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Ultimate Workout 24: It Changed My Life

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Divine Intervention

BY CESAR ROJAS

I saw a skinny, rather lost-looking man crouching by the urinals in Millennium Station in Chicago. That morning I had prayed — as I had done several times in the past — for a Divine appointment to reach out to a fellow human being. The appointment time had arrived.



Cesar Rojas

I popped the question, in English, to Crouching Man: “Are you okay?” I instantly recognized he was Hispanic when, in his accent, he said: “Oh, sick, sick, tequila!” The man was sick due to overdrinking and strapped for cash.

Being Hispanic myself, I switched to Spanish and confronted this man: “This will take you nowhere. You need to stop this addiction!”

“It’s so hard; I want to get rid of this addiction, but I simply can’t!”

Others may have suggested Alcoholics Anonymous, but I knew the root of his problem was much deeper than group session therapy. This fellow man needed Christ’s intervention. Though my best missionary training can add up only to distributing pamphlets rather cowardly and telling the children’s story, I whispered a quick prayer for guidance. I told Crouching Man of the Lord’s almighty power to break him free from sin, as long as he recognized his need and asked! “Do you want to pray?” I asked.

He replied with a hearty “Yes!” Crouching Man fell on his knees, right on that dirty bathroom floor. With men skirting by us and the sounds of toilets flushing, we knelt. I started with “Dear Lord,” when he suddenly interrupted.

“Please, God, break this habit! I don’t want to keep doing this anymore! ... I promise not to touch that drink anymore!”

I prayed after him for strength to break this habit. We rose. Crouching Man now had a look of hope, of that peace that surpasses all understanding. A few more words were exchanged, including his name.

He asked, “Do you have a book I could read?”

Oh, no, I thought. I had my trusty Spanish, not-so-new family Bible (seriously, it contained “precious sketches” from when I was four years old and hundreds of my mother’s highlighted passages). My mind wrestled for a moment, but that’s the book he received.

We exited, wished farewells, and parted ways. I hope Crouching Man truly did his best to stop the addiction with Christ’s help. Better yet, I hope he became a disciple.

Cesar Rojas plans to finish his Master of Architecture at Andrews University in 2016. He is a member of the Benton Harbor (Mich.) Spanish Company.

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