

Feed My Lambs International

Dear loved ones,

March 2021

Have you ever heard about when the scorpion asked the turtle for a ride across the water? The turtle was concerned about being stung and dying along the way. The scorpion assured the turtle by saying that he really needed to get across and therefore would not sting the turtle. So they began the journey. About half way across, the scorpion stung the turtle. "Why did you do that? Now we are both going to die." said the turtle. "Because I'm a scorpion." came the reply...

How many times?!! I sure understand why Peter asked the Lord how many times was sufficient to forgive. And up to seven times does seem like it would be enough forgiving. Sounds more than generous to me. *Can't I just respond once in a thousand I asked the Lord, trying to justify myself?* No, I needed to make an apology... Dealing with the land owners next to us has been a nightmare. I'll just put it bluntly. We are now moving into the 3rd year of trying to get this land deal closed and in our possession. It's been a long journey and we're still not across. We've been ready to close since day 1. We have our ducks in a row and know how to swim so to speak. But the other side has decades of history to muddle through the probate process of 6 wills. I think it's 6, but I'm losing count... They've needed a ride. While waiting, we've invested heavily in every way to move this process along. The sellers have been desperate since the beginning, and irrational. They've badgered and threatened us to the tune of not so veiled death threats, now thousands of texts and voice messages, all while we are helping them and assuming all of the risk in every way. It's been stressful and very uncomfortable all along. Who likes feeling vulnerable and taken advantage of? My hand is not raised, especially when so much is a stake. Nobody likes to feel used or abused, but sometimes it's necessary to give a scorpion a ride. And even, dare I say, to love one.

And so there we were, yet again, meeting with the owners as they pleaded for some more money and I was listening to our lawyer and biting my tongue again, wishing I was at the dentist having a root canal. I almost made it again, but just before we all got up to leave, I let that little buggie loose a little and let them know what I thought about their lack of responsibility and that I was sick of being stung while doing all the swimming for them (in so many words). It didn't end well and I didn't get the meek thank you's and apologies that I thought we were so entitled to get. I know, and yes, I know better. And instead of feeling better, I had just made it worse. As Minnie and I sat at dinner afterwards, the Holy Spirit wouldn't let me eat in peace, and finally I asked Minnie for her cell to make a call. To apologize for the way I spoke to them. She didn't want to give me the phone! But I persuaded her and bit my pride and made the call.

As Christ followers, we are called to the highest standards. The breathtaking lashes of the scourge and the sting of each thorn did not entice Jesus to respond in like manner. The insults, the accusations, the beating, the spit did not dissuade Him from His purpose to love us. To pay. To forgive. And even as all the disciples ran away, the sting that perhaps hurt Him the most, Jesus paid it all.

Well, we are not across the water yet and neither are we home yet. Truly, the best is yet to come. We will be stung some more before we get there... After the call, I was able to eat my supper. Minnie received an apology text from one of the owners. A few days later the stings kept coming. We continue to seek wisdom as we navigate the waters. We don't know when or if the shore is coming soon. But we know a high price has already been paid, the price that allows us to love freely without need of recompense. It's good to be a turtle.

...And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Happy Easter to all. He is risen.



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

www.feedmylambsinternational.com



As Pastor Fortino lay dying from Covid, he had one wish. Finish the church. The church is pictured above. They've done a lot. We can help. This month we are going about 5 hours South of us to Aramberri, Nuevo León. We hope to move the project along and encourage the hurting little church. We like to come along side those that are striving for the Gospel's sake. What an honor it is to be able to help this work and honor this desire. Thank you for making it possible! It's made me think once again about my dying wish....what's yours?



In other news, we are able to send out some much needed food to many hurting families this past month. Pastor Juan and Ime helped us reach some in our area and we sent help down to some families in Cuernavaca through Pastor Chayo and Betty. One of the families we helped was Pastor Chayo's brother. Gau survived a bout with Covid and the restaurant business they work in has suffered

greatly...they really needed some encouragement. Gau is such a hard worker and I wouldn't have known he needed help. His wife messaged Minnie right away thanking us. Thanking you. Another woman Betty visited with food exclaimed "This is God!". She told Betty of all her neighbors that have recently died and how alone she felt... Minnie and I returned to Hormiguero to visit some individual families. Pictured right is Ana and her family. 2012 version on top. 2021 below! What a joy it has been to be able to be a part of their lives over these years. We will continue to search for ways to be a blessing during this difficult time.



Donations can be sent to: FMLI
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Call 715-821-1014 Gary's cell
www.feedmylambinternational.com

Praise report/ prayer requests:

We have the vaccine. He is risen!
Jesus is the vaccine for all that truly threatens.

"Daddy, you're my best friend."
We are so glad to report that we now have legal custody of our little Sophia.



In Cuernavaca, Pastor Chayo is regaining his strength. We've had to hire another lawyer to help move the paper process along. It's progressing and we hope to have the inauguration in the coming months. We have the facility ready to begin receiving children, but we wait. Please pray for this process and for the children we are waiting to care for...



Milagro de Vida
Casa Hogar Para niños

As mentioned before, we will be working on the sidewalks, entrance, play area etc.. The Covid dangers, paperwork, and restrictions have kept Minnie and me from planning a mission until we see the area a little safer and/ or this paper process near completion.

We also are planning to begin going up with the 2nd floor of our *Miracle of Life Children's* Home, but first things first. I've been hesitant to mention it given our current situation, but it's exciting to think about it and plant this seed a little now. The space will be needed and the potential for growth is there but we wait on the paperwork.

At home in Los Canelos, we wait on the land purchase to be done. We have many dreams for that as well, but cannot pull a permit without clear title...

We're learning more and more about God's timing in many areas! Peace to you.

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