



TESTIMONIAL 07/18/2024

Jussara and Daniel CHACON, Brazil

Stay with us, Lord! "Like a force of inspiration"

"WE GIVE WHAT WE ARE AND WHAT WE HAVE."

(offer/donation)

DANIEL: We are Jussara and Daniel Chacon. We have been married for 37 years and 6 months. We have three children: Emmanuel, aged 35, Isabella, aged 32, and Daniella, aged 27; we also have a daughter-in-law, Paloma, and two grandchildren, Emanuel and Maria Helena, aged 4 and 1. We are from João Pessoa, Paraíba Region, in the Brazil Super Region. We have been in Teams for 33 years.

During all these years, we have always given of ourselves by serving Teams; for us, this is an offering of our lives and the lives of our children to Jesus and Mary. During these years, we have carried out the mission of Team Responsible Couple, Sector Responsible Couple, Community Experience Coordinator Couple, Liaison Couple, Pilot Couple, Region Responsible Couple, External Communication Responsible Couple in the Brazil Super Region.

We'll divide our testimony into two parts: in the first part, we'll talk briefly about our offering as a couple; and in the second part, we'll talk about the offering of our children's lives, their sufferings, their battles, when we always ask Jesus: "Stay with us, Lord," and he always does.

JUSSARA: Our service to the Church, family, friends and society has always been based on giving what we are and what we have. Throughout these 37 years of marriage, our home has always been open to welcoming and listening to people in different situations.

Among many other situations, a great moment of struggle and victory, by God's grace, on our path, was when Daniel overcame the alcoholism that was so much in the way of our marital journey. It was a real miracle, we offered God the battle against addiction, and the Lord provided; Daniel has been sober for twenty-three years, thanks be to God!

What about the children? We had three, as we've already said! The fourth child, who we wanted so much, wasn't in God's plan! It was conceived, but it was an anembryonic pregnancy, meaning that it wouldn't continue because the embryo didn't develop!

DANIEL: Here we begin the second part of our talk! We will describe the offering of the children's lives, their sufferings, their battles; moments of great anguish, of pain, but of much learning, of much love and of the certainty of the presence of Jesus walking with us! We would like to point out that we asked the three children for permission to share a little of their lives in this testimony; they were unanimous in saying that we could talk about it, without any embarrassment, because they understood that it would help so many families today who are going through the same problems!

The first son, Emmanuel, at the age of 16 (today he is 35), got involved with drugs, from the simplest to the heaviest, from marijuana to cocaine. He spent a while involved with addiction, managed to free himself, and we, his parents and sisters, never knew anything about it during this period, because he never changed his behavior at home, always remaining that devoted, loving and present son in our lives.



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After taking part in a Youth Meeting with Christ, Emmanuel was invited to give a testimony to other young people. He was distressed because he needed to talk about his healing and liberation from drugs, but his family (us) didn't know and didn't know that part of his life story. So he requested a meeting with us and his sisters. We arranged the meeting and, on the appointed day, he set up a small altar on the coffee table in our living room; it was a Sunday morning. On the altar, there was a crucifix and a small image of Our Lady, along with a rosary. We invoked the presence of the Holy Spirit and, after a moment of prayer, he told us the whole story of his involvement with drugs. He told us that during a youth meeting, during adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, he felt the need to prostrate himself and, at that moment, he had his intimate encounter with Jesus and that he was being reborn to a new life; that moment of prostration brought him back to a memory of when he went to a drug dealer's house to pick up drugs and, at that moment, the police were arriving at the place, and he prostrated himself under a bed, hiding, so as not to be caught in that place, from where he managed to get out minutes later, when the dealer informed him that the police had already left. From then on, Jesus touched his heart, stayed with him, and he managed to free himself from drugs.

It was a very powerful moment that morning, when we felt God's presence once again walking with us, welcoming us and making us see. Today, as a married father, he gives talks at meetings and his testimony has converted many young people. When we need to make decisions, he is our counselor; he is a very enlightened person, full of God's love.

JUSSARA: We experienced another situation, this time with our middle daughter, Isabella, in which the family support was more than necessary, and the offering to God, once again, re-established the steps in our journey. Isabella, 24 at the time, was engaged to be married and everything was organized; she had a disappointment with her fiancé; he was unfaithful, and she broke off the engagement. She went from supposed happiness to very difficult times, facing sad, dark days! We saw our daughter in her room, locked up, crying, and that pain was reproduced in us, mother, father and siblings, like swords piercing our hearts! So who did we turn to once again? Our Almighty God! And once again, He stayed with us! We gave up everything and gave ourselves to our daughter; we offered all that suffering to the Lord Jesus, we begged the intercession of Mary, our Mother, to help us cover our daughter with her cloak so that we could offer her a shoulder, a lap and comfort; we prayed a lot; we offered that moment to God, and she overcame everything. Today, she is well, and she has seen that that event was a deliverance in her life. Once again, we remember the disciples on the road to Emmaus... "They were blindfolded" (Lk 24:16).

