
Central América

January 2017

### CHURCH CAMP IN DECEMBER

*We had our church youth camp in December, and what an adventure it was! We chose a place in the mountains called Montecristo. This is located north of Santa Ana and it is a mountaintop that borders Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. This is one of the tallest mountains of the country. We were looking for good weather, in other words, something just a bit cooler. The adventure was incredible. It was very cold, for us! There was no electricity or running water. We searched the Lord and I shared on the topic, "The emptiness of the heart." I shared with the youth three times and it was a blessing to go away and focus on this theme. This joined our hearts and gave us a sense of community, and with this in our hearts, we started out the New Year more encouraged and ready to work for the Lord. We want to serve God with clean hearts and be a better example to others. God was able to cleanse our hearts of things that have affected us negatively. As I taught I found that many youth have deep spiritual needs, loneliness, anxiety, and discouragement. As I have shared with you before, this is all consequence of broken families and a lack of authority and direction from the parents to the children. This is a great challenge for us to reach the youth for Christ. Please pray with me for the next generation of this country, that they may follow Christ and live the true Christian life.*



### HOW TO GET CLOSE TO A TAIWANESE



*We have several Asian families in the city; some have lived here for generations. But recently a family moved here and established a small restaurant. I began to visit, to check out the menu! I love to eat Chinese and Taiwanese food. A friendship has developed between Wu and me. In my heart is always the desire to share the love of God with him and the opportunity presented itself when he invited me to an event sponsored by his embassy. It was a great opportunity to learn about his*

*culture. It has not been easy; he is constantly talking about all his gods and the lifestyle he is expected to live. He has not come to the feet of Jesus yet, BUT i began inviting his children to church. Each Sunday I arrive at his house, very early to pick the kids up for Sunday school class. It has been several months now, and the kids attend church every Sunday. Their mother is Salvadoran, she has told me that she was a Christian, but had been pulled away from God to be with her*



*Taiwanese husband. The kids are very excited to attend church with me. In order to thank me, Wu prepared a dinner for all the leaders of the church in December. Slowly, he is warming up to the church. Please pray with me that he will soon come to the feet of Jesus.*

### **ACTIVITIES COMING UP**

*It was such a joy to see my friend Jonathan Owen, who is the children's pastor at Shades Mountain Independent in Birmingham, Alabama. When he was in high school and in college he took two trips to El Salvador and this has given him a love for our country. We are currently making plans for him to come share his experience and teach us to work with children and youth. I am excited for him to come and help me in this area. There is such need to minister to children and youth in our country. He will be with us in May and we will have an intensive seminar for all those that work with children and youth.*

*The Lord is opening doors for us to work in schools again. I am working on the plans and proposals to present to the schools that are interesting in participating. There are two main schools who are so far interested. The government requires certain values to be taught in public schools, and I will be covering this for them, but for me it is also an opportunity to preach the Gospel in a unique way to the students.*

*Thank you for your prayers for my life and my ministry.*

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- *Pray the Lord will open more doors for the preaching of His Gospel*
- *Pray for this city, and for safety in the dangerous areas of the city*
- *Pray for my health*
- *Pray for the various ministries the Lord has placed in my hands*

*Thank you for your prayers*

*God Bless you.*

*In Him*

*Leonel Arriaga*

WORLD REACH

#### **Questions?**

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