

Feed My Lambs International



November-December 2023

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

For God so loved...

Dear loved ones,

It was supposed to be a break, a family getaway in Canada, or so I thought, or so we hoped. It hurt, again to be without my Minnie, unable to travel with my wife of 20 years. 20 years of not being able to be in my own country with her. And no answer from Canada either! At least not a positive one. Immigration laws only seem to apply to us, or so it feels sometimes. So it appears at least on the news...

It took the few weeks, but by the end of my time in Canada, I was thinking more about *why* it hurt to be without Minnie and Sophia again, not *that* it hurt. Of course, love is why it hurts. Love is the greatest blessing. Love doesn't depend upon all the circumstances. Love is the greatest of all. Without love, we are nothing.(Consider 1 Corinthians 13)

With that, I'd like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving. They have Thanksgiving in Canada too, only earlier in October. Who knew? So I've been thinking upon the theme for a while. The love of others made my trip to Canada possible. People care. Really care. The love of our givers make each month of this ministry possible. Love cares for Pastor Chayo and Betty and the kids pictured above in Cuernavaca. Love compelled my buddies to make the trip up to see me in Canada. Thank you boys. Love took me out fishing. Thank you. Love came to meet for lunch to see how I was doing. Thank you. Love upholds us in the pain. Love upholds us in disappointment, confusion, temptation, weakness, failure...because love never fails. God is love. And love remains. Forever. Wherever and however this letter finds you this month, you are loved. With all the business that can distract from this great fact all the time and especially in these next months, let's continue to rest in the *why* God sent His only begotten Son. We are glad to probably be some of the first to wish you a Merry Christmas as well. God bless you all. *And he called His name JESUS.*

Truly, the best is yet to come!



Praise Report!

All of that dangerous, high work in Cuernavaca is done. Stucco all around... Yes! We're so pleased to show you the picture in front of the Children's Home and this one in back too (at right). What a process and what a great victory! We have 5 children living at our facility right now and we are serving so many more in the surrounding community.

Mission Possible II February 17th-24th East Lincoln Alliance Church is sending a group to help with some details in Cuernavaca. Some finish work on the 2nd floor, painting inside and out, some pouring and land scaping... Please pray for their efforts regarding this mission.

The Entrance...Featured last letter. We need to build the gate, pour the entrance, and continue with about 100 more feet of wall across the front of the facility. Then we'll plant some trees and place some benches and form the walkways... please pray for monies to come in so that we may advance this important work in '24!

Almost there??? We sure hope so. We are thankful to be this far in the probate process, but we do ask for your prayers to continue regarding this long part of the trail, or rather, trial. You get the idea:)

Devastation in Acapulco While I was getting a break in Canada, Minnie and Sophia were glad to go down to Cuernavaca, see Betty and Chayo, and help with our ministry there. Acapulco is about 3 hours drive from the Children's Home and we have connections to many pastors there. Minnie helped take care of the kids while Pastor Chayo and Betty carefully got some help to some pastors in Acapulco. Pictured right. I write carefully, because Acapulco was in absolute chaos with over 90% of the city damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Otis. We are now getting some more help and encouragement to pastors serving this devastated community.

Two-thirds...

Our still new to us van now has 26,000 miles on it! What a blessing it has been in so many ways. Through your generous giving, Minnie and I have been able to pay \$37k of the 55k so far. Please pray for the provision for this to be paid off in '24 and we'll start saving for the next one! This is the only financial debt that Minnie and I, or the ministry, carry.

Come on down Martha! The Spencer family, all 8 of them now with the newly minted Martha, are planning another mission to help us in March. Please be praying for their efforts.

As we close this letter, may God grant us peace at this time, peace to know we are loved. And peace to be love to others that so desperately need to see Jesus manifested in some tangible way they can touch. Draw some more in Lord. May we be love to others, in JESUS' name. Amen.



Donations can be sent to: FMLI
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**Thank you all for your care of us.
God bless you and keep you.**

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