



THE VAMONOS NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends and Family,

We hope you are having a great Christmas season. There is always so much to do during this month, that sometimes we forget this season is about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, not all the other stuff. Oh, don't get us wrong, we love all the extra stuff, especially Jan. Our home is decorated as soon as Thanksgiving is over, but, we try to keep our focus on Him. One of the blessings we have is to help the churches in Reynosa celebrate Christ's birth. Many of you donate extra money at this time of year for the children's Christmas, so, two weeks ago we delivered the funds to four of the churches we work with in Reynosa. We used to fill gift bags for the kids, but that became too much as the churches grew. So we now give the pastors the money and they have a special celebration with gifts and food for the children.

The first pastor we visited was David at the El Camino church. He was very happy with the donation and told us how he was going to provide a great time for the children with small toys, special food, and some jackets and gloves. His church is doing well. They have many Bible studies for women and men, youth groups, and younger age children.



On the left, George and Valente in from to the completed second floor exterior.
On the right, Bruno (in the striped shirt) still working for the Lord

Next we went to see pastor Valente at his church. You probably heard his name many times. Our son, Jeff's, church and several other groups came to help him build a bigger church. The first floor is finished but the upstairs is still under construction. Several people were working, and one of them was Bruno. When our son's church, the Well, came to work a couple of years ago, they met Bruno. He was a skilled block worker and most of Jeff's church were teens and knew nothing about block building. Bruno needed the money, but didn't need these American teens. He watched them try to lay block, deal with the heat, and take many breaks. He also saw them pray every morning, honor his knowledge and ask for help. They bought him water, soda, and sandwiches. Over the weeks they all became friends. After the Well left, Bruno kept working on the church. Valente helped him get off drugs and he gave his life to Christ. When the Well group came the following summer Bruno was there to help, no drugs, smiling, and a totally different person. Bruno was there again this time and gave us a big smile and hug. We gave Valente the money for the children's Christmas gifts and he was

smiling shaking our hands and thanking us.



Us, with Gela and her whole family

We then went to visit our friend Gela (Hay-la) and her children. She is a single mom who we have know since we first came to Reynosa. You probably remember us talking about her. Her husband died of an aneurism several years ago, and she has raised her 5 children. She works 45 hours a week and brings home 35.00 dollars. Her oldest daughter is married and the others all go to college and work. We support one of her girls with her college. As we were talking with her son he said the roof was leaking and he needed to fix it. He is trying to save enough

money. That evening we spent time with Olga, Hugo and his daughter Michelle. As we talked about Gela, we decided to help her with the roof. She also needs the ceiling repaired, and the house could use a paint job. Vamonos has a policy that we don't support individual families, so we will be doing this personally. We praise God that we can help her.

The next day we went to the feeding program at the El Sendero church. There is a new pastor in that church and they are trying to feed as many children and elderly people as they can. We had worked in that colonia for many years, and several people came up to hug us. We spent several hours with them, and, after talking with the rest of our crew, we decided to use some Feed My Sheep funds to help them with the feeding program. We also gave them money for their children's Christmas party. They cried and hugged us so tight we could hardly breath. The dining hall needs a lot of repair on the roof

and ceiling. Also the home of the pastor is falling apart. It is the original church building that was built in 1995. It is made of wood and in very poor condition. We spoke to some of the church groups that will be coming down this year, and they will be moving there to work on these projects. A very exciting thing has happened in all of this. Two groups were scheduled to work with



On the left, breakfast begins at El Sendero. On the right, Mary receives her support for the children's Christmas activities.

Pastor David in Colonia Quince de Enero. When we talked to David, he totally understood the greater need at El Sendero (which, by the way, is their daughter church). Then he committed to putting together a mission team from his church to work alongside the American teams! They will help with the construction and conducting Bible school for the children. We are so excited to work with them and to see one poor Mexican church helping another!

We then went to visit our good friends Desiderio and Naomi. They are doing well. Their church is helping in many areas in Reynosa. Their children are all doing well in college and working. They were excited to have the help for the children's Christmas party and said they will send lots of pictures. They also want to know when we can come again so they can take us to eat at the Pollo Loco!

We are so blessed to be able to help the people of Reynosa. As we have said before, we have never had a problem, except we some times are hugged too tight and can hardly breathe. As you read this, know you are helping with prayers and funds.

We thank you and wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas. We are looking forward to seeing our grandkids, Isaiah and Alicen as they come home from college at Michigan State. It will be extra special, as Alicen will graduate in December, and it will be fun to celebrate that. After graduation, she plans to work for a year in a medical related field, then continue on to medical school at a school as yet to be selected. We always kid her and say, that, at our age it will be a real blessing to have a doctor in the family!

You are all welcome to come down to Reynosa and receive a blessing. You don't even have to work in the hot sun. You can just hang out with us, loving on kids and getting hugged by people.



Merry Christmas to you all from us and our entire group of grandkids and great-

Thank you, Lord

Good prognosis for Sylvia's chemo treatments

For groups willing to come to Reynosa to serve where the needs are.

The generosity of the Americans who donated funds for the various children's parties.

Still no evidence of Mexican violence for the American groups.

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

Pastor Desiderio received a donated van from a church in Texas!

Please Pray with us

Please continue to keep Sylvia in your prayers as she continues to receive more chemo treatments.

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

That we will be able to continue helping our friend Gela in her house and financial difficulties.

Dios le bendiga

George and Jan

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