

June 2023

Foundation For HIS MINISTRY

An Ordinary
Woman with
Faith in an
Extraordinary
God



We currently have missionaries in 4 of the 8 regions of Oaxaca. These faithful servants are giving their lives to share about Jesus in unreached areas that are often resistant to the gospel. This story of one of these missionaries, Maria Villa Pablo, is an excerpt from "Charla: An Ordinary Woman with Faith in an Extraordinary God" which is for purchase on Amazon if you want to hear the rest of this story, or other stories about heroes of the faith in FFHM.

Twila Belk
Author

after Maria finished Bible school, she grew restless. She told the mission pastor, "Since I accepted Christ, a fire has been in my heart to return to Oaxaca and to tell the people that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. I want to go back."

"Tell me where you'd like to go," he said.

"In the place where I grew up. Yucuyi. There are no Christians, and it's a very dark place. That's where I want to be."



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The pastor took trips to Oaxaca every year. He told her he'd check out Yucuyi and report back to her with his thoughts. After he returned from his visit there, he said, "You're only 16 years old. I don't believe it's the right time. You need to wait a while." She was disappointed, but he gave her some good news as well. "I found Christians in Juxtlahuaca, a place close by. I met several pastors, and they don't have a children's ministry. You can start there."

Maria moved to Juxtlahuaca and worked with pastors in the area to raise up a ministry to children. She started out teaching the children, and then months later trained others in the churches to do it. After three years, she felt like her time there had finished, but she didn't know what God wanted.

On her bus ride back to Baja, God spoke to her through a verse in Isaiah. In it, the Lord said, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" Maria had a strong sense that it was time to return to Yucuyi to call out to God for her people.

Once she made plans to go, a great battle began. Demonic spirits attacked her with nightmares, and evil voices hissed threatening messages. "Yucuyi is our territory. We will not allow you to affect it." She countered those voices with truth from God's Word.

At first, she lived in Yucuyi with an aunt and an uncle. Her uncle was an alcoholic and beat his wife. It was hard for Maria to live in an environment like that, but she knew God had brought her with a purpose.



Then one morning as Maria talked with God, she heard Him say, "Pick up these rocks and walk to the top of that mountain." She thought it was crazy, but she obeyed. Once she was there, God told her to build an altar with the rocks and to pour oil over it. Again, she obeyed.

As she accomplished that task, God said, "I want you to come to this place every day and call out for these people. Call out for this town." And that's what she did. Every morning she went to the altar, where she could see all the surrounding communities, and for half a day she called out for the people. In the afternoon, she taught reading and writing.

Immediately she came the opposition and accusations and shunning. "She's from the devil," people said. "She wants to change our religion Don't talk to her. Don't listen to her. Don't receive her."

Maria prayed, "Lord, if they don't accept me, how will they accept the message I bring to them?"

The Lord said, "Continue praying and serve them. Don't preach My Word yet. The day will come for that. Just love them. Serve them. Let them see your life."

Note: *Through a miraculous story told in the book, the community eventually opened their hearts to Maria and the gospel message she carried.*

Maria spends a lot of time training others and assuring they have what they need to do the work. Her experiences in Yucuyi have given her great wisdom to share. In addition to evangelism, training, discipleship, and administration, Maria has also taken on the role of programmer for a radio station that transmits a great diversity of programming into areas that are unsafe or difficult to reach.

The needs continue to be enormous, and the risks are high, but she is a dedicated servant who joyfully gives her all for the sake of the gospel.

Foundation for His Ministry

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