



2011 – Grateful

Merry Christmas, everyone!

I have so much to be thankful for this year and so the theme of this year will be Grateful.

I am grateful for all my family. Grateful that my Grandpa Ivan came through his open heart surgery, that he woke up after a 3 week medically induced sleep, and that he made and is making a great recovery. Grateful that my mother Ruth's health scare turned out to be a very treatable case of pneumonia.

I am grateful for my church that loves on people here in Dallas and across the globe. I had the opportunity to go on mission with them this year in 3 ways.

First I get to help out at an apartment complex close to where I live, the ministry is called Hidalgo. I often think I get more of a blessing out of going than I am able to give, but then I think that is the way God designed ministry to be. When we give He makes sure we get the blessings we need when we need them.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD Jeremiah 29:11

When we feel lost and need to have a plan or need to know what that plan is, don't go looking for the plan ... you'll just get lost. Instead look for the LORD and you'll certainly find that He has the plan.

Second I get to help out in 2nd grade boys at church. This is an awesome chance to guide these boys and help them grow in wisdom and



understanding. We have been memorizing Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, and 10:9. Most of these I got to share with people in Cuba, which brings me to the third way.

I had a wonderful opportunity to go on a mission trip to Cuba. I am grateful to all who supported me by praying for us and for those who gave financially to send us.

Our church has a partner church in Cuba and we went to help share the good news in their city and the surrounding villages. They have many house churches that they support in these villages. As we shared with people in their homes, many times an entire family would pray for salvation. I got to personally pray with over 40 people for their salvation in that week and the team together prayed with around 260 people!

Each day we would go with a translator from the base church and go meet with someone from a house church that would take us to homes in their community. Everyone was so warm and inviting. We often were told, "This house is now your house too, come back anytime." And they really mean it because that is the way they live. Several times I would be sharing and a neighbor would walk in and sit and listen also. They have a great sense of community.

So most of all I am grateful to God, because He has a plan and He includes us in that plan.

Gratefully, Rodney Stromlund, Jr