

LIGHTHOUSE HOLINESS MINISTRIES

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

... and **on earth peace**, good will toward men.

According to Luke 2:14, as shepherds watched their sheep by night, they received the greatest news this world could ever receive. The angel of the Lord announced that peace had come to Earth in the form of the "Prince" of peace. However, we know the countries of this world continue to face constant turmoil, and Mexico is no exception.

Recently the whole city of Reynosa erupted into a gun battle that lasted from 11:00 at night till dawn the next morning. It is unknown whether this was due to the recent murder and dismemberment of a founding member of Los ZETAS by a rival cartel, feuding within the Gulf Cartel as different factions were vying for power and control, the recent presidential change in Mexico, or just the result of everyday dealings between the cartels and the military and police. Also unknown is the number of men who lay dead when the overnight melee ended. **Violence, though "Peace" has come.**

A few days ago, my route to the Reynosa prison was abruptly changed as fighting erupted between cartel members and military. We immediately began turning around in the middle of the road and rerouting in order to miss the gun fire and the military vehicles which were pouring in from all directions. **Violence, though "Peace" has come.**

Since our last newsletter, a friend of ours has been assassinated. Humberto "Vega" Ávalos had been promoted to Director of the prison in Nuevo Laredo. I spoke with him before he accepted the position and told him that he didn't need that job because Nuevo Laredo is a hotspot, but being a director was his dream. Shortly after taking the position and while just outside of his house, he was shot 126 times with a combination of AK-47, 40 caliber and 9 millimeter rounds. **Violence, though "Peace" has come.**

A few days ago, Titus and I sent a friend of ours on a journey that began a new chapter in his Christian walk. He had been incarcerated for about 10 years in the Reynosa prison. He had given his life to the Lord and had completed our entire 274 study Bible Study Course. He has no family; his parents have both passed away and he has no siblings. He told me that I had become as much of a father to him as he had ever had. He gained his liberty a few weeks ago, and we were enjoying his fellowship, however, that was short lived. He received a credible report that there were those who sought to kill him. Although forgiven by God, there were consequences of his former life still in play. He had to leave the state immediately. With the assistance of Missionary Larry Landress, we were able to find safe refuge for our brother in a distant place. While receiving a blessing, he will also be a blessing as he is a devout student of the Bible. Please remember him in your prayers. **Violence, though "Peace" has come.**

These are just a few examples of turmoil in the midst of peace. The Word of God never promised that the world would have peace. However, it does tell us that in the midst of chaos, we can possess the "Prince of Peace"!



Psalm 146:7 (KJV)

Which executeth judgment for
the oppressed: which giveth
food to the hungry. The LORD
looseth the prisoners:



Humberto "Vega" Ávalos



Gary Morgan, "Friend" and Titus Shuecraft

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A Nursery in the Prison in Santa Adelaida

Over the years, we have had various requests for assistance that may seem to be a little out of the norm. We have provided ambulances to transport injured inmates and Rainbow Play Systems to entertain and keep children in sight when they come for family visits. We are thankful that we were able to meet these needs for the prisons in which we minister. However, since our last newsletter we were presented with a request that at first may seem strange, but those who have visited the prisons with us realize that it truly is a need.

Due to the fact that most Mexican prisons are open society, there are always babies being born. It is difficult to imagine, but children live in these prisons until the age of four. Then they are either turned over to family members outside of the prison or placed in government homes for children. After receiving a request for the building of a nursery, it was our pleasure to be able to provide them with one. With the artistic help of a few of the inmates, we think it turned out pretty nice!

Here are some “Before” and “After” pictures of the Nursery area.



Alma Delia Cuellar

Often we are asked what it is like to minister in the Mexican prisons, and it is difficult to explain. Some view inmates as the scum of the earth; people receiving the just fruits of their labors. We view these men and women as diamonds in the rough — but for the grace of God, there go I.

Over the years we have seen many lives changed among the inmates. For instance, recently we saw Alma Delia Cuellar in the lobby of the Administration Offices in the Reynosa prison. She had been an inmate in the Matamoros prison but received her freedom about 13 years ago. Alma had given her life to the Lord while doing the Bible Studies, and upon her release, she started a little church in her home. It has grown to over 100 people! She came to the Reynosa prison seeking permission to minister there in order to help other women as we had helped her. Though it was an unexpected encounter, it was a blessed one. Because of people like this we press on. Though much of the time we feel so inadequate, we are thankful for the Lord allowing us to see some of the fruit of our labor.

Thank You for your Prayers and Support

Brenda and I wish to express our unending gratitude for your continuing faithful prayers and support. Month by month, over the years, you have assisted us in reaching many of these that have been forgotten and have no hope. Our desire is that the Lord will reap a bountiful harvest from our joint efforts, and that one day we will all hear Him say “Well done”!

Gary,

Brenda

and Joey Morgan