



LIGHTHOUSE HOLINESS MINISTRIES

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

December 2017

Greetings from our corner of the Lord's field!

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE LORD'S PROVIDENCE

With the recent passing of Thanksgiving, we have found it necessary to pause and to contemplate all the blessings for which *we are thankful*. These past months have been somewhat stressful, as well as eventful. *We are thankful* that through all of Brenda's recent medical trials that we have seen the Lord, once again, as the merciful and caring Father that He is. Throughout the many examinations and hospital/doctors' appointments which culminated in two medical procedures, *we are thankful* for the peace of God that truly passes all understanding. After Brenda's operation *we were thankful* that when the final biopsies returned, they returned as pre-cancerous. The surgeon said that, in his opinion, had the operation been delayed as little as one month, Brenda would have had the same surgery, but with different results; she would have also needed radiation and/or chemo therapy. However, due to the timing of the operation, she has received a clean bill of health! For that *we are so thankful!* The Lord is merciful and caring but not because we received the results which we desired. He is good but not only *because* He does "good things." At times, as unworthy as we are, we receive His blessings simply BECAUSE He is good; and for that *we are thankful!*

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE LORD'S PROVISION

It has been difficult for us to hold off on posting this report because we wanted to wait until it had arrived at the prison, but we can't wait any longer. Although the paperwork facilitating the gift of this ambulance for the prison in Santa Adelaida has been in limbo now for the past few months, we want to express *our gratitude and thankfulness* to James Hacker (CEO) and Susan Carpenter (Vice President) of the Laurel County Ambulance service for this wonderful donation.

It is marvelous to see how the Lord prepares for the necessities of His people before they even pray. *We are thankful* for Bro. Vernon Jarvis providing us the opportunity to present this need during the past Mission Conference in London, Ky. I almost didn't express the need because who has an ambulance sitting in their backyard ready to donate?! However, unbeknown to us, Bro. James Hacker had recently retired this ambulance from service. None of his crew wanted to drive it because all of their other units were newer models. This is a 2008 Chevy Duramax Diesel that will see many years of beneficial use when it finally reaches its destination. Please help us pray that this ambulance makes it through the Mexican Federal bureaucracy.



WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE LORD'S PROTECTION

Recently, we had a wonderful service in the Reynosa prison. Bro. Titus Shuecraft preached on how "we ought to give praise to the Lord for all the good He has done." It was a wonderful message and many were touched. The altar was filled with men and women pouring their hearts out to the Lord.

After the service, we stopped at the little candy booth just outside the church to fellowship with the proprietor for a few moments, when suddenly, about 100 feet from us at the North Cell-block, it sounded like someone had lit a string of firecrackers. Immediately afterward, there were several slow volleys of gunfire. I looked at Bro. Titus (Shuecraft) and Bro. James (Persinger) and told them that we needed to return to the church immediately. A gun battle within the prison had suddenly erupted. The brethren had promptly barricaded the church doors, but quickly reopened them when they saw us returning.

Inside, we stood at the windows and watched the ensuing mayhem as men, women and children scurried in all directions trying to find shelter from the chaos. After a few moments the prison protocols kicked in and all visitors were being ushered to the only exit door leaving the interior and leading into the common area near the front of the prison. Upon arrival at that exit, gunfire erupted near this area of the prison as well. About 500 people were trying to leave through this single door so you can imagine the chaotic scene. However, I was very proud of Bro. Titus and Bro. James. If they felt any fear, they didn't show it. We were focusing our attention on assisting women with children, but everyone was anxious to reach the other side.

As we waited in the common area, we watched as the military and Federal police who were being led by the warden (the only one without body protection) made their entrance to put down the riot. For the next few hours, we watched as men, beaten and bloodied, were evacuated from the interior. A body was thrown through the door and lay motionless. We do not know if he was one of the fatalities or not, but he appeared to have been.

Nine people were killed in this altercation. The next several services saw wonderful times at the altar. Death had been made real to these men and the prison was stirred. Even some of those who had been wounded in the melee came to church. *We are thankful* for the Lord's protective care in the midst of danger, but we are especially *thankful* for seeing the Lord move in the lives of many of these men afterwards. The Lord can make blessings out of what the enemy intends solely for evil!

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE LORD'S PURPOSE

Many of you are aware of our comprehensive Bible Study Course comprised of 274 Bible studies which have a question for approximately every 2 ½ verses throughout the Bible. These studies are recognized by the government of Mexico as continuing education for the inmates, and they can receive "beneficios" (time off for good behavior) for their participation. We have records showing that over 100,000 individual Bible Studies have been completed by inmates, and we have seen wonderful miracles take place in the lives of these men and women. This has not been because of our personal intervention, but because they have been changed by reading and accepting the Word of God!

Presently, there are approximately 140 Mexican inmates enrolled in the studies, as well as many others who are incarcerated throughout the United States. Several in Mexico who have been released have gone on into full-time ministry, and they are now using the studies as they carry the Gospel to other areas and prisons throughout the country. *We are also thankful* that these Bible Studies had been used in twelve different countries!

A pastor friend of ours recently took upon himself the project of having the New Testament Studies translated into Farsi. This endeavor has now been completed! It was done by a former Muslim who became a Christian while translating these studies! Farsi is the language used in Iran, as well as being the language of many Muslims who have spread throughout the world. We have already received reports of formerly Muslim men and women who have given their lives to the Lord in the countries of Iran and Germany. Again, this is not by our personal intervention but by people reading God's Word in order to complete the studies. With the addition of these two countries, the studies are now in at least 14 countries. For this *we are so thankful!*

We are so thankful for many things: our family; our adorable new (first) grandchild, Levi James; and our friends. Most importantly, *we are so thankful* for the mercies the Lord has bestowed upon us, and for this precious opportunity to serve Him in this, our corner of His field!

Gary, Brenda and Joey Morgan