

Happy New Year From Chris and Kathy Gouzoules

And

The Hub

The Center For Church Planting



Hope for Mexico in 2011

On Christmas morning, still in pajamas, our family sat and read a beautiful story. The small, colored lights flashed on our ornament-filled tree as we each took turns reading from the Gospel of Luke. We read "...*to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death* (Luke 1)."

Kathy and I felt the impact of those words. We talked with the kids about the darkness in our neighborhood.

Later that morning, Kathy and I reflected on how the light is piercing the darkness of San Juan Tetitlan (our neighborhood) and all Tenancingo. ***Secret fears keep San Juan Tetitlan and most of Tenancingo in darkness.*** Children fear their home; they are called "stupid" if they can't do the homework correctly, or beaten when dad comes home drunk. Children secretly fear going to school; they have been called "stupid" so many times, they don't think they are able to get good grades. Men secretly fear being "man enough" and get drunk to escape from the pain. Women secretly fear their husbands; their husbands get drunk and beat them.

A retired teacher in Tenancingo told us recently,
"Domestic violence is increasing in homes in Tenancingo. It may seem that it is decreasing, because it used to be acceptable to talk openly about it. Now, that it is not as acceptable, women hide the bruises from their husband's beatings."
But our Secure Refuge outreach in San Juan Tetitlan is shining light in this darkness.

A neighbor recently told one of our Mexican missionaries about her husband's death and the secret fears she lives with. Many ladies have been attending talks on womanhood at the Secure Refuge house we have established in our neighborhood. For the first time they are hearing that it is not normal or correct for a man to beat his wife. ***They are invited to to tell their secrets in a safe place and find refuge with others who care and love them in Christ.***

We are seeing many more indications of hope for this region in 2011. We will be telling you about them in the coming weeks. **We believe that this year the light of Jesus will release many from the dark prison of secret fears.** We ended our time as a family on Christmas morning praying for our neighborhood. We want to thank you for your support, prayer, and love as we enter this new year.

With much love,
Chris, Kathy, Samuel, Ana Luz and Nicolas

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