

Feed My Lambs International

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

June-July 2019

But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" -Luke 10:29

Dear loved ones,

I was not a good neighbor before Jesus saved me from myself. Loud parties, unkempt yard, even the police needed to be called out upon several occasions. My yard and my life were a big mess. Many of us would define a good neighbor as one that keeps after their side of the fence and doesn't give any cause for concern. Simple, really, for most to be considered "good". In these years building up the center, my neighbor on one side has been anything but what is considered a good neighbor, living like I used to live and in some ways worse. I, we, and most of the rest of the community (I've come to understand), haven't appreciated it. Many have expressed a real gladness at our trying to buy the land and taking over occupancy. Truth be told, I couldn't wait for them to leave. While waiting, impatiently, and wanting to shuffle them out the door, God was dealing with my heart. He helped me understand that I haven't been quite as good a neighbor as I'd thought. God doesn't define "good" like I do. Or "good enough" for that matter.

Although I would have liked to justify myself for having a hardened heart toward them, thankfully God's truth never changes and He is faithful. It's hard for others to see our good works and glorify God (see Matthew 5:16) if we are only cutting our own side of the fence so to speak.



We are called to be so much more than what is commonly acceptable. Will we step out? Will we show compassion? Will we love in a difficult situation? Thanks to God, we did. We need to change the question from wondering who our neighbor is and what we *have to do*, to looking for how to help in any given situation for the glory of God. That person is a neighbor (see Luke 10:36).

After a big effort to move the family, we all sat down for a meal of celebration together. I listened as my now ex-neighbor told me about some others coming along (after we had signed the accepted offer to purchase with the owners), offering much more money for the land they were living on. "I can see that God has a plan here." He continued, "If they'd have bought the land, we would not have a home." I let them know that their home was an answer to my prayers and that God is demonstrating His love for them. More than that, I told them about how God demonstrated His love for them at Calvary and that I was more concerned for their eternal home. May the Precious Seed bear much fruit in this dear family. And now it's time to ask the next question; How can I love them further? Even though, technically, they are not my neighbors any more. They've moved down the road about a mile to their new, humble home.

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Praise reports

Prayer requests/ upcoming events:

And...9 year old Tanya was really thankful to have her own bed to sleep on! She took the top bunk. Thanks to Rod Elboar (Christian Carpentry Ministries) for all his help in building, moving (pictured), land clearing...as always we kept him very busy on his latest visit.

We have teen camps coming this summer and they are a big reason for this June-July double letter. There's a lot of prep and we will be traveling SE to do a camp at the beginning of July. After we get back we'll host our annual camp. Please pray for these efforts.

Teaching in Berea and Berlanga Garcia (pictured left) is going well. I was thrilled to see that all that were seated and taking class with me in Berlanga Garcia have responded to their need for Christ.

Footings are poured in Cuernavaca! There is a tremendous effort underway. The preparations are even more than what would be normal because Cuernavaca sits in an earthquake zone. Everything built to code needs extra labor, more material. Of course,

we are building to last and for potential future growth! We plan to go down on a mission in August.

The land of milk and honey?

Rod and I were taking a walk on the new land when we discovered a massive bee's nest! Just when we were discussing how much we didn't know how to take care of the situation, we heard a rustling coming through. It could have been a cow or a goat, but it was my neighbors the evening before they were moving out. "Be careful, there's a big bee's nest!" I told them. They were coming to get it for the honey. We watched and learned as they burned an old chair nearby the nest, poked it with a long stick and waited for the bees to leave the nest and hover above. Then they cut it down and we all enjoyed the most natural, fresh honey possible! No wonder the bears love it.

The Quinceañera for Abby on May 19th was beautiful (pictured right). She is a life-long camper now helping lead kids camp! She sang special music at her event. What a job she did!



Donations can be sent to:
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 Call 715-821-1014 Gary's cell

God bless you all. And keep smiling, because truly, the best is yet to come.

*love from,
 Gary and Minnie
 and Sophia too, along
 with all your family in Mexico.
 (takes a good selfie doesn't she?)*

