



El Faro de Santidad

Lighthouse Holiness Ministries

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

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Newsletter - August 15, 2025

Greetings from Our Corner of His Field,

Over the years, people have often asked me what I've enjoyed most, pastoring, evangelizing, or serving on the foreign mission field. My answer has always been the same: I've felt equally fulfilled in each role, as long as I've known I was pleasing to the Lord and walking in His will. The truth is, foreign missions encompass all three, especially when ministering inside the prisons of Mexico.

In many ways, the inmates are much like the people in the communities surrounding your own church. They see us come and go, but they're often caught up in their own lives, oblivious to the grace that God so freely offers. As the old song says, "They are so close, yet so far away." While we faithfully minister within the prison churches, we're also constantly working to build relationships with those who are unchurched, striving to lead them to Christ. And the reality is, in this kind of environment, you can't talk to these men and women about the love of God if they haven't first seen it in you.

That's why our ministry goes beyond preaching in the churches or ministering with the Correspondence Bible Institute. We also meet many of the inmates' social needs. We've made a strong effort to show no distinction between those who've come to Christ and those who haven't. And over the years, this approach has caused some friction with a few already in the church. You see, to some, those who don't attend church are considered unworthy. Does that sound familiar?

We've helped provide school supplies for the inmates' children, both church and unchurched. We've met medical needs for many inmates, regardless of their spiritual standing. It's not uncommon for prison administrators to ask us for help with paying for medical tests or procedures for inmates who have no family. The government doesn't cover these needs, and without family or regular visitors, these individuals are often left to fend for themselves. By God's grace, we've always been willing, and up to this point, able, to help. In a ministry like this, people won't come to Christ if they can't first place their trust in you, and trust can be difficult to earn in a place where many have never known it. Our constant prayer is for grace and wisdom, to show the same compassion and mercy to these men and women that Christ has shown to us.

Recently, while entering the secured parking area of the Matamoros prison, the attending guard asked me if I had brought any movies for the inmates. I was taken aback, unsure of what he meant, because movies aren't something we normally bring. When I asked him what he was referring to, he reminded me

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of something that had happened nearly 15 years earlier. At that time, I was bringing in Brother Bert Clendennen's *School of Christ* materials. I had told Brother Clendennen about our work in the Mexican prisons and asked how I could get the school in Spanish. He not only gifted me with the entire course in video and print, but also gave me my first projector to show the materials.

That same guard told me he used to slip in and watch "the movies." Imagine that; after all those years, he still remembered. Over time, we've seen many guards come to the Lord and have given Bibles to a number of them. One former female guard even left the prison system and is now preaching the gospel!

That same day, we had a service with the women. Brother Javier preached, and it was a beautiful time of worship. There were only about 25 women present, but considering that's over a third of the women's population in that prison, it was encouraging. What moved me most was the altar call: Every single woman made her way to the altar, kneeling, lifting their hands and pouring out their hearts to God.

I'll never forget being at a mission meeting, up north, a few years ago. One of the pastors at the meeting asked me, "*Brother Morgan, do you really see any of these prison inmates truly come to the Lord, or are they just playing church?*" The only answer I could give was: "*My brother, they're just like the people in your church. Many come and surrender to the Lord, and some come to play.*" I don't know if he liked my answer, but I know I spoke the truth.

Over the past 31 years, we've seen hundreds come to Christ, and dozens go into ministry; not because we're anything special, but because the Lord is faithful. We're so grateful for what He's doing, building His church behind these prison walls. In just a few weeks, we'll be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the women's church in Santa Adelaida. With four active churches within these two prisons, where I serve as chaplain, it feels like we're always in "anniversary season," and we thank God for every milestone.

I know this newsletter may feel a little different from others, but I just wanted to share a few thoughts from my heart. There's so much more I could say, like how the Correspondence Bible Institute in Reynosa and Santa Adelaida now has over 100 inmates enrolled, or how our free online studies (both in English and Spanish) at godsword.study have reached over 10,000 people worldwide in under a year and a half, without any promotion or advertising. People are hungry for the Word of God, and somehow, they're finding it.

Brenda and I want to thank each one of you who have taken us into your hearts, prayed for us, and supported this work through the years. It's the Lord's work, and we are humbled and honored to be a part of it. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, that the Lord will bless our efforts with a bountiful harvest in these prisons.

For His Glory,
From our Corner of His Field

Gary, Brenda, and Joey Morgan

Your Missionary to the Forgotten Fields of Mexico's Prisons

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