



A DIFFERENT KIND OF FUNERAL

“Pastor, will you please pray for the deceased now?” asked one of Eugenio’s family members.

Eugenio had married Fortunata in his late sixties, and both were dedicated members of our church plant. Eugenio went to be with the Lord after a heart attack just weeks ago, and as his pastors, we were provided an opportunity to share the faith that he held with many of his unbelieving sons and friends.

As soon as we arrived to the home hosting the viewing, we quickly realized that not everyone was glad we were there. Even so, Nathan Bonham preached a hope-filled, powerful message the first evening, and Nathaniel Gutierrez was to speak at the burial. However, after Nathan had preached Christ and the salvation found in him, some of Eugenio’s catholic children intensely opposed us as we went to speak at the burial.



In the middle of those heated arguments, we were pressed to the front of the over 200 in attendance and asked to pray for the deceased. As we went forward, one man was aggressively raising his voice saying, “They are not going to speak! They are not going to speak!” A man named Salvador (which literally means: Savior) noticing we were in potential danger later told us that he quickly moved in-between us and the angry man to keep us from harm. Things got so intense the man was asked to leave the funeral. God used that moment to help Salvador befriend us and he has been to our home for lunch and has visited church twice now.

It was very clear that that under no circumstances were we to speak, but only to pray. We did not, however, pray for Eugenio. After all we knew he was already with our Lord and that if anyone needed prayer, it was us. We were, however, able to lead a very gospel-centered prayer highlighting Jesus as the resurrection and the life.

Afterwards, as the host customarily passed around Coca leaves, Vodka shots and cigarettes, we were able to engage some of the guests in conversation. One man told us that he thought the messages we had preached were very clear and well prepared and clearly focused on Jesus.



He told us he was impacted by our presence at the funeral and mentioned it was moving to him that we had stayed throughout the evening. In his experience religious leaders performed their duties and left as quickly as possible without much concern for a widow in her grief.

Funerals are very difficult moments for everyone, but those moments can often help soften hardened hearts. We were incredibly grateful for the invitation to be able to give testimony to the hope that Eugenio had in Jesus, and were so thankful to hear some positive responses from the people gathered there.

A MOVE | CHURCH SWAP

Even though we have lost two of our number in these last few months, the Lord has grown us closer as a community and continued to bless our young church. After our short-term team from Covenant Presbyterian in Nashville, we decided our new sanctuary needed a finished floor.

The only problem with finishing the job of mixing and pouring concrete on a Saturday night is that church would have to change locations! While the men were at the church working with cement, Nikki and Alicia were busy preparing food for the whole church and transforming the Gutierrez’s living room into a temporary house church. Alicia’s dad, who was also visiting us that week, helped us creatively situate the

first floor to have enough space to fit 50 people. The next morning Nikki and Alicia drove to church to pick up anyone who hadn't been able to get a ride to the house and both came



back with car loads full of church attendants. We were encouraged by the amount of people who came, despite the change of location, and after the service we enjoyed an all church meal together in the backyard.

A GOODBYE | LILLIAN ARJONA



This summer we also said goodbye to Lillian Arjona, our first summer intern. Lillian helped us out in the ladies Bible study, Sunday School, College ministry and would also help with music on Sundays. The church and our team

were very grateful to have her help.

A VISIT | MTW LEADERSHIP

This past week we also had the privilege to get together with some of the other MTW missionaries in Cusco and receive some insightful teaching from our MTW Coordinator, Lloyd

Kim, and Bill Yarbrough, the Director of South America and Africa.



It was refreshing to spend some time as a team and reflect all the Lord has done in and through us.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our ministry. We are certainly in a busy season of ministry and we are thankful for the opportunities your support gives us to minister to those in need.



Our missionary kids at Colca Canyon (second deepest canyon in the world).



Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!
-The Gutierrez & Bonham Families

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Donations: Mission to the World, PO Box 2589, Suwanee, GA 30024