

# Feed My Lambs International

## 2021!

Dear loved ones,

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you... Thank you.*

“Wow!” the little girl said. Now her mom and dad have a bed. And a stove! We surprised some families with some much appreciated gifts this Christmas. We could not do our normal Christmas services this year so we looked for other ways to be a blessing. We decided to encourage some church leaders so we asked Pastor Juan and my sister-in-law Ime to do some investigating. They had a great time with it and set up some times for us to meet the couples. The 3 couples were all nervous wondering if the Pastor was coming to rebuke them for something! One young couple needed a bed. “My back is getting sore from the floor.” she told us. Not to mention the cold nights on cement!

We gave away a couple of stoves too. Minnie and I recognized the 2-burner set-up they had and remember well that we did the same for quite a while when we first got married. Minnie said it was the better part of two years! I don't remember it being that long, but I guess she would probably remember better. What a blessing that first stove was when one of you sent provision for it! We still have it. Minnie keeps it like new. Another couple had very few dishes, so we brought them some along with some paint and supplies and a little kitchen cabinet. The gifts we were able to give were met with great gratitude and tears of joy. I think sometimes we put so much effort trying to reach out to many that don't even want the Lord that we can forget to encourage those that are striving so hard and need the encouragement. My sister-in-law's tears touched my heart as well as she expressed thanks to these couples for all of their help in their churches. “But we don't help so that we can get things.” Richard said to me. I told him that I know that about him, and that is why it was so nice to give to him.

Another way we are able to serve this season is through our facility. When we built the cabins, one of the main reasons they were built was to give pastors and their families a place to get away for some needed rest. This past year, we have seen many come for a break. Pandemic restrictions and pain have only made an already difficult job even more stressful. In December and now in January, family after family have come to get away. Some larger families that risked gathering, as well as some very small groups. Their gratitude has been expressed in many ways and I have the extra pounds to prove it! The family pictured below right asked if they could come. I didn't know it when they asked, but it seems the mom is battling a terminal illness. The family wanted to bring her to take some pictures and make some memories with her. “Thank you.” she said from her wheelchair. “The place is just beautiful.” The family was thrilled with their time together and I am so glad we are able to provide it.

“I'm ready to go now.” she told her family. Many times during 2020, I have not felt very ready. We now have an opportunity to live like that this new year. To embrace life, to live ready and enjoy every moment God gives us.



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

[www.feedmylambsinternational.com](http://www.feedmylambsinternational.com)

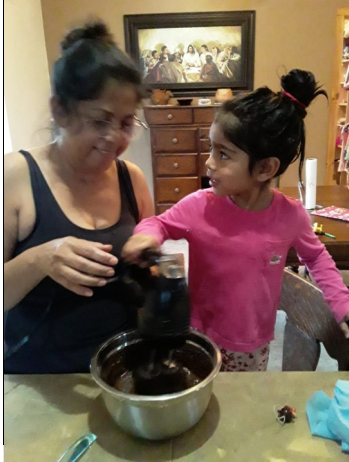


Although it is hard to report, we preached at a teen's funeral on Christmas Day. Moisés was a second generation teen that we had the privilege to serve. His mom, Myra, and Aunt Brenda (pictured right with Moisés and me) quizzed with us years ago when we first began in Mexico. Brenda was the first Quinceañera in which participated. Moisés' death is shocking to say the least. Seems he had some type of seizure on Christmas Eve. Oddly, this event is one of the reasons I'm opening the year with gratitude to God and to you. A couple days after the funeral, Myra contacted us. She thanked us for being there for her when she was a pregnant teen. Now we are able to be there again. And we are not done yet. By His grace, God has given us 2021.

Thank you...for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. -see *Philippians 1:2-4*



In other big news for us, by the time you get this letter, we hope to have been given sole custody of our Sophia. The joint petition should be before the courts this month. The other day I asked



Sophia if she was having a good day. She said she was, so I asked her what her favorite part of the day was, expecting to hear something about games or toys. "My family." she said.

"What makes you such a good daddy? How come you are daddy?" she asked me the other day. "God made me your daddy." I replied. (I really liked the good daddy part of the question) The answer was acceptable.



Later that week, she also wondered if I was carrying a baby in my belly! But I digress. I guess I did mention those blessed pounds earlier... We'll be glad when the court makes our little family official. She's been with us almost all of her now substantial 3 and 3/4 years!

Donations can be sent to: FMLI  
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**Praise report/ prayer requests:**

We have the vaccine!

Jesus is the vaccine for all that truly threatens.

Pastor Chayo is recovering! He had quite a bout with Covid-19. It seems he has a lingering heart condition as a result, but he is getting stronger. He became known as "the guy that prays a lot" during his hospital stay. We continue to wait for government agencies to open back up so we can get the last of the permits done and begin to receive children. Mexico normally closes its agencies over the holiday season, but much has been closed because of the pandemic as well. We wait...



**Milagro de Vida**  
Casa Hogar Para niños

We also wait for the same as the effort to purchase the land next to us at our ministry center continues... We are very thankful for the prayers.



I mentioned sister Mendez last letter. Although she pulled through, her husband has since passed. Please pray for the family.

We continue to acknowledge the difficult role the pastors are playing during this pandemic. Please pray for the pastors and their families.



We sent some blankets down on a mission with a pastor friend of ours. It's cold in much of the country this time of year. Let's stay warm in 2021, especially toward others. And let's live ready.

*Love from,  
Gary and Minnie and Sophia  
along with all your family in Mexico.*