

The tragic shootings at Robb Elementary in Uvalde deeply impacted us all, yet I felt a personal pain in watching my fellow Hispanic brothers and sister traverse their hometown tragedies. I eagerly awaited an opportunity to minister to the beautiful people of Uvalde. I was blessed to meet Pastor Joe Ruiz from Templo Cristiano (Tree of Life) from Uvalde, Texas at the Latino Conference of the Assemblies of God. He extended an invitation for me to come speak at his church and I was grateful for God opening up this opportunity — I knew there were great ministry opportunities in store.

Driving in to Uvalde on October 8th was an experience met with palpable grief. DPS vehicles flooded the parking lot of my hotel, sadness was met on everyone's face and I couldn't escape the emotional heaviness throughout the small community of Uvalde.

Pastor Joe and I participated in a city-wide event on Saturday, where I was met with individual faces experiencing the greatest loss of their lives. The Holy Spirit was stirring more compassion and love for this city and I anticipated great things for our services the next morning at Temple Cristiano.

I spoke about healing and hope in Jesus and had the honor to pray for many afterward. One man was brought to me, his body language communicating grief and pain and an urgency for prayer. I prayed for healing in his mind and heart. After the service he found me to thank me for praying this over him and I was once again struck with his grief and pain. Soon thereafter I was told this was the shooter's grandfather.

While I went to Uvalde with the hope of making an impact (through the power of the Holy Spirit), Uvalde actually impacted me in a tangible way. Driving to Robb Elementary, staying at the same hotel as the DPS officers brought in for this community's protection, studying the faces of people in the community gave me a proximity to this tragedy — I was here in Uvalde and it would forever impact me.

Pastor Joe shared his desire to build a playground for his community — a beacon of light and joy for the children of Uvalde, as they have lost so much. I resonate with this desire of Pastor Joe's and want to come alongside him to make this vision possible. If you feel led, please consider a offering/donation to Templo Cristiano to help build this playground.

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I hope in sharing about my Uvalde trip others are reminded of my mission toward the Hispanic communities and how God literally makes us the hands and feet of Jesus. God's orchestration of ministering in Uvalde is His evidence of living out this calling, our mission field, going toward our latino brothers and sisters.