

Nanana Updates

Spring 2011
MEXICO



PRAISE WITHIN A HEALED HEART

Among the 60 participants to our God's Image Seminar which held in last November, Miriam and Rebeca Colin were champions after giving a testimony in public. The Colin sisters had never thought to attend such seminar, but God did push them to convert into our heroes. They've had many problems with other church members. Miriam shared her hard story with us. Since she was young, she had been sexually abused among them were her former pastor. She was so sick of the church in general. But she never ran away from it. She had a hard time to get along with her new pastor and his family. At the seminar, her pastor and his wife were present. Miriam was able to see other side of pastoral family as they gave her a warm hearted hug. It was a moving moment for all of us to witness. Since then, Miriam has changed a lot, as her old sister Rebeca mentions it along the improvement in her own life journey. (pictures on rear side)

Firstly, I give thanks to the only and wise God, my redeemer, protector and healer who has forgiven all my sins and continues to heal all my life scars.

So many things happened last year. Until last year, my family was going through a major crisis. Especially, my younger sister (Miriam) was always naughty and disturbing. She had an out-of-control anger crisis and always ended up in a big fight and hits with people. As I was with her, I was deeply getting involved in her problems—causing difficulties on me. ... I felt like I was walking into a dead end tunnel. There was no one to share for help until we found a dear pastor who helped us see our life environment. Looking at my sister fall from bad to worse, I called off of things for my interest to stay with her. ... It changed all when we were referred to attend the "Image of God" seminar by a pastor as they shared blessings they've received through a previous seminar. As a sign of my surrender and for the best of my younger sister, I forced myself to try God one more time. At first, we did not want to come, but we needed something to get us out of life fallouts. In order to get my sister to attend the seminar, I had to register myself too. As the seminar dates approached, my sister also accepted the invitation and circled the seminar date on a calendar. It was a surprise.

During the seminar, God's power was released in my own life in the way I have never experienced before. Each session challenged me by remembering those hard-and-painful moments in life, and even things hidden behind curtains, usually sinful motifs. As precede the seminar, I was once again told that I am forgiven and the things will get better. The last program of the seminar was a heart moving experience. My sister was chosen to share her testimony. I was able to see changes reflected in her face. Each word she spoke in front of us impacted me greatly as she spelled out her side of our family story. She had suffered a lot. For me it was a great story of God's love in our family. On that day, for the first time I cried so much like a little girl as I felt interchangeably consolation and relief. I would say that I had a door completely locked until then. But now I see hope that the door will open little by little. After all the anxieties we've been through and restless times we've been to, we finally found the peace of God. My heavenly Father gave me a warm hug, an indescribable sensation!

The seminar impacted my life so much. I am now forgiven and am learning to reinterpret all the life issues with the love of God. I see how God is transforming my sister. It helped me to realize how God treats each of us in an unique way. Thank God for those brothers and sisters through whom you've shown your interest in us, they served us with gifted talents, and also risked themselves to take us out of lifelong scars. They have encouraged us to wholeheartedly commit to the Creator of our soul and always serve Him with all our heart.

-- Rebeca Colin Arvizu





UP: ... Miriam sharing her testimony. **RIGHT:** ... Rebeca crying along the pastor's wife who invited them to attend the seminar.



The Colin sister have become ever active in church activities as they reconciled with most church families. Now they want to serve our upcoming seminars. They are excited to be a part of it as they anticipate to see many laughters in more faces.

FUN IN BIBLE READING!

Jaime, an elder at El Nazareno RPC, told me precisely yesterday, "We Mexicans do not read. That ain't our culture. The reading is a hard thing for us to get used to." He has come to our Tuesday Bible reading sessions from the very first session. And he added, "Thank you, for helping us read the Bible. Now it becomes a bit easier to read. I am having a lot of fun in reading the Bible."

Every Tuesday at 6 pm, an average of 25-30 people gathered together to read the Bible thoroughly. It's been almost 3 month since we started. Now we are reading the book of the Kings. Today we finished the assigned reading for the day 30. We have done one third of the guidebook we use for this reading, God's Kingdom Perspective Bible Reading in 90 Days (Hae Hong Joo), original version in Korean. Among the readers, Maria (pictured) has never missed so far who barely can walk due to her leg problem. Roberto (senior member) has shown a great interest in church activities as he continues learning the Bible. He also takes Seminary by extension courses with us on Saturdays.



There are also a group of single moms who seem to be hunger for the Word. They run from their work to read with us at least a part of the Bible. They are Dalila and Alba, etc. and moms with their little ones also come to give a good example to their children. Pastor Hector is also motivated his congregation by putting up a list of people with the chapters that they have read in last two months. Praise God.

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