

# Feed My Lambs International



Dear loved ones,

It was a three week sprint from here up to Wisconsin and Minnesota and back. 3 1/2 year old Sophia was a big part of the reason I needed to return quickly. She didn't know quite what to do when my van pulled back into the ministry center. She screamed and jumped and yelled at me to come, then she came a runnin' with one of the nicest hugs I've ever had.

"You came back Daddy." It was quite an arrival.

During this brief trip, one of my dear friends went home to the Lord. I expected to see Gail, but now I'll have to wait. Pastor

Steve and Gail invited me to the first church that I've ever had the privilege to preach in. It was to a youth group up in Siren, WI. She made a big deal out of me coming. She always made a big deal out of me coming. Now it's my turn to make a big deal out her. I'm always inspired by those that serve well, and especially those that finish well. Gail and her group of sewers have sent over 1,000 blankets down for us to give the warmth of love to many in Mexico. They also sent 1 very special set of curtains. Just before Gail went on a ventilator, she asked a friend to be sure the curtains were done.

They are for our children's home in Cuernavaca.



Others were always on Gail's mind to the last. It was quite an arrival to Heaven! That's a tough act to follow, Gail. I thank God for her example.

As you can see, arrivals have been on my heart a lot lately. The violence that we live in the midst of, for many years now, serves me as a constant reminder of the brevity of life and our amazing opportunity to make an eternal difference. A pandemic is a good reminder too. There are many wonderful things to enjoy and appreciate during our time here, but truly, the best is yet to come. Tightly hanging onto the temporal only hurts ourselves and others. The tighter I hold onto my way, the worse I am. His way. His will be done. Life is given to be given. I do not want to arrive to Heaven with my fists clenched, trying to hang onto what is clearly vanishing away. Gail finished the race. And she ran very well. How do you want to run? How do you want to arrive?

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

**-Hebrews 12:1-2**

*Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

**-1 Corinthians 9:24-25**

In so many ways, my time up in WI and MN was a blessing. It is such an honor to visit and be welcomed by so many. In the midst of a world filled with so much tragedy and difficulty, it's such a blessing to visit the fellow runners. The marathon feels lonely sometimes, but we strive together. We press forward, learning endurance, together. We cry together, share and laugh together, we endure together. Sometimes we fall and help each other up together. We help carry each other as He carries us all. Until the next time we are in touch, may God bless you richly. Sophia, Minnie and I will be headed back down to Cuernavaca in October. I've got some curtains to hang.

October– November 2020



**Milagro de Vida**  
Casa Hogar Para niños



**Welcome home cuñada!**

My sister-in-law Betty had given up on ever having a home to call her own this side of Heaven. Of course Betty, Minnie, and Imelda grew up in a children's home. Betty went to the Berea Bible school right there and then she and Pastor Chayo began their marriage and ministry. They built a church and parsonage near Monterrey, but then God called them to Cuernavaca. They left their home to the church body. They'd lived in a borrowed home in Cuernavaca since then. Now they're home! Once there were some bedrooms about ready, they moved right in. Chayo, Betty, two of my adult nieces (Acsa and Becky), along with little grandsons Leo and Danny (pictured) right. They can hardly believe it. And Chayo's Island is now ready for service!



As I mentioned, we'll be heading back down there this month to finish a few details on the main level. I have a few days of electrical work to finish and we'll look for some of the furnishings, hang those curtains, etc... You might imagine that there is A LOT of paperwork and hoops to jump through in order to have a children's home. Please be in prayer over this. As much as we'd have liked to have all these things in order *before* building, that's not how it works. All these things are more difficult now navigating through the pandemic, government closings etc... We have found favor thus far and diligently continue toward the mark. We will reach our goal of being able to receive kids by the end of this year as far as the facility goes. The paperwork is what concerns us more now.

By faith, we move forward.

Donations can be sent to: FMLI  
PO Box 531606  
Harlingen, TX 78553  
Email garysandmann@yahoo.com  
Call 715-821-1014 Gary's cell  
www.feedmylambinternational.com

**Praise report/ prayer requests:**

We thank God that Pastor Juan and Imelda and our nephew Jair have passed through COVID-19 and are well.

We have other dear friends fighting this virus now. Please pray for them.

Please pray for the pastors and their families. Many depend upon offerings that are now not being given due to the pandemic. They also run some of the highest risks of catching the virus. We'll be sending down some financial help to two of our pastor friends in San Luis this month. You may remember Cesar. Lupe, one of Cesar's convert's is now pastoring his own church!

The land purchase continues to drag on. We need continued wisdom and patience. We're now on the 6th, yes 6th, will and testament that needs to be gone through before we can close on the property. It's proving to be the most difficult. There are way too many details to go through in this letter. We are very thankful for the prayers.

Please pray for the kids that are waiting for refuge. I think of them often and it helps keep things in perspective for me. It's so exciting to be able to do something for some children that need help. I think we all know of some situation, some child that we would like to help. This is a difference we can make.

**Community Outreach:**

It's been on my heart a couple years now, but now I think is the time to revamp and adjust our efforts to serve to best utilize the monies many of you are entrusting us with. Enclosed is our update and continuing strategy to advance!

