

A Prayer for Nuevo Renacer

Pastor Guy Gray

Thanking God for New Smiles

A team from River West recently spent an amazing week at Nuevo Renacer, our partner Community in El Salvador. For those of us who had been on previous trips, seeing the transformation that has taken place was overwhelming. Three years ago there was nothing more than bare ground and a few wandering cows on the land. Today there are 26 homes, about 200 people and a community center! But there is something more—there is a real sense of hope, where once there was none. Along with the hope there are those beautiful smiles. What a privilege it is for us at River West Church to be a part of this transformation. Would you join me today in giving thanks to God for His wonderful work?

Feeling the Pain That Still Remains

The sense of hope is energizing. However, the reality of the struggle ahead and the deep pain that comes with extreme poverty still remains. On this visit our team was invited into each of the homes in the community to hear the needs and the stories of the various families. Our hearts were broken by what we heard. What an incredible struggle it is for each family to simply “make it” in this endeavor—with their limited resources, including insufficient water for irrigation and the overwhelming workload of developing their acreage for farming. The health issues of both the adults and especially the children were overwhelming to us. Along with the physical issues there is emotional and relational pain as well. Our team noted that part of what it means to minister to others “incarnationally” as Jesus did is to begin to feel and understand the pain others. There were many tears shed by our team members over the week as we began to enter into a deeper understanding of the painful reality of life for these families. Our tears are but a tiny reminder of their tears and their hurt. Would you open your heart with us to feel the pain that is felt by others in this broken world and in Nuevo Renacer in particular?

Asking for God’s Continued Help and Blessing

So, what now? Now we pray for God’s continued help and blessing! Seeing the progress that has been made, we are encouraged to ask for God to do even more amazing things. Feeling the pain of the struggle that yet remains we desperately pray that God will intervene and bring the help that is so needed for these families. We pray that through it all the love of Jesus Christ and the truth of the Gospel will be recognized by each person in the Community. This last trip we prayed for God to open up unique opportunities for us to connect with the people relationally and spiritually. God answered that prayer in wonderful ways. We were able to connect more deeply than ever and we were able to share our faith in Christ in personal stories. Will you pray with me today that Jesus will make himself real as never before in Nuevo Renacer? Pray that Jesus will heal the sick and meet the desperate practical needs of the people. Pray that hearts will be open to Christ in faith and that more and more of the people of the Community will come to know and trust Jesus personally. Already we have seen God answering this prayer. May this be just the beginning of many more wonderful stories of Christ’s loving and powerful work in lives in the Community of Nuevo Renacer!

Trusting God for Miracles

Pray that God will bless the Community with the ability to have water for their fields—year round. This will require electricity and a well. Pray that God will bless their crops in this next rainy season. Pray they will have the strength and health to work their fields. Pray for the health of their children. Pray that they can finish the roofs on their homes before the rainy season. Pray that they can come together as a Community and solve their relational challenges and work together in harmony. And Pray for a man named Armundo who asked for only two things—that his heart might be fully

surrendered to Jesus and that the people of Nuevo Renacer would learn to love one another. Will you pray a prayer for Nuevo Renacer? I promised them that the members of River West Church would be praying for them. This is something that every one of us can do—it's also the one thing that will mean the most in the end. As you pray, listen for the voice of Jesus. Perhaps, in the future, he will lead you to join us for one of our ministry trips to the people of El Salvador!

River West Happenings

Thursdays

Men's Bible Study

RW @ 6:30-7:30am

The Thursday morning Men's Bible Study group is starting a new study on May 15th. Lead by Mark Drum & Carl Casanova, this is a great opportunity to connect with other men on a deeper level through studying Gods word. For more information contact Mark Drum at 699-0778 or markmdrum@gmail.com

Saturday, May 17th

Saturday Morning Prayer

8-9am @ RW

Join us during this amazing time of seeking and rejoicing in Gods plans for us as a church and community of believers. For more information contact Jeff Nopper @ 245.1841 or Ryan Lee @ 235.9388

Friday, May 23rd

4th & 5th Grade Bowling

6:30 @ Wilsonville Lanes

Don't miss your chance to show off your bowling skills! Invite a friend or two to this fun event! \$12.00 & medical release form. Contact Lindsie at 699.2226 or lindsie@riverwest.org

Sunday, May 25th

El Salvador Presentation

7:00pm @ River West

Come hear the stories, see the pictures and share the vision from our two groups who have just returned from El Salvador. Contact Pastor Chris for more info at 699.2226 or chris@riverwest.org