

# Feed My Lambs International



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

***September - October 2019***

*But we are not of those that draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. -Hebrews 10:39*

Dear loved ones,

My brother-in-law Pastor Chayo woke up when he heard the explosion of the front tires popping upon the impact of the crash on main street of Tierra Blanca. He had fallen asleep in the middle of the day from exhaustion. Next thing he heard were the terrified screams of a pregnant mother as she realized her 5-year-old and 2-year-old were involved, they were sitting where the car hit the embankment. The children had instinctively jumped to try to avoid the car. After the screams, a woman picked up stones in order to kill Pastor Chayo and was trying to gain others to join her. As this was happening, we were getting different phone calls and on line news flashes from Tierra Blanca. All we heard was that Chayo ran over two children. Kids run over? Are they dead? Will we be going to funerals instead of having camp? Chayo? Into this fray we arrived to Tierra Blanca.

There was a very real possibility that Chayo would be in jail when we arrived. In fact, I expected he would be. In Mexico, if you are involved in an accident that causes injury to someone else, even if you are not at fault, you're probably going to jail. Of course first on our mind were the children. They jumped and the 5-year-old needed stitches on his head, the 2 year old pretty much unscathed. The pregnant mom needed to be hospitalized and checked over twice because of the emotional trauma's effect on her body. The woman with stones in hand, was talked out of the frenzy of the moment and her horrific fears for her grandchildren and family. Chayo's family has done much for the community including helping some in the police force get their jobs. These factors helped keep my very shaken, over-worked brother-in-law out of jail. As we were coming in, I was praying for those children, hoping so that they were ok. I couldn't imagine Chayo, one spending his life for others, working so hard to open a children's home, pastoring and serving others for decades, living with this if they had died. We thank God they are ok. Pastor Chayo and a couple elders went to see the family later that night. They were well received.

And so it was, onto camp preparation the next day, and the unsettling, unwelcome guests that we met there. As we were doing some general maintenance at the school to get ready for camp, out came some of the guys with a boa constrictor. I'd already been hearing about some of the snakes in the region from some other conversing. I don't like snakes and I wasn't the only one on our team that doesn't feel comfy around them. But, I joked and told them not to worry because we could feed him with the big rat I saw running around one of the rooms we'd be sleeping. He made quite a leap out the window to escape! By the way, I don't like rats much either, and I probably wasn't the only one that thought about them as we laid on the floor trying to sleep the next night. Then there were the normal mission trip stuff; like danger, 23 hour drive down, lack of sleep, upset stomach...and the "guards". There we must pay the local authorities a fee to guard us at night. About the time of night we may need them the most, they leave. On top of that, the roads going out of the region got blocked in protest. We've seen that before in the deep south. That will mess with your planning. We were able to leave with great gratitude, only a day after our original leaving date. At least we didn't see *that* snake again. And....we had a great mission! The camp verse (above) seemed appropriate.



## Praise reports

### Prayer requests/ upcoming events:

The pic on the right is probably my favorite from camps this year. This team was practicing and memorizing during the free time at camp. The young lady leading them gave us testimony telling us she was very down before camp. Minnie reminded me that we recognized her 15th birthday 3 years ago at this camp and gave her a Bible. She said she was so encouraged by our camp this year. Belen (Bethlehem in English) lead her team to victory and tied for top female camper. We had 162 kids between our two teen camps this year, 27 of them memorized the 18 verses. The effort in the south was very impressive. We kept getting thanked for coming to do the camp and testimonies were coming in as we were rolling out. The enemy must have felt snake bit.



It's been a great summer of ministry! As we were leaving for the SW, yet another group was using our center for their teen camp. They've come here for several years now for various events. They're working here locally and we sure appreciate their efforts. We came back to another visiting youth group. While on the way down to Tierra Blanca, Chayo and Betty were finishing up a VBS there with about 70 kids. Betty finished VBS knowing the accident occurred, not knowing if her husband was being jailed or how the children were doing. That's focus. Juan and Ime had 35 kids for the VBS in Hector Colony. We continue ministry in Hector Colony, Berlanga Garcia region, and Hormiguero. Lots of great stuff and we get to be part of it all. Thank you for making ministry possible.

Pastor Chayo and I were talking about all their ministry endeavors. I've lost count at how many times he's relayed his heartfelt thanks. "You support it all." he said to me. "We just don't have much monies coming in from elsewhere." I told him that it's our privilege to be part of all the beautiful work they are doing.

The land purchase next to us has been very heavy on my heart through these months. The process is long and we are already invested in every way. God willing, we will close the purchase about mid-October and have all the paperwork for the transfer done by the end of this year. I'm assured we are in a good legal position, but will be so glad when it's done. I thank all of you who are praying for this transaction.



I'll be heading north about the end of August to visit Minnesota and Wisconsin for a few weeks. Here's what is scheduled so far:

**September 8th East Lincoln Alliance in Amery, WI**

**September 13th-15th in Rushford, MN**

**September 18th in Slayton, MN**

**September 21st *FORE!* our FMLI golf tournament/ fundraiser in Amery, WI**

**September 22nd Falun, WI**



Donations can be sent to:  
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Email garysandmann@yahoo.com  
Call 715-821-1014 Gary's cell

*Truly, the best is yet to come.*

*Love from,*

*Gary and Minnie and Sophia too  
along with all your family in Mexico.*

# Children's Home Update!



The groundbreaking ceremony.

*The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build.*  
 - from **Nehemiah 2:20**

We have a good start in Cuernavaca! If we didn't believe as Nehemiah did, there would be no way we could take on a commitment like building a children's home. The words that stand out to me this morning are the "we" and the "will". Because we are His, we will...



Pastor Chayo and Minnie's sister Betty at the groundbreaking ceremony.



440lbs of rebar/ column. Footings are poured in Cuernavaca! Columns have been poured (pictured). There is a tremendous effort underway, it is a modern day Nehemiah story in many ways. After a couple instances of some petty theft on site, Octavio moved right on there along with a couple dogs. He is leading the construction effort along with my brother-in-law Chayo and his son-in-law Misael. 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. Each column going up has approximately **440** lbs of rebar (pictured left). It takes 4 men just to set one of them. Of course, we are building to last and for potential future growth up to 3 levels!



King Tut? Nope, no gold masks. A new discovery has been made, or should I say an old discovery? While digging deep to put in the septic tank, some ancient pottery has been unearthed. The pottery looks to be Aztec in origin and has no great monetary value. Although this is very interesting, and I'd like to know what that birdie (pictured right) lived through some 500 years ago, and how and when he got there, we will continue onward, much more concerned about the living than the dead.



The pottery was found here.

## The Goal: Building lives in Christ.

We hope to start receiving children by the end of 2020. I estimate that we will need to raise about \$50,000 along with the help of some mission groups with funding and construction this next year to keep the project moving and reach our goal of receiving some children next year. We thank God for all of you that are sharing in this great work that will hopefully build up and transform many lives; strengthening the church, families, and community for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Donations can be sent to:  
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