



Dear loved ones.

It was so warm in Minnesota and Wisconsin (in spite of the evidence pictured above)! It's been 16 years since I've been in the heart of winter for so long. Traveling in the winter wonderland made me wonder on several occasions if I would make it where I was heading! Frigid -35F cold, roads like ice rinks, and several snowstorms will tend to cause some wondering. But it was so beautiful and the warm welcomes I received everywhere I went helped me to keep sliding on. The cross on this barn pictured above made me feel welcome right away as I pulled into this farm near Barron, WI.

At one time, all the region I visited was home to me. I never planned on leaving Wisconsin; that idea was impressed upon me by God. And the power to stay the course here in Mexico has been given by God as well. Now, when I return to MN and WI, I am a visitor and understandably treated as such after having been gone so long. But Mexico isn't home to me either. I just live here. It is so strange to feel very welcomed wherever I go, yet never feel quite at home. As I visited many beautiful homes all around Minnesota and Wisconsin I was reminded about how easy it would be to feel at home again there. It would be easy to settle right back in.

Thank you all for these warm welcomes. There was dinner in Roseau, MN, lots of people out for such a cold night I thought. Playing an appropriate (given the weather) game of "Penguins" in Shoreview, MN. Surviving several games of racquetball (my shoulder still hurts a little, thanks Tom) in Hudson, WI. And some fantastic cookies in Amery were some of the fun times that blessed my heart. Not pictured are so many nice times with friends and family and singing the "Baby Shark song" with the Wards in Webster, WI! (Don't look it up, you'll never get it out of your head!) It's one of Sophia's favorites. And I cannot forget the skunk in Somerset, WI! Happy 50th buddy! Welcome to the club.

My only hope for all when I visit anywhere is to be a blessing and in this case to remind all my beloved from the northland that, although we may have and enjoy many earthly blessings, our sights need to be set higher. Our citizenship is not anchored in the place we are born, but rather upon the blood of Christ that allows us to be born again. Our rights have been bought at the highest price and our home, our real home, is with Him.

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

And given this, truly, the best is yet to come.







Attention!

To all those that gave in 2018,

We sent out the individual charitable contribution statements the beginning of February, but many, if not all of you, did not receive them. So we have sent them out again and are sorry for any inconvenience to you. May God bless you for your generosity. You are very appreciated!

Praise reports

Prayer requests/ upcoming events:

We have a mission planned next week to Cuernavaca. March 9-13th If all goes well, we will be able to break ground for the children's home!

March 19th I begin to teach classes in Berea again.

We also continue with our local missions, this month we will begin discipleship classes for those interested in Berlanga Garcia. This is a big step, for me and for them. This month will be the first effort as such, let's pray that many would like to grow! I've seen some growth in the community this last year and they are now helping us pack the bags for Hormiguero as well. It is great to see them engaging. I enjoyed shooting the picture to the right from the back of my van.

I do ask a special prayer for my mother-in-law Gloria and our family. She broke her foot and is now staying with us along with my youngest sister-in-law, who needs care as well. It's a lot to take on along with all the rest of our busy lives. It looks like this will be a long recovery process and my mother-in-law is probably best off living with some help from now on.

While I was up north, Minnie spent some of her time helping out a children's home a couple hours from us. She did a great job and Sophia was very popular!

<u>Update:</u>

We have been able to send the \$27,000 for purchase of the land in Cuernavaca for the children's home. Pastor Chayo and Betty signed the closing papers today! They want to relay their heartfelt thanks for all the help we are giving them in their vision to help children.



God bless you all. And love from, Gary and Minnie and Sophia too, along with all your family in Mexico.



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