



El Faro de Santidad

Lighthouse Holiness Ministries

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

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“For unto you is born this day... a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” - Luke 2:11

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christmas has come and gone, another year has settled quietly behind us, and our hearts overflow with gratitude for God's sustaining grace. The prisons in **Reynosa** and **Santa Adelaida** were calm this season; an appreciated mercy. Remarkably, the cartel boss in Santa Adelaida has prayed and begun attending the church services. The Lord moves in ways that we will never understand. Only God knows how long this boss will remain in leadership, especially since the previous prison boss was killed just a few months ago for overreaching his authority and stealing from the cartel. These realities remind us daily that Christ came into a world not unlike this one, a world marked by sin, violence, fear, and brokenness. And yet, *“the Light shineth in darkness.”*

A Season of Mixed Emotions for the Inmates

Christmastime is always difficult for those behind bars. The thoughts of family, children, spouses, and lost Christmas mornings hit with painful force. As sad as this is, it opens new opportunities for ministry among these men and women. Please pray for one young man we are ministering to right now; a man who recently rededicated his life to the Lord.

He is the son of a Pentecostal preacher here in the States, and his entire family is saved and serving the Lord. He calls himself the *black sheep of the family*. Though once living for the Lord, he drifted in school and fell in with the wrong crowd. For the sake of his family's privacy, I won't share any identifying details, but we rejoice to see him praying earnestly and immersing himself in the study of God's Word. We believe that right before our eyes we are seeing the Lord restore what was lost! To me, he is a reminder that, regardless of our upbringing, any person outside of the grace of God is *capable* of doing *anything*!

A Surprise in the Prison Courtyard

A few days ago, as I stepped out of the ladies' area preparing to leave the prison, I heard a voice shout, “GARY!” I turned, startled, and found a young man in medical scrubs, smiling broadly, a man I had never met. Before I even reached him, he began thanking me profusely for the “quilts” we had provided for the inmates who have no family support to help with their personal needs.

The Mexican government doesn't provide any of the essentials beyond food for their prisoners. The inmates are on their own. If they don't have family or friends to help provide for their basic needs, they can find themselves doing things that they never imagined themselves doing.

Because of being very focused on Joey's needs here at home, I fell behind this season and had not prepared for this annual cold-weather need. But thank God for friends, and thank God for churches with compassionate hearts! I contacted four men, who then reached out to their congregations, and within a few days \$3,500 was provided. This was enough to purchase 300 heavy, quilted moving blankets for the cold months ahead! These may not be beautiful but they are very warm and durable.

Some of the inmates have told us that they sweat under these blankets even when temperatures drop into the 40s and 30s! You who gave know who you are. More importantly - **God knows who you are!** Thank you for your kind generosity! The prison officials at both prisons told us to be sure and convey their thanks and gratitude!

Christmas for the Children

We also thank our dear friends from **Arkansas**, who once again provided candy for the inmates' children this Christmas season. **Fourteen hundred bags** of mixed candy, plus **thousands of Tootsie Rolls and boxes of Dots** were graciously and lovingly donated. We can't begin to express our appreciation for this kindness. The cost was extremely significant, but the sacrifice behind it means far more than the candy itself. We pray the Lord abundantly bless your generous hearts!

A Growing Hunger for God's Word

Here's another tremendous reason for our rejoicing: Over 13,700 people worldwide have now investigated or are, without cost, participating in our online Bible studies at **GodsWord.study**. Without any advertising or promotion, people from across the globe have discovered these Bible lessons online, offered in both English and Spanish. People are hungry, truly hungry, for the Word of God!

We also give thanks for the men and women in the prisons in which we minister who are growing in Christ day by day. Many will one day return to their communities and families as powerful testimonies of God's transforming grace.

We remain grateful for the strong relationships we have with Mexican prison officials and for the support of the Directors of these prisons who allow us such open access for ministry. I thank God for the faithful men (Javier and Federico) that He has raised up to serve beside me and for the privilege of credentialing them to minister in these facilities.

Finally, we thank each of *you*. Your love, prayers, and support have carried this ministry through another year when medical complications have kept us from visiting your churches. Please continue to pray for us, and especially for Joey's ongoing medical needs.

Our Prayer for You

May the presence of the Lord be near, sweet, and strong in your life as we enter the new year.

Because He lives - we live.

Because He came - we have hope.

Because He loves us - we can love others.

From our family to yours,

Have a Blessed New Year!

With grateful hearts,

Gary, Brenda, and Joey

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