

iVámonos!

January 2015

Dear friends and family,

Happy New Year !!!

We hope your Christmas was Christ centered and joyful. We had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Our Christmas usually starts early. Sometimes as early as September. We are given toys, clothes and money for the churches we work with through the year. This year we had three hundred and thirteen used sweat shirts and jackets



The children of the Vamos Tamaulipas community center act out the Christmas story.... The real meaning of Christmas. This is a ministry of Manos Juntos (Hands Together) which is headed by our old friend Willie Berman.

took them all to Bob and Flor Canterbury's home in McAllen. They have helped us for many years. We then made four trips across the border at different bridges, with five large suit cases each time. Now, you are thinking we are smugglers, but it is not a crime to cross used clothing. But the border guards are afraid we are going to sell them at the flea markets and prevent the Mexican people from getting the money. Border guards can make it difficult for an American if they want to. They are in total control and can make up laws as they like. We, as Americans, don't know all the laws and even if we challenge what they are telling us, they can say the law has been changed. It is a lot better than it used to be, but we still pray and give a sigh of relief when we are given the ok to go. We have spent since 1993 praying for a good crossing every time we go, and, as a result have many stories to tell. Anyway, everything was crossed and gifts given out at six different churches and feed my sheep programs. The pastors came to the camp and picked up what they needed. In



Kids from Iglesia La Luz Divina are happy with their Christmas gifts.



The kids from Jan's Community Bible Study class get ready for the Christmas program. Children on both sides of the border focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

addition to the sweatshirts, we had small toys and candy. Thank you for all who sent donations. Since it takes us so long to get things across, we are asking our American friends to send a money donation for the children next Christmas, then we will give each church and feed my sheep program money to buy gifts and goodies. This will remove a great burden not only for us, but, also for the pastors and churches we support.

We spent several days between Christmas and New Years at the camp with a group from Louisiana. They have been coming for several years, but stayed across the border in Mission. When we updated our web site they saw the pictures of the camp and realized it would save them a lot of time if they didn't have to cross over and back every day. You can wait up to three hours on the bridges (especially during the Christmas break) to re-enter the U.S. They also had to fix their own food, where we prepare the food at the camp. The group was 15 people, and they worked with a pastor about 20 minutes away. They did VBS and built chicken coops. They then had classes on how to care for the chickens and use the coops they made. They purchased chickens and gave coops to eight families. One elderly gentleman on the trip became ill, and had to be taken to the hospital in McAllen. He was given some medicine and, praise God, he was better by the time he had to ride in a van for 12 hours on the way home. All enjoyed Olga's cooking and the warm rooms, as it

was a very cold, rainy week.

We will be at the camp January 16-19 with our church group. There will be six coming to do some repairs at the camp. The camp was started in 1998 and the buildings were built at different times, so the early ones are in need of many repairs. Several men and a couple women wanted to come and help out. Our pastor and his Dad came to the camp last summer and they have been trying to get a group to come down. We are so happy to have them coming. Please pray for nice weather and a safe trip and crossing.

Jan had a great time with her CBS class of 1st-3rd graders. They acted out the Christmas Story for the women of CBS. She also teaches 4,5,&6 year olds at church, and they also



About half the crew from Louisiana worked at the camp building 8 chicken coops for several families in the church where they worked, while.....



The children in the church patiently wait for VBS to begin!

acted out the story of Christ's birth. She has been teaching kids the Bible since she was a teenager and we are glad she can keep on keeping on.

We praise God for our ability to use our talents that He has given us. We ask you to pray for our family. Our grandson, David's, wife Megan is pregnant with our 2nd great grandson. He is due in early March but she has been having lots of contractions. She was is the hospital between Christmas and New Year as they kept trying to control the contractions. David's family went down from Michigan to help, and our daughter-in-law, Kathy, is staying until January 16. Megan's parents came for a week-end but they needed get back to work. Megan's mom hopes to be with her for a while in January. Megan and David live in South Carolina, so it's a day's drive from Brighton Michigan. Plus, because they all work, it is very difficult to coordinate all the needed travel.

Also pray for our granddaughter, Alicen, as she goes back to Michigan State. She is in her 3rd year and wants to be a doctor. She was in a very serious car accident a year ago and has had a couple surgeries, one just two months ago. We pray she will be completely healed. We pray for all of our grandchildren, as this world is after them. We pray they will seek God for their life.

Dios Le Bendiga

George and Jan

If you have asked to receive this newsletter online, but are still getting it in the mail, it is probably because we do not have your email address. If you would like to get it online, email us at Vamonos@satx.rr.com.

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Praise and Prayer List

Praises:

A very blessed Christmas season.
Several year-end financial donations
A couple of groups coming to help with routine camp maintenance
Still no Americans affected by any Mexico violence
Increase in American church groups scheduled for next year
Success of our in-home Bible study

Prayer requests:

More American churches to put aside their fears and return to help the Mexican churches..
Remaining Vamonos financial and labor needs at the camp
A replacement vehicle for Hugo and Sylvia to use at the camp
Coming American mission teams coming in January and February.
Our grandson, David, his wife, Megan and baby Gavin.