



THE VAMONOS NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends and Family,



We got to enjoy some time with Jeff and Kathy on the famous San Antonio river Walk



The team from New Braunfels. 5 of the 12 were our own family. What a blessing!

We hope all of you are enjoying your summer.

At the end of June, our son, Jeff, and his wife, Kathy, came to visit for a week to celebrate our grandson, Isaiah's, graduation from high school. We did all kinds of stuff, as Isaiah will be attending Michigan State this fall. His sister, Alicen, is in her fourth year now. We will miss them. It is always fun to have people do all the fun stuff here. We went to several restaurants that you don't find in other cities, and, when on vacation, Jeff likes to do things he can't do at home. We also went to Schlitterbahn, which is the biggest water park in the country. Y'all come down and we will take you around .

We just got back from Reynosa. We had 14 people at the camp from our daughter, Julie 's, church in New Braunfels, Texas, close to our home. She and her husband spent many days assuring people it was fine to go to Mexico. We helped a church that Aaron had started in Colonia Quince de Enero in 1992. The church has had many groups working there over the years. It is now one of the biggest Methodist churches in Reynosa. The pastor's name is David Enriquez and his wife's name is Marlen. They have a boy 9 and a girl 6. The group painted several areas, installed iron protection gates on the outside walls and held a VBS.

As always, we had many wonderful happenings. It is always a shock to new people as we go driving to the work site in the Colonia. The homes need so much work. Many streets are mud, things look dirty and unkept, dogs are thin and have sores all over their bodies. But as we arrive, the pastor, his family, and other

church members greet us. They thank us over and over through out the week, and even bring us food and small gifts. They pray with us and ask us to pray for their families. They bring their children to VBS and stay with them, asking if they can make one of the crafts. We have been in mission work since 1989 and it still touches our hearts to see how grateful they are for small things.

The groups are usually anxious to get the work done. We, on the other hand, know that the Mexican people can do the work a lot faster. They just need the money. So Jan always try's to get the Americans to take a walk with her so they can get to know the people, how they live and how can we pray for them. Most of the Americans don't want to go. But one day she persisted, and 4 women went with her. She took them to a couple homes she already knew, then started walking and telling some stories from the past. As she got close to one particular home, a lady called for her to come in. She and the ladies with her went into the house. She hugged Jan and cried. She said she thought she would never see her again. As Jan looked in her eyes she remembered the lady. We had a group in 1994, when we were with World Servants, that built their house. They had two small boys and needed a home, so we built a small wooden house. They have added on to the house and also made a store. What a blessing she was for Jan and the whole group.

We also were invited to the home across the street from the church. The lady's name is Selena, and we have known her for years. She has a sister that lives next door. Nineteen years ago the sister gave birth to a girl who had severe physical problems. The only part of her body that she could move was her head. The mom could not care for her, so Selena took over. When she turned 15 she even gave her a party. Selena now has two children of her own but still cares for her niece.

Selena has a one room house....not a one bedroom house, just one room. She made lunch for us one day and told me she is the happiest she has ever been. She loves the Lord and so does her husband. They are teaching their children about Jesus.

As we talked about our day each night in our sharing time, we realize how blessed we are. Most of us said we have so much that it takes all our time to care for all our stuff. As you read this, think about

