

Feed My Lambs International

April 2021

...Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

-Mark 14:9

Dear loved ones,

How do you want to be remembered? We don't want to waste our opportunity. Mary took her opportunity to anoint Jesus while she had the chance. She gave an expensive gift, the best. Costly. Pastor Fortino "Tino" gave his very best. He lived for Jesus. I never met him, that will have to wait, but I listened to his wife and daughter speak of him all during our first week in Aramberri. What a memorial of love and sacrifice he left behind! Day after day we listened during meals and visiting, story after story expressing their love and appreciation for this very missed man.

As we arrived in Aramberri, we quickly realized that this work was going to take a bigger commitment than the week we had planned. (The picture 2nd from top is what greeted us when we arrived.) Sacrifice is like that isn't it? Many times, it takes more than what we thought. The whole extra mile and then some more after that. We adjusted for a return trip the following week. The family and church community were reeling from the passing of their pastor 3 months prior. I say "were reeling" because they are now reengaged! They're moving forward again. Pastor Tino left them quite a challenge with his dying wish and some large shoes that cannot be filled by just one person. He built the little church building with his own money in his "spare" time while running a tortilla business and pastoring his main church for some 40 years along with his beloved wife.... It was a labor of love for his family and that part of the Aramberri community.

The family thanked us in so many ways throughout the weeks in Aramberri. I mentioned to Tino's son Esau that I would like to see a particular path up a nearby mountain overlooking the city. Esau recounted a story of when Jesus beat up the soldier! Every year there is a reenactment of Good Friday by some in the community. One year, the soldier got a little too realistic with his whipping of Jesus while he was carrying the cross up that mountain. "Jesus" dropped the cross and got into a fight with the soldier! I think we can all relate to that "Jesus". Esau took my brother-in-law Juan and I up there early one morning. I took the photos above on top. Happy to report there was no fighting!

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



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Last month, I wrote that we hoped to move the project along and encourage the hurting little church. Mission accomplished. We thank God for the connection only He can make.

There is a nice group of believers there. My brother-in-law Pastor Juan and I were surprised when we held a couple house services there in the pastor's home. We expected maybe a few to show up. The house wasn't big enough for proper social distancing as the hurting flock continued to come. (pictured below)

"I don't want to see all my husband's work in ruins." Pastor Tino's widow stated as she thanked us so much for coming to help them. We gave away some blankets from Wisconsin, knowing the common history of Covid loss would connect. We gave away some hand-made bears sent all the way from Washington, a couple devotionals sent from northern Minnesota, and we gave a new study Bible to Esau. Then we came back for more the next week! We were able to make a great advance with the church in every way those 2 weeks. We left them some material and some "homework" to complete the exterior of the church. We are planning our 3rd trip April 7th-11th to inaugurate the new church!

The brethren in Aramberri have also asked us to help them during this transition as they wait for God to call their next pastor. We will be able to help. There are so many praise reports to write, but I thank God for this new connection and for what only He can do in such an amazing way. He is bringing a scattered, scared flock back together. And encouraging a beat up missionary in the process. Pretty cool!



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

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

We were able to send some help to Pastor Maurilio's family in Guerrero. They've been fighting Covid. At home in Los Canelos, the turtles keep swimming and the scorpions keep stinging. We wait on the land purchase to continue forward. It's an open ended trial, or trail, depending on how you look at it!

In Cuernavaca: When we return from Aramberri, we will see how the paper process is coming along and plan a trip to Cuernavaca accordingly. We look forward to getting back, looks like we'll return in May. As mentioned before, we will be working on the sidewalks, entrance, play area etc..

Another piece of news is that the property next to the children's home may be for sale. The owners have contacted Chayo and Betty. This would be a great addition, especially since space is very, very limited there. Please pray for all these developments and for the children we are waiting to care for...

Please pray for the border crisis, especially for the children that are being sent up, separated from their families etc...and for all the fatherless. The numbers are only increasing.

Thank you for caring with us.
 May it be a continuing and everlasting memorial.
 Peace to you.



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