

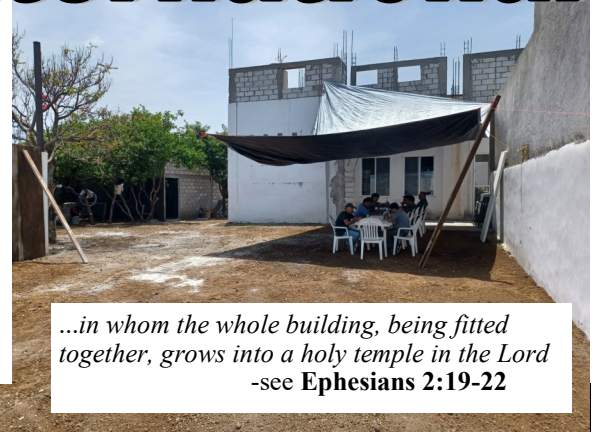
Feed My Lambs International



October– November 2022



Milagro de Vida
Casa Hogar Para niños



...in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord
-see Ephesians 2:19-22

Dear loved ones,

“You remind me of my Daddy.” she said to me after service.

Her Daddy taught her about the importance of each rock in the wall as she gathered little stones to help build. I had just sent some of my helpers to gather small rocks in buckets not weeks before while laying block and rock walls at our ministry center in Los Canelos. It was fun to meet her and her family after service. The little stones help support and position the bigger stones. They all must work together, overlaid, to make a strong wall that can endure under the greatest strains. It's built to endure when the earth trembles and shakes, and it will.

The picture above left is a picture of the retaining wall behind our Children's Home in Cuernavaca. Interesting that this picture is one of my favorites this year since it is easy to see the ugly. But I see her beauty, I see the pain and sacrifice that has gone into her. I see her 4 foot wide base and all those stones being carefully overlaid. I see sacrifice and pain and risk. We wish she could be built another way, but that's the way the church is built. It can be ugly and often times looks that way. She causes pain in the process as we learn to work together, and to be placed by the Master. I see her power and I see her potential. I see her brief history and her gaze upon eternity. Am I talking about this wall or the Church? Yes.

It's easy to see the ugly, it gets most of the press and provides easy, convenient excuses for many. Anyone that has been around the church or works in ministry for any length of time will see the ugly. Will suffer because of the ugly. She is built with us and through us. The imperfect being formed and finished and placed by the Master. We are not perfect yet, therefore it is impossible to build without pain. Pain is part of the building process. And so is beauty.

Pain has been my constant companion during these now nearing 19 years in Mexico. And so has beauty. I am stunned by her beauty from this recent trip up North. I chose to think upon her beauty, to dwell upon it, I cannot take it all in. Her beauty has been overwhelming me. It's the kind words that so many of you expressed, it's also the ones that you didn't know how to express. It's the hours of driving and time that you spent showing me that you are there, right next to us in the wall. That you feel the trembling too and have been scared with us as we move forward. It's a raspberry malt, a family all showing up (even if they are 11, right Michelle?). It's being sure that we know we are being prayed for and thought of (right Nikki, Roberta, Jim...?). It's comments about this newsletter, that it's being read, even looked forward to by some. It's the open homes and hearts. It's hugs. It's cousins and their spouses. It's cookies. It's the meals and the rounds of golf together. The laughter (nice hole Tom, remember that birdie at the last? Just sayin'). The laughter and light moments are medicine. The respect is appreciated for what we are attempting and what we are doing and what we have done. We do it together. It takes 6 blocks to hold one block fast. It's the hug and welcome of many colors in Falun. It's a Green Bay Packer fleece tied at the last minute. It's baskets and beanie babies and stuff for camp. It's fishing with Pastor Steve (we got another one didn't we) and it's all the offers that I wish I could take up with so many of you. It's the giving we have received all these years to sustain us. It's the memorial gifts. It's giving by people I don't even personally know. It's grace shown this many times weary missionary. I stand in awe. It's celebrating life in Christ. She is beautiful. You are beautiful. We are beautiful together even if it doesn't always look pretty. He's working on us isn't He. He promised He would send us Help and we have Him. And He promises to complete His work and He will. Jesus is beautiful and deserves all blessing and honor and glory. He is the Master builder. He is the cornerstone and He is the capstone. He is the first and He is the last. And the gates of Hell will not prevail. Glory to God!

And that brings me to the photo on the upper right. It's what the wall upholds. It's the back yard of the Children's Home. It protects all that really matters on this earth. It gives opportunity to grow up and know Jesus is Lord.

Praise report/ prayer requests:

Jesus is the vaccine
for all that truly threatens.

We have the permit in hand to build the wall surrounding our Ministry Center! Some of you asked how that all came together. Of course, we were concerned with the worst case scenarios. God gave us favor through our best friend in Los Canelos. Juany is the Mayor of our little community and is well thought of at the Municipality offices that oversee our area. This helped a great deal when she went with Minnie to see these officials. Also, God planted a cousin of Minnie's in that very office! She is helping with all the legal mumbo jumbo and knows how to keep us from many pitfalls. What a troublesome neighbor meant for evil, God has turned for good. And about 500' of wall waits for construction! The monies for the wall in Los Canelos are raised! Now about that constructing...

FORE!

What a great turnout we had for our golf tournament, in every way!
With the monies that came in both before and after tournament day, we cleared approximately \$20,000. What a first week of the trip we had...and that continued all the way through the month visiting churches and supporters.

It's time to **raise the ROOF!**

We will advance our work in Cuernavaca on the 2nd floor of the Children's Home. It's much needed space that will allow room for the ministry to continue to grow and prosper for the children and surrounding community.

We'll be heading down in October into November to get that roof prepped and poured. This is a lot of high and dangerous work, so please be praying for us. Also, we will need to continue aggressively with the construction in order to prepare for 2 scheduled weeks of interior walls construction teams coming the end of February into March. We raised the monies for the roof and some of the continued construction, but will need some monies in the coming months for 2nd floor windows, floor etc...before the teams come from the U.S.

We also had a lot of help come in for our next van. The old one (pictured below left) has been a great donkey, but she's pretty tired now! We thank God that we can now be ready when we are presented with the right option.

Upper right with cousins Jill and Jeff (what a team!), 2nd down with Pastor Steve (what a fish!), 3rd brother Dave and Uncle Hub (what perseverance!), 4th down with my friend Thad. We celebrated 24 years of sobriety together (What amazing grace). My friend Fred Quant went home while I was up on my trip. I thank God for his humble example in so many ways. Fred slipped into my life about 20 years ago and I'll never be the same. See you soon Fred.

Thank you to all of you that help make this ministry possible.

I have to go now, Sophia's still marking off days for Daddy's return.



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

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