

A Christmas Baptism

By Mike Lombard

I love nearly everything about Christmas. I like the part of the biblical story where Jesus is called “Emmanuel, God with us,” and also where He is described as the Savior of the world. Christmas is about life change. It is the King of the Universe interacting with mankind so that man will never be the same. It takes Jesus off the Christmas card and places Him in the lives of hurting people who need a Savior. Because of this, one of my favorite ways to celebrate Christmas is with water baptism.

One December while we were pastoring in Arizona, our Hispanic pastor came to me and said there was a man who needed to be baptized. The swimming pools our church normally used for baptisms were already winterized. We couldn't even find an available hot tub.

The pastor approached me again. Finally, a week before Christmas I met with the pastor and the man who wanted to be baptized. With the pastor translating, the man said to me, “You don't understand! I am returning to my home in southern Mexico and I have to be baptized before I go. I am now the first Christian in my town and I need to be baptized because I am going home to start telling them about Jesus.”

I passed this information on to a man who then cleaned and opened his pool for us a few days before Christmas. The day of the baptism was one of the coldest December days any of us remembered. A brisk,


strong wind and rain greeted us as we entered the pool. Of course the water was cold. I quickly baptized the new Christian. Then we changed into dry clothes and gathered at the poolside to pray for him. In Spanish and English we prayed for this man and his hometown in Mexico. As we prayed for him, he fell to the pool deck under the power of God, the wind and rain pelting him. It was dramatic and powerful.

After prayer I interviewed him with the help of a translator.

Our new friend said he was not cold in the water. He had the sensation of warm oil

being poured over him.

When we prayed for him, he felt a giant hand gently lowering him to the ground. He experienced God's presence, God talking to him. The next day he returned home, ready to reach his town for Jesus.

Christmas has never been the same for me since. I love to celebrate changed lives. And yes, I have baptized several more people during the Christmas season. What a great way to celebrate Christmas! 



Mike Lombard and his wife, Pamela, are the directors of the School of Global Leadership in Trinidad with a calling to raise up and equip the next generation of leaders and missionaries. The Lombards have three children and three grandchildren.