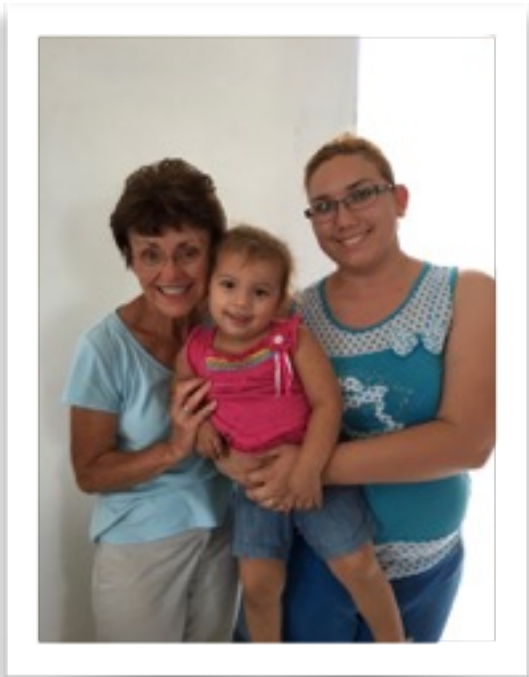


Playing wit the kids before VBS is always a highlight



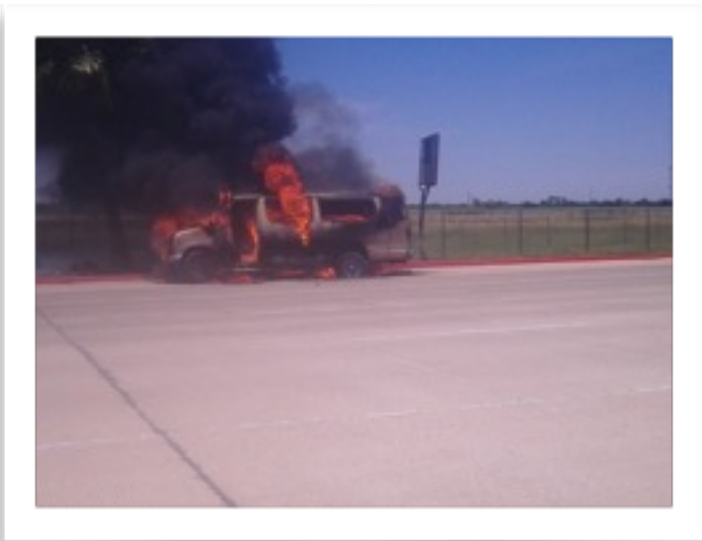
One day, the worship team was our entire family!

your stuff, and ask, "Who have I shared my faith with this month." It is known to all who go on a mission trip that Jan doesn't work on the building, she just talks to people and plays with the kids. A lady came to VBS with a little girl about 3 she told Jan she wants her little girl to know about Jesus. She told Jan she came to the VBS when Jan was teaching 15 years ago. Many people come to us telling us how they remember all we did for the people and the Colonia over the years. The work project is the excuse to be in the Colonia, so we can share Gods love for the people. We told you last year about Nacho doing VBS in the city of Vera Cruz. He had remembered George sharing Jesus through a little magic trick when he was about 8. He and his wife and children are going again next week. We loaded them up with VBS stuff again. We have a saying, "We don't use people to build projects, we use projects to build people". Pray about how you can share your faith on a mission trip or just in your neighborhood.



A second generation comes under Jan's teaching. You never know the long term effects when you follow God's leading.

Many of you either know, or know about our friend, Pastor Desiderio Lozano. A few weeks ago, they had gone across the border to purchase supplies for their hospital ministry, and, as they were entering the bridge area to return, they smelled smoke. So, Desiderio pulled over and he and his wife, Naomi, and one other friend jumped out. The van then burst into flames and was completely destroyed. We are thankful that no one was injured, but, it does leave a large hole in their ministry, as the van was used not only for transporting goods, but, also, church people to



Pastor Desiderio's van during and after the fire.

and from various events. So, if you know of anyone who has a full size van that they would like to donate, please let us know.

Again, there are still many folks who are receiving this newsletter through the mail. If you could receive it via email notification, please let us know, as it will help us defray printing and postage costs.

Thank you, Lord

For groups willing to come to Reynosa to serve.

For keeping Desiderio and family safe during their van fire.

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. Still, not one group that has come has had any kind of difficulty.

For the appreciation we always receive from Mexican church groups that are able to use the camp.

Please Pray with us

That a suitable van will be donated for Pastor Desiderio's ministry.

Please continue to keep Sylvia in your prayers as she continues to monitor her blood levels.

Please continue to pray for Suzanne Wilkinson's full recovery.

That Americans will get over their unwarranted fear and return to serve the people of Reynosa.

Please continue to keep Jan's sister, Phyllis in your prayers as she shoulders the bulk of the responsibility in the ongoing care of their mother in Indiana.

Dios le bendiga

George and Jan

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