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



# Community Outreach!

It's been 9 years now since we first presented what we called "Family Program". Now our "Community Outreach". A good 9 years of serving families and communities. We've seen a new generation born and some of the older generation pass on. Praying for babies and children has been great. Seeing some elderly come to Christ and then go to glory, what a joy! Enrique in Hormiguero. Enrique immediately responded to the gospel invitation during our first service in Hormiguero. Tachita in Berlanga Garcia. Tachita hosted our services in Berlanga for years, what a character she was. We said goodbye to Panfila some months back, but also have had the opportunity to welcome her grandbabies! (pictured upper right) They're Sophia's age now. Pictured right is Julia receiving her first bag of food from us 9 years ago. We helped support her in this way until the day she passed on years later. We were able to visit with her in the hospital that day too! The list goes on, what precious souls.



Planting the church *Fountain of Grace* in Hector Colony has also been wonderful to be part of and we hope to plant more! We began with a street service 9 years ago.

God's appointment in Guayacan has been very special to me as well. We were sent into them during an extremely difficult time for the little community. Two of their young men were abducted and never returned. Another young person within the community accused of being part of the plot. That's extreme. We were able to minister to them on your behalf for many years, having services in Dora's yard. They are scattered now since the land owner exercised his rights on the homesteaded little community near Berlanga Garcia.

We've seen many people come to Jesus in Berlanga Garcia! The gospel has now taken a foothold after more than 60 years' history of collaborative efforts! What a privilege. Pictured right is our 2018 Christmas service.



We've been able to encourage through now over 10,000 bags of food given along with Bibles, blankets, special events, classes.

Many of you have supported these effort since the beginning, thank you so much. Your monies have made an impact and now we are poised to do more. Enclosed is a copy of the proposals I sent to our board for *Community Outreach*. We need to continue to adapt and advance during these always and now rapidly changing times.



Your support is vital. It's important and we certainly do not want to lose it due to these changes. Separating your monies for Community Outreach gives us a constant flow of monies to minister with! That being said, I know that some of you may want something more personal to connect with. I understand, Minnie and I sponsored a specific little girl for 12 years through *Compassion International*. That was great too, and money well spent.

The reality for Minnie and me is that we simply do not have the personnel to connect so much individually with all that we serve through *Community Outreach* while doing all the other things at our center and in Cuernavaca etc...In some ways I've felt like I've let you down in that regard as far as making a more personal connection with you and these families. That was certainly the original idea. However, Minnie and I and our FMLI board are excited about these adjustments and I think we'll be able to make some more concentrated efforts this way given the resources and skills that we have. We will continue to strive to give people every opportunity to come to recognize their need for and know our Lord Jesus Christ.

Again, on the other side of this page is the proposals I sent to our Board of Directors. These are the types of things you will support through our outreach should God lead you to continue with your support. God bless you mucho. We've seen so many beautiful things in these 9 years together, let's see some more!!



Our monthly commitment to serve the communities in Hormiguero and Berlanga Garcia regions have largely been stalled due to the pandemic. I think it's time to revamp and adjust our efforts to serve to best utilize the monies we are entrusted with. It's been on my heart a couple years now, but now I think is the time. We've been serving these communities monthly with food bags and services etcetera since December of 2011. We've seen some great things happen over the years, but I think it's time to discontinue this commitment of food bags and monthly visits to Hormiguero and Berlanga Garcia for many reasons. One is that I've felt we've just missed the mark of the original intention of "Family Program". Minnie and I have done what we could, but we lack the workers and time to make the personal connection with all we are serving. We have connected with some, and that's been very special, but not with all as was intended when we began presenting in 2011.

I have given much thought to this and have spoken with my brother-in-law Pastor Juan Sanchez about our efforts and his thoughts on the current and future work of our outreach effort. Randy and I have also spoken along with brother Rod Elboar of Christian Carpentry Ministries.

What I propose we do with our outreach:

1. We discontinue the monthly commitment to Hormiguero and Berlanga Garcia. We can continue to hold special services in those areas and respond to any requests as God leads. The Christmas services in Berlanga Garcia have always been very positive for example. One of the things that has been telling to me is the lack of attempts to reach us, or to request help during this time. In fact, they requested that we do not come during the pandemic. My main concern for these areas, of course, is spiritual. I'm pleased that Berlanga Garcia has a pastor holding services regularly for them the last few years. That church seems committed to continue. In the Hormiguero there are many church options for any seeking a home.
2. We continue to help support our church plant in Hector Colony in any way we can. There is a nice little group of families attending! Pastor Juan and Ime have been doing a great job there. We've given 15-20 food bags/month to them for families in need. Pastor Juan has requested that we continue to give some food to them periodically. As Juan mentioned to me, we do not want to promote dependence upon us, but there are some genuine needs we can help with.
3. We look for an unchurched area to serve. Pastor Juan would like to head this effort to find a small community in spiritual need with the idea of a future plant in mind. He would like us to help with food/ basic needs for a time to help get established. Of course, we would continue to evaluate.
4. We take on special projects for people in need, beginning with the families that have been specifically sponsored, cared for and supported by the food program for years. Could be a roof or a room or a floor or another obvious need... In this way, we can show another form of love for them without having to have large gatherings. Brother Rod would like to partner with us in this way. This is also a win, win for us. Brother Rod has a broad skill set as a carpenter and this would be a help expanding his ministry as well.
5. We continue to separate the monies sent in for outreach purposes in order to have that constant flow of resources designated outward. I send a letter of explanation to all those that have supported our outreach these years hoping to retain their support for our continued efforts.