

Dear loved ones,

<u>Pure</u> not mixed or adulterated with any other substance or material. <u>Undefiled</u> not made corrupt, impure, or unclean. Untainted.

Many things may come to mind looking at these words, like a cool, pure glass of water for example. How necessary they are, but that is not the type of example I am thinking of now. I am thinking of a moment in Cuernavaca. The groundbreaking of our Children's Home. You may recognize the words from *James 1:27*.

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and keep oneself unspotted from the world.

I've had the privilege of being part of many special events over these years, none has felt more holy, more pure, more undefiled than this moment. If I could only put it into words... Impossible. The church (Casa de Dios, Pastored by my brother-in-law Chayo in Cuernavaca) is so excited about this project. They've been working on the land, selling tamales, desserts, clothes... They were well represented in the heat at the ground breaking! And our beloved from East Lincoln Church in Amery, WI were represented too! For those of you participating in this special effort, I hope that God grants you some of this holy joy even now. I like what my study Bible says along with this verse, pointing out that since they (widows and orphans in this case) are usually unable to reciprocate in any way, caring for them clearly demonstrates true, sacrificial, Christian love. Although I know what the writer means, I would say that they are well able to reciprocate in many ways that money cannot buy. I've heard the thanks and experienced the gratitude over and over again as I'm sure our little team of 3 from Amery can attest to. It's my honor to extend that thanks to you our supporters. Yes, pure and undefiled. Holy.

Construction is underway! In order to keep this effort moving forward, we will need some giving to continue. Monies will need to keep coming in so that we can have the holy moment that we are striving toward; The Grand Opening. We have enough right now to get the foundation underway and keep it moving forward for the next couple months. After that we will need the monies for the first roof to be poured. But for right now, this moment, let us thank God together for allowing this first, great victory.

My brother-in-law Chayo and sister-in-law Betty are pictured right. Everyone was won-dering why I wanted to buy a new shovel and paint it gold! It's a U.S. thing I guess, but they

loved it! There probably will not be much evidence of the gold paint, that shovel will be hitting the dirt repeatedly.

Loved ones, as we move forward this week and this year, let us also live the last part of the verse above.

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

"You're teaching next week!"

I began this semester in Berea with a hands on approach for my students. They have the material, they can teach it. And before you call me lazy, I have to be well prepared too! Pictured above right was the 1st class, but the second class Zaira and Noemi (pictured right) led. They did fantastic, I almost had to fire myself.

We had a great mission to Cuernavaca. Thanks to Randy, Mary (with the kids), and Mark for all your help making an impact to our beloved family there. We had so many positive commentaries on the trip. The cement mixer took the long ride South, and the basketball game was great...(pictured middle) May the rivalry continue!

I do ask a special prayer for my mother-in-law Gloria and our

family. Gloria is on the mend, although she did fall again yesterday. We're all adjusting!

Our 12th Annual Kid's Camp is coming up on Holy Week once again, we have a lot of prep to do yet. Also, we have Mary from Rushford, MN and Rosemary from East Lincoln Church in Amery coming to help along with the adult leaders here in Mexico and 2 Berea students. It's shaping up to be quite a week... 51 kids are already confirmed.

We also continue with our local missions, this month we began discipleship classes for those interested in Berlanga Garcia. Pictured right. Of all the pictures of the local missions that we've taken the now over 7 years serving them, this is my favorite. We started the class a half hour late with 2 people (and a disheartened missionary), but they just kept coming and coming! We had 18 people engaged in study by the time we concluded class. Let's pray that they continue with this opportunity to grow and learn in and about the Lord Jesus.

Quick mention, big deal. We are once again attempting to buy the land next door that would more than triple the size of our ministry headquarters. Please pray for this complicated, delicate process.

Below, Sophia made a new friend. Brother Wyman, a missionary for well over 50 years now. Minnie calls him "Dad" and we were so glad to have him visit us while he came down for a special reunion (pictured below middle) at the Children's Home Minnie grew up in. It was such a nice turnout with so much laughter among these siblings. And some, came home to God as Wyman shared God's love through the

story of the prodigal son. I hope you all know His love for you.









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



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