

Feed My Lambs International

Dear loved ones,

Large groups and a backed up septic system is not a report I like to make and these pictures aren't very pretty. It'll be over 200 hours of labor by the time we complete this trouble shoot and revamp of our septic system. It wasn't in my plans either I might add. But these pictures are much more reflective of ministry than the ones I normally send you. What I normally send is unbalanced with reports of highlights and victories. That's more of what we want to hear about. And thank God for them!

Ministry and life in Christ is a battle against the flesh and the underlying unseen forces that dominate this present age. These pictures are a more accurate reflection of most of my time. We battle the forces of sin and it's obvious devastating effects. Sin may look fine for a while, but the coming problems lurk and no matter how beautiful or right something may seem at the time, it makes itself known sooner or later. We are confronted. Much of my job from the pulpit is to confront what is obvious, hopefully before it manifests it's stench to so many. Confrontation and perseverance in love, against my flesh. That's my latest ministry definition! Those are all difficult to maintain while doing things you'd rather not be doing. Like mucking out a big hole filled with waste water for example (again, again, and again...I might add). But the next group is coming quickly; the next victory only comes if the preparations and maintenance is done. They need the victory, and so do I, personally. Ever notice that it's easier to muck out a hole filled with sewer water than it is to confront what needs to be changed in your own life? It's easy to live distracted today and ignore what everybody else can smell. I battled myself, again, with this unplanned project and it seemed like it would never end. God, who did plan it especially designed for yours truly, revealed some things in me that need to change. Now.

I slowly saw God's kindness and favor as we kept searching for the root of the problem (amidst my mini temper tantrums!). Oops, did I say mini? I meant many. We found the main problem as well as a couple other things that needed to be redone. It's better now than it ever was before and we have easier access to help us maintain when future problems arise. And I know it's workings backwards and forwards so to speak. We also have a couple places that we can tell the cement isn't original anymore. They're ok too. They'll serve as a reminder of lessons (hopefully, you know what I mean) learned and a hard fought victory won. Thank God.



a monthly ***Feed My Lambs International*** newsletter written by Gary Sandmann



June 2018

While I was battling the waste pipes, Minnie was making flower arrangements for the celebration that was rapidly approaching. Blanca's quinceañera. Blanca was our most faithful church attender. Hey! Why do I get the sewer pipes and Minnie gets the flowers? That's not fair! :) Minnie poured her heart into it as she always does, and the decorations were a special touch in the celebration of God's grace and Blanca's life. We were able to witness to many of Blanca's non-Christian family during the event.

*"I've never felt anything like this in my entire life. Thank you so much for doing this."
-Blanca's mom.*

Blanca's tears and the family's joy in the house of God made all the playing in the sewer mud worth every effort. Blanca really has little idea just what it took. And that doesn't matter, she had other things to be nervous and excited about.

This morning as I write, I cannot help but think of all that God has done on our behalf that we know so little about. Thanks be to God for His faithful work behind the scenes, work that we scarcely recognize, His faithfulness in all circumstances, His promise to work all for good for those that love Him. He sent His Son while we were yet sinners. He has done all the cleansing work. He is preparing the place we have yet to see and that is impossible for us to even imagine.

*Love from Gary and Minnie
and all your family in Mexico.*

Truly, the best is yet to come.

Donations can be sent to:
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Email garysandmann@yahoo.com
Call 715-821-1014 Gary's cell



**Praise reports
Prayer requests/ upcoming events:**

The kids just love the new play area. We've hosted several groups already since we built it.

We had a special dinner for the workers that helped me with the sewer project. We invited them and their families. It was a nice time and we all took some time climbing around the play area. The kids don't think I'll climb and slide! They get a kick out of it. Yes, I do fit down the tube slides.

Teaching in Berea May-June
The classes are going very well, I have 17 students that I am teaching foundational discipleship training. A couple of the students have already asked for copies of our study material so they can disciple others! That's the idea. We also sent some discipleship training material down to Cuernavaca. The church is growing! The kids club we are helping with is bearing much fruit (and cake too, baking class pictured below), some of the moms have now come to Christ and are engaged in church!



**Teen Camp prep
for July 9-11th
Another camp Au-
gust 5-10th for
Sabinas Children's
Home**

We enjoyed a visit from my Dad and Kathy and Aunt Myra in April. I like the picture below. Nice to meet you Great Grampa and Great Grandma!

I do ask for your prayers for Minnie and me as well as Jackelyn and Sophia (my little eagle). Jackelyn and Sophia have moved up to Minnesota. We had Sophia living with us for her first year or so. We are thankful for this new start for them, but I miss my little eagle. And since Minnie cannot cross the border, it is especially difficult on her. We got very accustomed to having Sophia with us. Her smiles, expressions, the sounds she made...watching her grow brightened my days. What a blessing.

