

August 1996



**INTERNATIONAL**

**Lord, I love you and only want to do what pleases You!**

So Luís began his prayer asking forgiveness for his involvement with psychic healers and for what he couldn't earn for himself. . . eternal life. In order to reach Luís, God used one Christian author with a background in the occult, one Spanish teacher who had been praying for the salvation of her family for years, and two rookie missionaries. Different parts of the body of Christ, from different parts of the world, brought together to participate in one incredible transformation. And He orchestrated it all without even letting us know what was going on till the moment it happened. After all our seminary, cross-cultural sensitivity, and evangelism training, it came down to being in the right places at the right times. A wonderful ending to our time in Cuernavaca!

Our involvement in this story started our first week of language school when -- for the first and only time -- Maritá, one of the few Christians at our language school, was Annette's teacher. She told us about her family: she and her two daughters were the only believers in all of their extended family, her husband is hostile toward her faith, and in many ways she is alienated from the rest of her family because of her faith. We saw her around school, went to her church a few times, and prayed for her periodically, but that was it.

As mentioned in last month's letter, through a series of unplanned events Annette met Johanna Michealson who wrote The Beautiful Side of Evil about her experience assisting a Mexican psychic healer. We got together a couple times, and we had given away a few copies of the Spanish version of her book, but that was it.

Or so it seemed . . . until Maritá approached Annette our last week in school, "Could we get together with Johanna Michealson. Please, it's an emergency! My brother told me he had encountered the most wonderful being in the universe who has miraculously healed many of his friends and their children. I asked him if it was Pachita. He was shocked, 'How do you know about Pachita?' But it's not her, it's her son, but controlled by the same spirit."

By "chance" Annette had given Johanna's book to Maritá months before. So she knew all about the mediumistic healer Pachita and the dark secret about the source of this psychic power. Maritá was frightened because her brother had scheduled an "operation" on his daughter's brain for the following Friday -- four days away. She gave him the Beautiful Side of Evil and asked him to reconsider until he could meet with Johanna. The book confirmed some doubts he had and raised even more questions, so he agreed to postpone the operation until after our meeting. We prayed for him that week and Maritá had her small group Bible study praying that night. As we sat waiting for a servant to open the gate to the big house on a hill next to the golf course, my conception of Maritá's brother began to change. Luís, a single parent in his 30s, told us his story, then asked some tough questions: If this power is from Satan, why does it heal people? How can this "healer" be evil when he recites the Lord's prayer and uses images of Christ and the saints? { Side note: all this spiritist, psychic surgery stuff still sounds very funky and weird to me. But as we mentioned last month this kind of experience with the occult is very common. These are often well-educated, intelligent people, not third-world idol-worshippers. And though the majority of those who offer tarot card readings, ritual cleansings, or psychic surgeries are con artists, some have real powers. . . but powers that the Bible clearly says come from Satan. See Deuteronomy 18: 10-12 }

Johanna answered his questions head on. She recounted her experience with Pachita and how God confronted her with the real source of this power. She asked Luis if she could show him some things from the Bible, and when he agreed she pulled out all the stops. This is her life's work. She has written two books on spiritism and spent 20 years studying the Bible. Luís was impressed by the clarity with which God speaks against involvement in any form of spiritism. After three hours of discussion Luís was convinced, not only of the danger and sin of taking his child to this psychic healer, but also of his need for the forgiveness and salvation that only Jesus can give.

By the way, thanks for your prayers. They were part of this too, whether you knew it or not 😊. And if you think of it, please pray for Luís.

New, our very own Online address: please drop us a note @mexikids@infoabc.com

*Tim & Annette*