

# EL FARO DE SANTIDAD

Lighthouse Holiness Ministries

Delivering the Gospel of Liberty to those incarcerated in the prisons of México

Gary and Brenda Morgan - PO Box 534 Edinburg, Texas 78540-0534

Greetings from our corner of the Lord's Field!

October - 2016

On Tuesday evening, October 4<sup>th</sup>, there was a riot in the prison in Santa Adelaida where we minister on Tuesdays. Those who have never seen the open society inside a Mexican prison may find it difficult to understand how this all can happen in a prison, but in this newsletter we would like to relate a few of the details of God's marvelous, protective care during the very dangerous situation this riot presented.

## \*\*\*\*\* Gulf Cartel Separates the Sheep from the Goats \*\*\*\*\*

Manuel, a Christian inmate, faithfully assists me inside the prison by coordinating the Bible studies and taking care of our Christian library. In the late evening of the 4<sup>th</sup>, he was outside his cellblock and was totally unaware of what was about to occur. Manuel left his cell about 15 minutes before assailants arrived from Cellblock North and began to storm the doors of Cellblock East attempting to gain entrance. After almost three hours of this barrage accompanied by gunfire from assault rifles directed at the windows, the mob from Cellblock North accomplished its objective.

You see, Cellblock East, Manuel's cellblock, housed the prison segment of the leadership of the Gulf Cartel. It just so happens that many of the church brethren also live in the same building. After the attackers gained entry to the building, they went from cell to cell rousting out all the inhabitants and then setting fire to each vacant cell. During all this commotion, the Christian men made their way to Manuel's room, not knowing, of course, that he was not there. As the mob advanced in their plundering, setting ablaze each cell as they went, the 15 or so brethren who had gathered in Manuel's cell in his absence, fearing for their lives, began to sing praises and worship the Lord. However, there were also those who were not a part of the church who had come taking refuge in the room in an attempt to hide from certain mayhem, thus making it a very, very crowded cell.

When they got to Manuel's room, the attacking hoard heard the singing and saw the scared occupants. It is a challenge to explain, but many cartel members have great respect for religious things. They consider their own activities to be nothing more, nor less, than the conducting of business. Whatever the reason, when they saw the brethren scared for their lives yet praising the Lord, one of the leaders spoke up and said, "We don't have anything against these men. Leave them alone." However, as they allowed those who had gathered there to leave, the men were individually checked. They let all of the Christians go, but those who had simply been trying to hide among the Christians were pulled aside and beaten unmercifully. **EVEN THE CARTEL KNOWS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO ARE REALLY SERVING THE LORD AND THOSE WHO ARE PRETENDING.**

When Manuel's cell was empty, they started to set it on fire. One of the attackers spoke up and said, "Wait, we can't do this. This is the Brother's room." So leaving Manuel's room, they proceeded to other cells where they continued their destruction. Ultimately the cartel leader was deposed and a new one put in place. It just so happens that the newly crowned prison boss has two charming little daughters who are regular visitors to our Christian library and also attend the Bible classes. And, of course, they have nothing to do with the activities of their father, who is, however, aware of the assistance we have provided for the children, not only church children, but the children of the general population. So, with all the destruction that took place during the riot, Manuel's cell was one of the very few in his cellblock that was not set ablaze. God is so faithful and good to his own!

**\*\*\*\*\* God Opens a Wonderful Door of Ministry Opportunity \*\*\*\*\***

The next week when I returned, I was happy to discover that the report I had initially heard alleging five deaths during the riot was not true. Actually, the truth was nothing short of miraculous concerning the protection of the prison saints during the melee, as well as the fact that after a three hour sustained gun battle, there were some serious injuries but no one was killed. Yet, to me, the greatest miracle took place as I was leaving the prison that day.

Upon arriving at the inner gate, I had noticed that there were 30 or so inmates who had been separated from the general population. Without having to ask anyone, I knew who they were. These were the former prison leaders of the Gulf Coast Cartel who had been displaced during the riot. For their own safety, they had been removed from the general population to await relocation in another facility where *the cycle will begin all over again*. These men were cordoned off to the side, under guard, to prevent them from having contact with outside visitors. However, as I entered the ladies' section to deliver Bible studies, I had walked by the chain link fence just within a few feet of these men. Later as I was exiting the ladies' section, one of the men among the group came to the fence to get my attention. He asked if I would speak to the guard to request permission to enter the cordoned off area and visit with them.

I can honestly say that I do not know all of these men but can also truthfully say that there are very few of them who don't know me. After 18 years of ministry with both the inmates and their families, word gets around. In fact, just a few weeks earlier, we had given backpacks and school supplies to the children of many of these men. Though the guards are aware of our work, I was still amazed that my request for access was granted especially since such a short period of time had passed since the mayhem. The only thing that these men wanted was for me to talk to them about the Lord! This would not have been on their minds just a few weeks earlier, but it is amazing how one's perspective changes when faced with the possibility of dying. This visit was a wonderful door of opportunity!

As I entered their fenced area, these men in unison approached and surrounded me. The first thing I said was that I didn't know the details of their predicament, didn't need to know them, nor did I want to know them; but one thing I did know was that God had great mercy on them because there were no deaths. I was pleased to see their silent acknowledgement. I was then able to talk to them about the mercies of the Lord and the grace God makes available to all of us through His Son, Jesus. I was thrilled when they requested that I pray with them! We did not have a mass altar call, and I am not saying that 30 men accepted Christ as their Savior, but I am excited for the little steps that the Lord uses to soften the hearts of hardened, sinful men. Before leaving these men, I told them that I was willing to help them in any way possible. The only thing that they requested was that we remember them in prayer! Every one of these men was receptive to me, and most of them pressed upon me just to shake my hand before I left. Please remember them in your prayers. Pray that their hearts remain open to the Lord and that God will perform His greatest miracle -- the salvation of their souls!

**\*\*\*\*\* Thank you once again for your prayers and support \*\*\*\*\***

Words cannot fully express our gratitude for the sacrifice that you have made over the years to partner with us in this ministry. Times are hard and the economy grows worse and worse by the month, but you have been faithful to support this work and the Lord always meets every need. Please never forget that though we do not labor solely to receive rewards, they have been promised, and we will jointly share in the reaping. Above all, please continue to pray for us as we labor, ministering in these Mexican prisons. May God bless you.

From our corner of "His field,"

*Gary and Brenda Morgan*