

Feed My Lambs International



January– February 2023

Dear loved ones,

The most holy moments are often not captured. This one was captured. I told the young ladies that the photo may be put in the newsletter, but they'll probably be surprised to see it featured. After all, we had *done so many things* during their time with us, why lead off with this picture? The young ladies had gotten up early to spend time with the Lord and see the sun rise over the ministry on the last morning of their mission with us. I took the photo while cleaning out the van and getting ready to go to the border, the next thing that I deemed needed to be done.

This letter will arrive about 2 weeks into the now not as new year. Have you succumbed to the same business and rhythm of the last year? Well, I guess I'm speaking to myself and those of you that are so preoccupied with the latest thing that needs doing, the to-do's of the day. Of every day. I've been Martha. All of 2022 I was Martha. Much more Martha than Mary. See Luke 10:38-42.

And Jesus answered and said to her, "*Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.*"

I love to see people enjoying the Lord and enjoying our ministry center. 11-year-old Amalia (seated right) called it a paradise. That's what we want to see at our facility! A retreat, refuge, rest, replenishing, restoration, salvation! Jesus is all those things and more. It's interesting to me that the text lets us know that it was Martha who welcomed Jesus into the home. And then she got super busy and overwhelmed. We have seen the Lord moving in amazing ways through our facility since this vision began in September 2006. We welcomed Him to the land before the first shovel even hit the dirt, before we even bought it. Since then until now we have been pressing forward and presenting the latest opportunities and needs before us. It's been amazing to be part of it all and see how God does His thing. And I'm excited in many ways for 2023. *But one thing is needed.* Only one thing is truly needed. I've been reminded, again, of this reality. And of this opportunity. The opportunity to sit and be still. To sit in the midst of the chaos of this world and the list of things to do. To sit at the feet of the King of kings and Lord of lords. He came, primarily, to be known by us personally. To save us from ourselves. To have a growing relationship, one closer than a brother. With you. With me. I don't like admitting it, but in 2022 I lost my opportunity, so busy doing the next thing I deemed so important.

I hope this finds you starting 2023 enjoying the Lord like Mary, *having chosen that good part, which will not be taken away.* But if not, I'd like to invite you, along with me, to not simply welcome Him into your home in 2023. Welcome Him back to your heart as well, as first love. He has never left you, and never will. He loves you. He loves me. He cares. Happy New Year Jesus. Thank you Lord Jesus.

It feels good to understand and reconsider that the rest of the letter is secondary, way way secondary to the first and needed part. But we do have a lot of good news to report!



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

www.feedmylambsinternational.com



Praise report/ prayer requests:

Once again, kid's camp was beautiful. Pictured bottom on the front page. Did you see the kids praying together? Did you see that one child sitting in the chair? He'd never heard about Jesus. He was bold in saying in front of all the other kids that he had never received Him, but that he wanted to. Salma prayed with him. Salma is a 1st generation camper that's now in Bible School at Berea. "I have so many good memories of camp." she said to me one camp afternoon. "I have a picture from here and there..." she said to her fellow student Cecilia. Now she has another. And Cecilia has some too.

Oh Christmas tree! I couldn't disclude the tree Minnie had us make up for pictures for the Christmas Eve service in Los Canelos (upper left). It was a wonderful Christmas Eve in Los Canelos. We've hosted group after group this last month. Minnie's got about 50 she's serving there as I write!

Back to Berlanga. Pictured upper right with the bags. It was great to see the community again. I was blessed by their response to our visit. We had service for both the adults and the children and were able to give away bags full of blessings too! My favorite part was the requests for prayers to our team after service. We visited some homes to pray before we were on our way.

New outreach. Pastor Juan has begun a great work to reach a large region of the city near Hector Colony. (Pictured upper right corner) We were able to be part of one of these outdoor services as well as ministering at Hector Colony and Gethsemane Church as well. We gave out some blankets as part of these efforts. We visited some turtles too! Or did they visit us? Go figure.

In Cuernavaca...The crew is advancing quickly! Cement and stucco are now going on the interior walls in preparation for the U.S. framing crew that's coming down in February. I'll send you some pictures in March!

Thank you to "Cupcake Grandma", Morgan, Amalia, Ali, Cecilia, and Salma for your help and part in all our ministry this past month.



Donations can be sent to: FMLI
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Thank you to all of you that help make this ministry possible. God bless you and keep you in 2023.

Keep smiling. Happy New Year. And love from, Gary and Minnie and Sophia, along with all your family in Mexico.