

Feed My Lambs International

Dear loved ones,

I'm thinking of a tight-rope walker this morning. The great gulf was fixed before him along with that long line. A national live television hour was set. He stepped out, fully committed. Step by step. Weather conditions were agreeable enough, but are never certain. Practiced, prepared most certainly, but then came that moment. When was that moment of no turning back? Was it the first step out on that line? A few steps? Half way?

For we walk by faith, not by sight. -2 Corinthians 5:7

We have long passed that point, there is no turning back, and so we move forward. The wind has picked up many times. The line seems unstable, but we know it is not. It has been proven. The anchor will hold. Our Anchor will hold. Even so, a certain amount of trepidation has become my companion. Practice and preparation does not compare to the reality of this gulf. Falling is a possibility. Would he have prepared differently now if he could have? Would we? No matter. There will be time for second guessing later. Or maybe there won't be.

We walk this out, keeping the goal in mind, but not yet being able to see the end of this line. We are not sure just exactly how long it is. We must be moving closer, our only steps are forward and now upward somewhere along the ascent...How much longer, O Lord?

We are walking two of these lines at once right now. The line of paperwork stretches out at the Children's Home in Cuernavaca and with the land buy at our home in Los Canelos. No end in sight, but there are likely still at least several months to go in both situations. Every time we feel closer, the line seems to grow only longer. Fatigue is long past set in. Frustration levels ebb and flow but the line still stretches before us...We must stay focused. On Jesus. Anything else, like goals or reasonable expectations, have only proven a distraction or a disappointing mirage. Frustrating. Unstable. One line for you and me. One line for Jesus. Walk beside me Jesus. Hold my hand. I don't feel as sure and secure out on this line as I was at the practice facility.

Last week, I asked lifelong missionary Wyman Pylant what were the things he was able to enjoy (since I haven't been enjoying much lately) during some tremendous and ongoing physical and emotional trials. They have lasted more than a decade in his case. "Walking with Jesus." was his reply. "Always onward and ever higher." he explained in so many words. As I watched the tight-rope walker finish his walk that evening, it surprised me how he was able to finish. He ran the last 20 feet or so, off the rope and on to his family and friends that were waiting to rejoice with him. What a powerful and wonderful moment! I look forward to running again, but now I must refocus on my walk. With Jesus. Ever higher. May this find you walking in step, enjoying His presence.

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

Peace to you.



July 2021



In Cuernavaca:

Minnie and Sophia went down for a couple weeks while I stayed working in Los Canelos. While there, they visited some friends in another children's home. "What would I do without my children?" lamented the longtime matriarch of the children's home. They've been established and well-staffed for several decades. Now the government is threatening to shut them down and take the 18 children due to some paperwork issues. We have not been able to open due to paperwork. The latest request of my dear sister-in-law Betty is a 70 page document explaining to them the discipline and other strategies she intends to enact at the home. This is after many months of meeting many other requests.

We are moving forward, trying to help children. We have hired yet another lawyer to help us. We'll try to help the other home get into compliance as well. It's fun to see the announcement painted on the outside. The patio (pictured), entrance, and sidewalks are being done now. Please pray for the kids. For the 18 and for the ones we are striving to reach.



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Praise report/ prayer requests:
Jesus is the vaccine for all that truly threatens.

Also in Cuernavaca:
The land we were looking at in Cuernavaca is put on hold for now. We'll wait as we sift through papers. The owners raised the price from their original asking price. We'll likely reengage this at a later date...

Near the end of 2011 we began presenting our outreach ministry. One of the pictures shown was of a row of dilapidated shacks in Hector Colony. It's what drew my brother-in-law Pastor Juan and us to that specific area. Of course we planted *Fountain of Grace Church* there and have served the community all along. Last Sunday I noticed a new family that's been attending regularly at the little church. They are the first to regularly attend from that row of homes. It's taken almost 10 years to reach them. Glory to God.



At home in Los Canelos, we are hosting groups, families, etc... This month we hosted Brother Wyman. His beloved Cathy passed on to glory just a few weeks ago. They raised Minnie. She's known them as her family for 46 years. We thank God for their service and ask you to remember Wyman in your prayers. Several families and friends came to visit Wyman while he stayed with us. One was Pastor Sabino and his family. They drove many hours to pay respect. Pastor Sabino also recently lost his wife and has passed through a down time. "I see what's happening here (at our facility). I've got to get back to work!" he stated. We'll be planning a visit to the SE soon I'd guess...



Pictured left is some expanding parking and play area at our ministry center! Camps will be starting up again very soon! We took a big step forward in the probate process last month. We now have Power of Attorney to complete the purchase from the 2 principal owners. The harassment and abuse have stopped these past few weeks. We still have more to wade through, but this was one marker that's taken over 2 years to complete.

Transplanted. We've tried to transplant a few trees over the years here. Many times they just don't make it. It's too much for them. The one pictured left looks like it will live. The tree reminds me of myself. I understand it's trauma. We are so glad to be continuing to grow here in Mexico. Thank you for the regular watering.

Another Sophia story: The neighborhood dog chorus fired up in the middle of the night. Our dog *Sky* was an instigator. Sleep left as irritation arrived and I got up to try to unsuccessfully calm our dog. Sophia's sweet voice pierced the wee morning hour..."Sky loves you so much Daddy." I started to calm down. About 30 seconds later she chimed in again..."And Daddy and Mommy love Sky." Oh yeah. I forgot.

Donations can be sent to: FMLI
PO Box 531606
Harlingen, TX 78553
Email garysandmann@yahoo.com

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