



Weekly Devotion

Weekly Devotion for April 22

“When God taps your shoulder – listen – He’ll help you get it done!”

by Reed Olson

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”

– John 15:16

In 2016, I escorted a group of Green Valley people to an orphanage in Nogales, Mexico. The director presented an overview of the home, gave a tour of the facility, and encouraged us to have lunch with the children. We were amazed at the group of children, all of whom had been abused and abandoned in the streets of Nogales, Mexico, ages ranging from 4 to 15 years old. All were very polite and greeted the group with open arms and hugs. They were very happy to see us. During the presentation, we learned that the Mexican government only paid for education through the 8th grade; after that, the parents needed to pay for high school and, if lucky, college or trade school. Higher education was not going to happen for these deserving children. At that time, none of the children were in high school. When I asked the director how he was going to pay for higher education, he replied, “Reed, it’s all I can do to keep food on the table, clothing on their backs, and provide a loving/safe home environment to live in. And I believe that God will provide whatever assistance is needed to help the children.” I walked away from this trip believing that God would provide, BUT sometimes GOD needs a little help on the ground to get his work done. I prayed for HIS guidance because these children needed help. And He answered.

In 2017, RISE Scholastic Achievements was created as a 501(c)(3) organization to help ensure these exceptional children would have a sustainable funding source to enable them to pursue their high school, college, and trade-school goals. How successful is the RISE program? In May 2024, the first student graduated from college with a degree in nursing. She now provides the home with medical assistance while working her daytime job as a real nurse. In the fall of 2025, two more students graduated from college, and two more entered college as freshmen. Eight more students will attend high school with the new goal of attending higher education after they graduate. In 2025, RISE was awarded the Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar, the highest award given by the world’s largest source of information on nonprofits.

Bottom Line: Without God tapping my shoulder and guiding me through creating the RISE program, these children and future children of the home would not have the opportunity to achieve their dream of a better life. Making a difference the Lutheran way.

Journaling:

When has God tapped your shoulder, and how did you answer?

