

Feed My Lambs International



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



January - February 2019

Dear loved ones,

Engaged. Sometimes we think of this word for those about to be married. It is interesting to me that many seem to become less engaged after they are married. As we enter 2019, and another year has slipped into history, engaged is the word that challenges me as I ponder what 2019 can be. Should be. We are all engaged in something, but what will it be in 2019? I also want to be *fully* engaged. I remember what the concentration level was when Minnie and I were engaged, now just over 15 years ago. I was *fully* engaged. Those were very exciting times, and I think that is one of the by-products of being fully engaged and anticipating what is next.

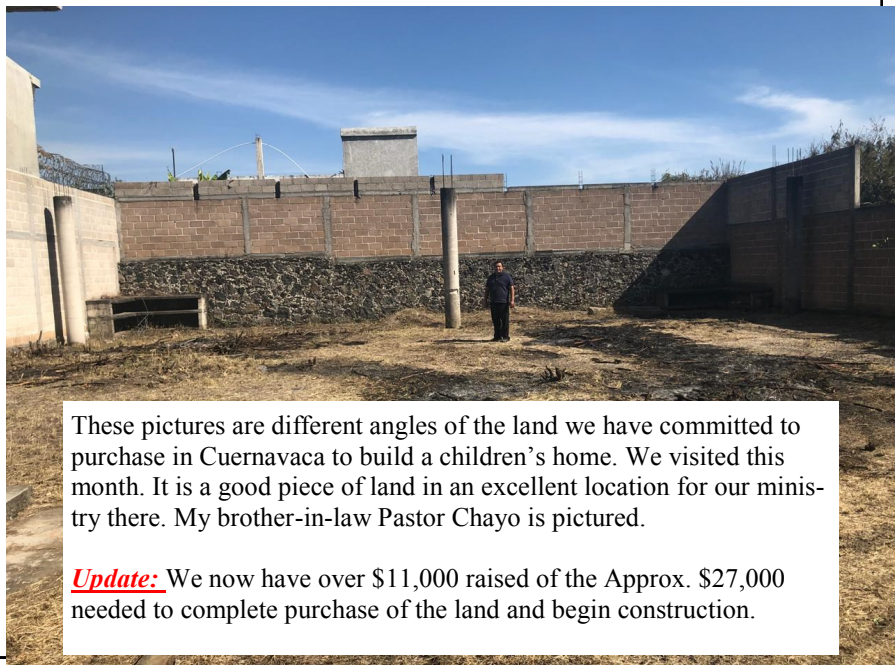
But it is easy to become complacent isn't it? In marriage. In salvation/ in Christ. Complacent isn't the term I want associated with me for the history that is coming and soon to pass in 2019. Everything will flow into history, good or bad, according to how engaged I am in my relationship with Jesus Christ this year. As I said, I remember what it was like to be fully engaged. It was good. I remember times of being fully engaged in Christ. It was good. Engaged or complacent? There really is no middle ground is there? We will live engaged and in anticipation of and for Christ or we will choose complacency in one form or another. Complacency is much too costly to all that we are made to be and all of those we hold dear.

I've been thinking a lot about the commitment that my brother and sister-in-law are making in leading the children's home in Cuernavaca. It is an all-out commitment. I've been comparing it with Esther and the decision she was confronted with. It was a life or death situation to enter the king's presence without permission. But she did it for her life too. She won her own life as well by being fully engaged with the task at hand. Fully engaged in God's salvation plan. I think so many are living complacent and looking for satisfaction, distracted, as if being engaged is somehow optional. It wasn't optional for Esther. (See ***Esther 4:13-14***) Complacency would have cost her all that she held dear, and in the end, her own life as well. We are saved by grace...for purpose (see the end of verse 14 again). Let's find out, or continue to find out, what we are here for.

Our *life* is in Christ. Our life, the abundant life that Christ promises, is in being engaged.

May 2019 be a good year for you and for me, one that we will enjoy together, forever. Amen.

Donations can be sent to:
FMLI PO Box 531606
Harlingen, TX 78553
Email garysandmann@yahoo.com
Call 715-821-1014 Gary's cell



These pictures are different angles of the land we have committed to purchase in Cuernavaca to build a children's home. We visited this month. It is a good piece of land in an excellent location for our ministry there. My brother-in-law Pastor Chayo is pictured.

Update: We now have over \$11,000 raised of the Approx. \$27,000 needed to complete purchase of the land and begin construction.

Praise reports

Prayer requests/ upcoming events: So much to give thanks for and to report!

Our visit to Pastor Cesar and Hilda in Ponciano Arriaga, San Luis was a good trip. We were able to add onto the parsonage we started last time. What a joy it is to work together with the brethren. Pictured right is the final touches on the forms for the second floor addition and the big team we had for the pour! I preached a few times and had a chance to see Juanita again too. She is well! Pastor Cesar was thrilled to have a little more space for his family (3 rooms is better than 1!) and he also mentioned that they are hosting about 50 pastors for their annual conference this month!



The trip back to Cuernavaca was a busy one too, we brought down a van load of supplies for their ministry. We visited a nearby region that was all but destroyed by an earthquake last year. I was honored to encourage them from the pulpit and with some supplies that we brought in. We had a special New Year's Eve service in Chayo and Betty's church there in Cuernavaca that I preached at, as well preaching the weekly services in the restaurant and the church. The brethren are excited about opening a children's home and are committing their time and resources selling tamales and have worked on clearing the land (pictured in front)...another memorable moment came when visiting with a young woman addicted to drugs. She has four children and commented that she loves no one. By the end of that time, she was weeping and praying on her knees to receive Christ as her life and hope! May the walls all come down and she be free indeed... to love again.

And as you know, Christmas time is busy at Los Canelos and we continue our ministry to our local missions in Hormiguero and Berlanga Garcia as well... we were part of 5 Christmas celebrations! Below right was a full house at our center. The 2 pics in the lower left were in the Hormiguero, and the pic below center was the always popular piñata beating, that was in Berlanga Garcia. In Berlanga Garcia the whole community came together and made a special meal.



One of my favorite moments came after service here at our facility. A lady from my brother-in-law Juan's church pulled me aside to let me know that she has been to every one of our Christmas Eve services along with her husband suffering from some form of dementia. She thanked us so much for our ministry and the encouragement we have been to her personally. I just want to relay her thanks to you.

January 17th– February 11th I will be up in Minnesota and Wisconsin presenting our ministry in Cuernavaca to various churches and visiting. Please pray for this effort and for Minnie and Sophia in Mexico while I am gone.

Jan. 20th First United Lutheran in Roseau, MN

Jan. 27th Valley Baptist in Lakeland, MN

Feb. 3rd East Lincoln Alliance in Amery, WI

February 10th Redeemer Baptist Church in Oakdale, MN



We thank God for all of you that are engaged with us in our lives and ministry. This month marks 10 years that FMLI has been an official entity.

*God bless you all. And love from,
Gary and Minnie and Sophia too,
along with all your family in Mexico.
Truly, the best is yet to come.*



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