

Feed My Lambs International

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

Dear loved ones,

Minnie and I invited the students on a field trip for our last day of class together. They were all up for the challenge to climb the mountains that surround our ministry facility. I thought we could climb up to the top of what I call *Moses Mountain* that sits right out back to the SE of us. A couple years ago when my neighbor got lost in these mountains, I remember wondering how he could ever get lost, there would always be reference points, and he had experience and has lived here all his life. How could he get lost? The mountains had some lessons for me this month. I have climbed some mountains on well travelled tourist trails before, but this was different.

The beginning of our trek skirted along the river (pictured above) that I know well, but then our guides began to blaze the trail up the mountain, an unbeaten path that needed to be cleared by machete. Two hours into our climb, I was very disoriented, and began to understand how my seasoned neighbor could have been in trouble quickly. I wasn't sure which way the ministry center was, or what part of the mountain we were on. It was humbling and awesome as I began to see some new points of view upon the mountains that I see most mornings when I meet the day. I was completely dependent upon our guides to get us up and back home within the day's allotted time. At one point during the climb, I joked with one of our guides Luis, at least I think I was joking with him; "Hey Luis! Do you know where you are?!" Luis assured us that he did.

It is easy to get disorientated on this way home. Although we haven't passed this way yet, we do know how to get home. Jesus said as much to Thomas and Philip before He went to the cross for our sins. Thomas said to Him, "*Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?*" Jesus is the way home. (see **John 14:1-11**) What a startling and intense time they had to pass through together. They were disoriented, completely confused, tired and felt lost. There can be many times like this along the Way can't there?

One of the other moments that struck me, was on our way back down the mountain. I heard a loud "pop". It was one of our guides, Tivo, firing his gun just for fun. I didn't see that he had it, but he did all along. It could come in handy against some of the animals in the mountains, mainly wild boar, that can be aggressive. *Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.* Sometimes along the Way, we only understand how protected and cared for we are by God, after we pass through the valley.

We walked, climbed, stumbled, crawled, descended...approximately 9 miles in the mountains that day, we never did get to the top. This time. But we will, Lord willing, we will make it to the top next time. Although we didn't make it all the way up *Moses Mountain*, the trip was great. Luis lead us up to a pretty stream way up the mountain. There were new discoveries to be made. "Do you want to see the cave?" Luis asked. We climbed. The discoveries were there all along, but we had never seen them before. That, I think is the essence of our faith walk in Christ, but we must climb. We must follow. The cave was amazing, dropping into a massive cavern that we could not see the bottom of (Estrella is pictured in the cave, flanked by our guides Tivo and Luis). And truly, the best views, are yet to come.





Praise reports

Prayer requests/ upcoming events:

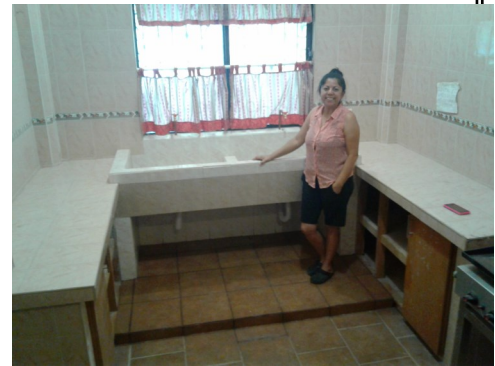
The pictures above are kind of unique. They were taken during a service on Father's Day, held in a corridor at a local mall, during Mexico's first World Cup match! We could all hear in the background what was happening during the match. I opened by pointing out that there is always another game to watch, win or lose, but that fatherhood is not a game and we cannot afford to lose. The pictures were from when I called all the dads up to ask our Heavenly Father forgiveness for our faults and failures, and then I had their families surround them and give thanks for them while we all prayed. It was a beautiful time together.

... and Mexico upset Germany 1-0 !

We continue to serve our local missions, giving food bags and holding services. In the Berlanga Garcia, Chocolate, and Guayacan region we are now looking at a place to rent so we can serve these communities more effectively and evaluate for future ministry. Some are now following Jesus due to our efforts and others! In Hormiguero (June service pictured left) we hold services and are now giving approximately 80 food bags away. We have found a lot for sale that is right next door to our worship leader Carlos (pictured) and his family. We want to serve these communities more by coming more often while giving Berea students opportunities to develop their ministry skills as well. Please pray for us as we need to make some important decisions and commitments regarding our ministry and these communities.

Our little church in Hector Colony is growing as well as all our efforts in Cuernavaca. Please keep my brothers in law in your prayers. Pastor Juan has recently been hospitalized with internal infections (he is now out of the hospital) and it appears Pastor Chayo is slowly losing his sight.

Pictured right is the same space pictured last month! Since we had to take the old sink all out and had it all dug up, Minnie got to have a much bigger sink built that we need for camps and groups! She had been asking for it for a while and it is a great improvement.



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

There will not be a golf tournament this year. No fores! I need to concentrate on the tasks at hand for now. I hope we can do it next year, however I will be up in Wisconsin for at least 2 weeks in the beginning of September. More on those details next month.

I hope this finds you on the Way, and comforted no matter what mountains you currently are facing. 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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