



# THE VAMONOS NEWSLETTER

*Dear Friends and Family,*

Time flies when you are having fun. So, since we have not sent a newsletter since October, we must be having fun. Well we have. November was a month of prayer for us. We prayed asking God to heal Silvia, and, praise God, she is cancer free and needs no more chemo. What a blessing it is to see

her becoming herself again. She has been feeling so good that the entire family took part in the Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness. She goes for check ups regularly and we are praying everything will continue to be fine.



**Hugo, Michell, Sylvia and Fernando complete the Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness**

We also asked you to pray for our friend Suzanne. She also is recovering from her tumor. She continues to improve, but, it is a slow process. Please keep her and her husband, Steve, in your prayers also, as they continue through this difficult time.

We had no Americans at the camp in November, but did have several Mexican churches were there on the weekends.



**The youth group from Iglesias Rio de Dios come to the camp for a weekend retreat.**

Our church moved from the school where we were meeting into a new building. There is a local church that has been struggling, as they are without a pastor, so we are now sharing their space with them. We have a lot more room for church programs, so, it's a winning situation for both churches. George has had an opportunity to preach several times at our services and has also filled in as guest preacher at the other church's services. Jan teaches kids on Sunday, and also volunteers at a public school Pre K class.

December was very busy, as we had four churches come to the camp and we always like to be there, at least part of the time, to greet and be with them. We also



**Christmas at El Camino Church in Colonia Quince de Enero. On the left, the kids hear a presentation of the Christmas story, and on the right, they are lined up to receive the “goodies” that were supplied by your gracious donations.**

received many donations for the children's Christmas parties at the churches with whom we work. We had a Christmas celebration after our in-home Bible Study that George leads every Thursday evening. We invited several new people and we ate lots of sweet stuff. Christmas was very fun. Our granddaughter, Alicen, and grandson, Clint, came home from college. We also had one of Alicen's friends come, as she was unable to go home for Christmas because of work. It was great to see her. We remember her when she was a playmate of Alicen's when they were young, so we got out the old VHS tapes and watched them when they were small. It was fun and we felt very old.

We then spent several days with our friend who came to see where she might fit with Vamonos. She is praying about coming on staff with us. We spent several days in Reynosa, visiting pastors, finding out the needs they have. One of our goals is to expand the "community ministry" part of Vamonos Community Ministries, and it is always quite a challenge to balance the needs with our abilities and purpose. We also began discussions as to ways we might reach churches to come to the camp and serve in Reynosa. Then we spent time praying and seeking Gods will for her life.



**Many of you now our friend, Gela (3rd from left), who we have known for over 20 years. We had a chance to visit with her entire family.**

As we spent New Year's Day looking over our calendar we have three American churches booked at the camp between February 13th and April 16th. First Presbyterian Church from Anna, Illinois will be here in February. We always look forward to seeing them, as they have been faithful to come and work in Reynosa, even during the time that a lot of Americans were fearful of the perceived danger

there. Our daughter, Julie, and her husband Mark will be bringing folks from their church in February, then our friends from the Epic Church in Baltimore will be here in April. We have long time supporters coming from Michigan in March to visit the camp and some of the churches we minister with. We will also fill the role of tour guides as they visit some of the fun places in San Antonio. Jan's sister and brother-in-law will be coming in February to help us celebrate our Anniversary. They haven't been able to travel much over the last several years, and are anxious to visit San Antonio and see some of the sights around Texas.

February 19th we will have our 50th Wedding anniversary. Our dear, sweet kids and their spouses took us on a cruise this month, as February will be very busy for everyone. Jeff's daughter, Meghan will be having a baby girl in February, so We will have another great grand child! Great grandson, Gavin, will be one in February, and Jeff's church will be moving into a new building, so, February was just not going to work for the grand celebration. We had a great time. We were on the ship for 8 days and visited many islands, including St. Maarten, St. Kitts, Grand Turk and Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. It was the best vacation ever. We have never spent that much time with just our kids. When we are all together it is usually for a wedding or family reunion. They planned the whole cruise. Jan likes history so we saw several forts and historical buildings. George likes playing trivia on the ship, eating Guy burgers and seeing the different sights as we rode around the islands. We are so proud of our kids and so thankful they did that for us.

At the end of April we plan to visit our grandson, David, his wife Megan, and their two little boys, Logan age 2 and Gavin, age 1. Then we will drive up to Indiana to see Jan's mom for a few days, then drive to Michigan to see our granddaughter, Meghan, her husband Josh, and their first baby,



**We met with old friends, Pastor Isidro Garrido and his wife Flora, who have begun a new work in Reynosa.**



**On our cruise, our stateroom door was decorated with 50th anniversary congratulations, and everyone our deck wished us a happy anniversary.**



Charlotte. We will also, of course, visit friends and supporting churches in that area. It will be a long trip, but, we are anxious to see everyone.

## *Thank you, Lord*

Again, we are happy to report that Sylvia is now cancer free and will require no more chemo therapy treatments. God is good.

Suzanne Wilkinson's continued recovery process.

Still no evidence of Mexican violence for the American groups. As more people return to work here, they are slowly discovering that the danger of violence against innocent people in Reynosa is actually less than the problems in most American cities. Not one group that has come has had any kind of difficulty.

We had asked you to pray for the sale of our camp truck. Well, there was another ministry in Reynosa in need of a vehicle, so we made it available to them. We needed to realize some cash out of it, but, reduced the price significantly as part of our support of their work.

We were really touched and blessed by our kids taking us on the anniversary cruise. Many people have asked us what our favorite part was, and our answer is always the same.... just being able to spend that time with our kids.

## *Please Pray with us*

Please continue to pray for one of our friends who is contemplating coming down to work with Vamonos on a permanent basis. She will be here in February to continue discussion.

All of the groups that will be coming to the camp this fall.

Please continue to keep Sylvia in your prayers as she continues to get stronger.

# *Dios le bendiga*

*George and Jan*

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