

Feed My Lambs International



January-February 2018



a monthly *Feed My Lambs International* newsletter written by Gary and Minnie Sandmann

Dear loved ones,

What do a chicken, a teddy bear and a prayer have in common? They were some of my favorite parts of a wonderful and challenging time of ministry over the last 6 weeks or so. Pretty random huh? Normally it isn't the big moments or events that fill my tank up, it is smaller details and victories that I enjoy and help me keep going in this war called ministry. Remember Jaretyz? I wrote about her Quinceañera several months back. When we arrived in her home town in deep SW Mexico (Tierra Blanca, Guerrero) this month, she ran to her home some ways away and came back with this chicken! "I raised this chicken for my God-father." she said. I greeted and thanked her, grabbing the chicken for this photo. The chicken refused to smile for the photo, I think he knew what was coming next! What we did for Jaretyz is held in very high regard by the family, especially in the deep South.

We brought a whole bunch of hand-made teddy bears, clothes, blankets, candies and little gift bags, and dinner into an area that was hurt by the recent earthquakes off the SW coast of Mexico. A family invited us to hold service at their home on the corner of this street. I preached upon the devastating effects of sin and our impossible debt apart from Christ. Many responded to the invitation to repent and be saved that night. After the service, while our team gave gifts away to the expanding group, a mute elderly woman got my attention and asked me for one of the rapidly disappearing teddy bears, I assumed they were likely for the little girl she had in tow. When I brought her a bear a few minutes later, her face lit up and the sounds that came out of her were utterances of joy that I hope I never forget. Angels cannot sing more purely than that moment.

We had so much going on these past couple months and especially around Christmas time with guest preaching, the local missions celebrations, our Christmas at Jesus Vive, and then leaving exhausted for 2 more weeks of intense missions in the SW. Along with these ministry events we hosted our friends Francisco, Natalie and Joey, a youth group, a pastor and his family, and another family of worship leaders at different times throughout the holidays, along with our own family stuff off course. When we returned to Los Canelos, we arrived to hosting a group of 38 men, pastors and leaders of churches throughout the region. I was sick, exhausted, it was really not time for a meet and greet in my view. The pastors insisted and came up to the house to meet Minnie and me. The pastors all expressed their heartfelt thanks for the now 3rd consecutive year using of our ministry facility for a time of prayer, fasting, and refreshing as they get ready for another year of ministry. And then they gathered around Minnie and me and prayed for us and thanked God for our ministry. It was a beautiful prayer time together. I guess it was a good time for a meet and greet.





Praise reports
Prayer requests/ upcoming events:

We thank God for a great time of ministry over Christmas. Many souls responded to their need for Jesus. The local missions Hormiguero and Berlanga Garcia area went great and we had a really nice turnout in Los Canelos. My preaching in Spanish is improving, but I hope to take another big step of growth this year. Minnie's enjoying watching me preach without her by my side and her favorite ministry moment this past month was when I was preaching in Spanish while Pastor Maurilio translated in an indigenous language common to the SW.



For the new play area at our ministry center. We need to design and build the kids play area; buy the slides, games, tunnels etc...we'd like to have an area that serves kids of all ages and be done with this by March 26th-28th. (for our 11th annual kids camp!) Coming Soon!

Guest preaching in Mesa, AZ on the 28th, Wray, Colorado Feb. 4th

Teaching at Berea Bible School this semester.

It was a good try, only 10 shy of the record of 34! (above left) We packed in the teens from Tierra Blanca for a conference at the developing Christian community center in Huixtepec.



There is just so much to report here this month, so I want to conclude with this story pictured left. This is the start of the greatest act of faith that I have seen in my now 16+ years of ministry. Pastor Maurilio's vision for the church and community

center in Huixtepec, Guerrero (SW Mexico) is well underway and we have already committed to return in 3 months for the grand opening and the wedding of his daughter. We have also committed to give pastor's conferences and another teen camp next January. Pastor Maurilio leads an alliance of pastors in the region. He showed me his vision 2 years ago when there was nothing there but mountain.

Pastor Maurilio and his family live in little more than a big shack with an outside shower and bathroom. The region is poor and he is poor. But he is rich in faith and I'd like to see us come beside this great vision with some consistent help and encouragement in every way for years to come. When they poured the roof, they did so by hand starting at 3am. Over 100 men from the community showed up

to help. Many do not know the Lord. We have seen these kinds of community efforts. I think that many people want to be part of something bigger than themselves and recognize it when they see it. Now, we just have to introduce them the someOne bigger. Below the cross it says Christian Center. Below that it says Christ Saves.

In addressing one of his congregations, Maurilio stated that many people follow the blessings. But some, he noted, the blessings follow. Which do you want to be in 2018?

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
 and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

-Psalm 23:6

We thank God for all of you that support our lives and ministry. And for the many Christmas cards, gifts and greetings! It means so much to know we are on your hearts. Please be praying for others to come along side with us this year. I believe with some increased support, we can increase our impact substantially for generations to come, right now especially in Huixtepec, Hormiguero, and Cuernavaca.



Donations can be sent to:
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 Call 715-821-1014 Gary's cell

Truly, the best is yet to come.
 God bless you.

*love from,
 Gary and Minnie, along with all your family in Mexico.
 And our little eagle too.*