

LIGHTHOUSE HOLINESS MINISTRIES

Ministering in the prisons of Mexico - Our corner of "God's Field"

VIOLENCE ESCALATING THROUGHOUT MEXICO

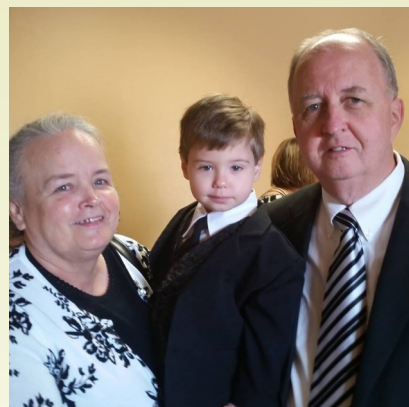
Frequently during the past several months, we have been questioned concerning safety issues and violence in Mexico, and our response has been that we really don't know. Our observations are anecdotal and may not necessarily be in accordance with any other missionaries' experiences. We haven't personally seen the evidence of increased violence, but the reports that we've received are very discouraging. We constantly are being warned by prison officials and law enforcement to be vigilant on the road. They say that things are as bad now as they have ever been. Mexican government reports confirm the need for caution.

Here is a quote from "El Debate" (July 13, 2017). It was taken from an interview with Mike Vigil, former Director of International Operations for the U. S. Drug Enforcement Agency, concerning the present situation in Mexico:

"The violence has even surpassed the darkest days of the war on drugs launched by predecessors. In the first five months of 2017 there were 9916 murders throughout the country, an increase of around 30 percent compared to the 7638 killed in the same period last year. In 2011, the bloodiest year of the war on drugs, the figure for the same period between January and May was 9466." These numbers refer only to drug cartel related slayings

Please re-read the above quote and try to comprehend the magnitude of what is being said. THESE NUMBERS ARE STAGGERING! They warn us of the extreme danger that lurks in Mexico, but even beyond that, we see the great need to share the Gospel. In 5 short months, nearly ten thousand souls have passed from this life into their eternal destination. There are no do-overs. Those who have died lost are now eternally beyond the grasp of the message of salvation.

In June, another riot took place in the prison in Ciudad Victoria. Seven people were killed and dozens more wounded. If you go to our website, you can see a seven minute video clip that was taken live outside the prison during that battle with the police. As a result of the riot, 40 inmates (all ZETAS) were transferred from Ciudad Victoria to the prison in Santa Adelaida. On the 3rd of this month, July 2017, a riot took place in the prison in Nuevo Laredo. Administrative officials in Santa Adelaida told us that there were at least 90 injured during the fray. After that riot, 30 more inmates (all ZETAS) were transferred to the prison in Santa Adelaida. When I inquired as to why the government would send all these ZETAS to a prison basically controlled by the Gulf Coast Cartel, the only answer I received was *"it is a very complicated matter."* Just days ago, we were told that tension within the prison has escalated to a very high level due to the large number of ZETAS, and fears are that the prison may erupt in violence at any time. Please



PSALM 146:7 (KJV)

WHICH EXECUTETH JUDGMENT

FOR THE OPPRESSED: WHICH

GIVETH FOOD TO THE HUNGRY.

THE LORD LOOSETH THE

PRISONERS:

In This Issue

- Violence Escalating throughout all of Mexico
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Gary and Brenda Morgan - PO Box 534, Edinburg, Texas 78540-0534

lighthouseholinessministries.com - (956)322-8111 (New Number)

FORMER MEMBER OF GULF CARTEL INNER CIRCLE WINS BIBLE

The miracle of God's wonderful grace never ceases to amaze us! The most recent recipient of the Thompson Chain Study Bible for earning the highest composite score on Bible studies was quite a surprise. It is always a pleasure to present one of these Bibles because it is an acknowledgement of a lot of faithful work and study. However, when I went prepared to present a Bible to the most recent high scorer, I was told that it couldn't be delivered. You see, the would-be-recipient is in solitary confinement. He was placed there, not by the government, but by the cartel powers within the prison. At the present time, he is not permitted to have visitors.

I realized that I had never personally met this man and having been denied access I was curious as to why. I have generally been allowed entry into all areas of the prison. I was informed that he had been one of the right hand men for Osiel Cárdenas who ruled over all three divisions of the cartel before his arrest and extradition to the US. Having maintained loyalty to Cárdenas, he has fallen out of grace with the current ruling powers. He has been faithfully doing written Bible studies since January 31st of this year (six months)!

We are thrilled at this report. Even though we don't know his spiritual state, we do KNOW that God's Word NEVER goes forth and comes back void! There is power in the Word of God, and we expect to see the Lord do wonderful things in this man's life! Please remember him in your prayers.

A CONSTANT NEED

We are often asked what we need and how people can help. Though we have built a church and two Christian libraries in the prisons we seldom have need for a building fund. However, we are constantly in need of Bibles and Christian literature. On a regular basis we are asked by the guards and the military, as well as the inmates, for a Bible or tracts. Many times we can get the tracts for free, but the Bibles do come at a cost. The Bible pictured below is a very high quality reference Bible that has a vinyl cover with gold edged sewn pages! One would be hard pressed to find a \$50.00 Bible with sewn pages, but surprisingly for \$6.00 each we can buy these Bibles if we buy them by the case. Perhaps your youth would be interested in taking on a project of buying a case of 24 Bibles. If so, please contact us for details. Thanks!



A Word of Appreciation

Brenda and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued faithful prayers and support. We truly count it a privilege to be able to serve the Lord in this capacity. Though we are so inadequate, we know that God is so able.

We are seeing the Lord do marvelous things among these men and women, and we give Him all the praise. Please remember to hold up these men and women, as well as us, in your prayers.

From our corner of "His field,"

Gary and Brenda Morgan