We've been through other battles, this time involving our youngest daughter, Daniella (now 27). This daughter is very beautiful inside and out. Her physical beauty enchants and attracts people, but it also arouses jealousy, envy and spiritual battles. Daniella was halfway through her medical degree (in Brazil, it takes six years) when, after a trip, she came back with different clinical signs and symptoms: fever, sore throat, headache and abdominal pain. We sought medical attention and, through consultations and tests, the doctors decided that she should be hospitalized, as they suspected a rare bacterium and because her blood levels were altered, so she should receive hospital treatment. During the eight days she was hospitalized, all sorts of tests were carried out, including imaging tests, and no precise diagnosis was reached. Once again it was heartbreaking to see another daughter wasting away! Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we felt Jesus approaching us and asking ... "Why are you sad?" (Lk 24:17).

Days went by and there was no diagnosis. The condition worsened into septicemia, affecting all the vital organs, even causing pleural effusion, the presence of liquids in the abdominal cavity, also affecting the kidneys and liver! Specialist doctors, through repeated and confirmed tests, decided to



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perform abdominal surgery which would result in the removal of the gallbladder, as it was totally thickened. What was the way out? "Stay with us, Lord!". We prayed and offered up the whole situation and, once again, Jesus intervened, presented himself, and we opened our eyes and our hearts burned. On the surgery table, the doctors found that her gallbladder was in perfect condition, so they didn't need to remove it, and her whole abnormal clinical picture stabilized and gradually returned to normal. The doctors didn't know what had happened. A doctor friend of ours said that what saved her was: "first of all God through our prayers, and because she was young".

We understood that there was a spiritual intervention! After that, our daughter was discharged from hospital and returned home. A few days later, she was involved in a car accident; it was a collision between the car she was driving and another vehicle; the material damage was such that the vehicles were considered "total losses" by the insurance company. She and the driver of the other vehicle, with God's grace, did not suffer any physical damage, she was just in a state of shock, momentarily losing her speech!

DANIEL: Just when we thought that our daughter had already been through enough trials, another event happened when, once again, along the way, He was there to guide and accompany us. A little over a year ago, at the end of her medical course, during her internship in the medical clinic, she came across situations and events that led her to disbelieve in medicine. Because she had a pure and sensitive heart, she wanted to save patients, save the world, as she put it: "...I romanticized medicine".

She was filled with affection and became attached to terminally ill patients who had died; this frustrated her, causing a feeling of helplessness, disappointment, anxiety disorder and, consequently, high-grade depression; she lost a lot of weight and was even diagnosed with anorexia and inverted image syndrome, a neurological reaction caused by anxiety! She had become very ill. We even thought she wouldn't finish her course, but as always, Jesus walked with us, giving us the strength to overcome and offer our daughter to God, giving her affection, care and love. We bent our knees in prayer and fasting, and she made it through; she finished her degree and is working, saving lives and helping people. She is a doctor with a vocation, and she always says that she is a doctor of men and of souls, caring for her patients with medicine, love and Christian teachings.

JUSSARA: We'd have a lot more to say, but time doesn't allow. What little we have brought here has been spoken with a burning heart. We assure you that Jesus Christ lives and is among us; our hearts burn with fire when we hear his Word.

Our children are smiling again and increasingly understand that they have to give of themselves to make others who are suffering smile too. To offer our lives and those of our children is to believe in God's mercy and love, and to try to be merciful like Jesus.

DANIEL: As members of a society, as members of Teams of Our Lady, as Christians, we must be prepared to see and discern God's will, and when he asks us for an offering, as he did with Abraham (Gen 22:2), we must respond without hesitation! He will provide the rest!

He who walks beside us, he who receives our offering and stays with us, teaching us to share our gifts with those who suffer, so that they can smile again.

Let's invite Our Lord to remain with us, so that we can always recognize him in the breaking of the bread and in the moments of offering and giving.

JUSSARA AND DANIEL: Thank you very much. A strong and affectionate hug! A happy meeting to you all! May Our Lady bless us!



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Jussara and Daniel

