

Breaking Mexico's 'Circle of Silence': Juan Manuel's Story



In central Mexico's *Circle of Silence*—a region dominated by criminal gangs where speaking openly about Jesus is dangerous—

Juan Manuel* has found a way to share faith through football.

While jogging one day, he was attacked by

teenagers who threatened to kill him. Miraculously unharmed, he felt God's call to see them not as enemies but as young people lost in broken environments. That compassion became the seed of his ministry.

When his daughter Karla's football coach left, Juan Manuel stepped in. He began using training sessions to teach biblical values and prayer. The girls learned they were precious in God's eyes, and their behaviour changed dramatically—less aggression, more kindness. Parents and police noticed the transformation.

Encouraged, Juan Manuel expanded his outreach to boys and younger children. Over a year, more than 120 young people heard the gospel through football. He also started a community kitchen and visited rehabilitation centres. A local police study later showed a sharp drop in school violence, with teens saying, "*Juan Manuel is teaching us we can live differently.*"

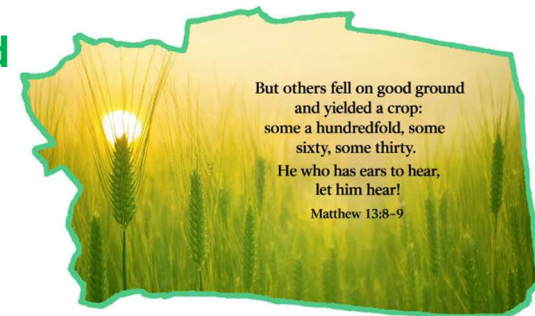
But the ministry's success drew hostility. Cartel members saw his work as a threat to their control and issued death threats. Community leaders tried to block his sessions, and after a violent cartel crackdown, Juan Manuel and his family had to flee for safety. Armed men patrolled the streets, and fear spread—but he refused to be silent. "*Sharing the Word is more important,*" he said. "*We trust God above our fears.*"

Through *Standing Strong Through the Storm* training from Open Doors, Juan Manuel learned how to face persecution with faith. Now, the young people he mentors are sharing the gospel themselves, equipped to help others in danger. His daughter Karla's faith has deepened too: "*God's love is patient; it waits for us.*"

Though his football project ended, Juan Manuel continues to pastor his church and serve schools and communities. As Mexico hosts the World Cup, he hopes the world will look beyond the stadiums to pray for believers living under threat. "*Difficult times are ahead,*" he says. "*But we share that God can change lives—people no longer need drugs or anything else, only Him.*"

Names changed for security reasons.(www.opendoorsk.org)

Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet 12 July Trinity 6



But others fell on good ground
and yielded a crop:
some a hundredfold, some
sixty, some thirty.
He who has ears to hear,
let him hear!
Matthew 13:8-9

Psalm 119.105-112: The Glories of God's Law

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

**I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.**

I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O Lord, according to your
word.

**Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,
and teach me your ordinances.**

I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.

**The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.**

Your decrees are my heritage for ever;
they are the joy of my heart.

**I incline my heart to perform your statutes
for ever, to the end.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the
beginning, is now and for evermore, Amen**

Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

God of our pilgrimage, you
have led us to the living
water: refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our
journey, in the name of Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen**



Collect for this Sunday

Merciful God, you have
prepared for those who love
you such good things as pass
our understanding: pour into
our hearts such love toward
you that we, loving you in all
things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can
desire; through Jesus Christ
your Son our Lord, who is alive
and reigns with you, in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. **Amen**



Readings for this Sunday

Genesis 25.19-34

Romans 8.1-11

Matthew 13.1-9,18-23



Please pray for...

Adrian Marryat, Linda Hall, Brian Osborne, Jane Nichols, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Marie Rose Cubacub, Christine Evans, Sue Grainge, Annie Hall, Clive Hall, Jane Knight, Imogen Matthews, Pat Reid, John Rowntree, Maggie Sharman, Amanda Thomson, Clive Walker, Judy Watson, Kevin Whitfield, King Charles III, and for any others whom we name in the silence of our hearts.

We give thanks for those on the road to recovery.

We remember Elizabeth Hayward, John Hibbins and the souls of all the faithful departed. May they rest in peace and rise in glory; and we pray for those who

Anniversaries

Weddings: Natasha and Daniel Green (2 years)

Baptisms: Florence Larham (1 year)

Funerals: June Jenkins, Eric Wyer (1 year)

From today's gospel

"But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

Reflection:

Jesus tells his disciples that they are blessed because they have seen and heard what generations before them could only hope for. The prophets longed for the coming of God's Messiah, but the disciples were privileged to encounter him face-to-face. As believers today, we too are blessed. Through the Scriptures, the sacraments, and the life of the Church, Christ continues to reveal himself to us. Familiarity can sometimes dull our awareness of this gift. Jesus invites us to open our eyes and ears anew, recognizing God's presence and action in our daily lives.

So, we ask ourselves:

- ✝ What blessings from God have I become so accustomed to that I no longer notice them?
- ✝ How attentive am I to God's voice in Scripture, prayer, and the people around me?
- ✝ In what way is Christ inviting me to see or hear something new in my life today?

Services in the Ringstone and Corby Glen combined Groups

Sunday 12th July	9.00am	Holy Communion	Haconby
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Irnham
	4.00pm	Holy Communion	Corby Glen
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
Wednesday 15th July	10.00am	Holy Communion	Morton
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Corby Glen
Sunday 19th July	9.00am	Holy Communion	*Burton w Bassingthorpe
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Morton
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Corby Glen
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Irnham
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Swayfield
Wednesday 29th July	10.00am	Holy Communion	Morton
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Corby Glen

Additional Services

Saturday 29 th August	tbc	Baptism of Louie, Jonathan & Michael Blackburn	Haconby
Saturday 26 th September	2pm	Baptism of Freya Cambell	Morton

Did you know?.....

If you find it difficult (or forget) to bring things to leave in the drop off bin at the back of Morton church, you can go to the Foodbank website, and purchase items which will then be available in the foodbank.



Go to <https://bournefoodbank.org.uk/how-to-help>

Urgently needed items – can you help?

Pasta Sauce UHT Milk Washing Powder

Safeguarding & Contact Information

Priest in charge: Revd Helen Roulston -

revhelenroulston@outlook.com or 07736 780131

Group Safeguarding Officer: Janice Hill

janicethreetuns@hotmail.co.uk or 01778 440733 and 07972 211936

Group Administrator: Sue O'Riordan

and for entries to the news sheet (by Tuesday please) . ringstoneoffice@gmail.com