



THE VAMONOS NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends and Family,

We just returned from Reynosa and are excited to tell you all about our trips this last month and the progress on the pastor's house that we told you about last time. First, a little history. Many years ago, Aaron asked us to build a small church in colonia Pedro J. Mendez. We had a group coming so we said yes. The Pedro colonia was one of the poorest colonias in Reynosa. Mounds of trash were in



Pastor Antonio and his wife, Mari.

the dump and people came regularly, sifting through the things they might find for their homes and family. The people that came to build the small church were from Cornerstone, our home church in Brighton at the time. The building was built of wood. When the church was finished many of the people from the colonia came to dedicate the church. We worked in Pedro for many years, bringing groups to help the people. Over the years, a building was built to feed children, and then a larger church. Also, a caretaker's home, and a children's Sunday school room were built. The large church was built of block and stucco, but the other buildings were wood.

As we worked in Reynosa with the groups we realized wooden buildings did not last in the heat and the poor ground. Americans like to come and finish a home or church, but we can't do that in one week. So most of our groups are now working on block churches and pastors' homes.

Pastor Antonio at the Pedro church El



Generous donations provided the new floor



The River City New Braunfels group built the block walls



While also conducting Vacation Bible School for the Colonia children



Epic Church from Baltimore removed the trusses from the old house.

Sendero (the path) needed a new home badly, as the original wooden home was now over 20 years old and badly deteriorated. At the end of last year, we saw the need and committed to the pastor that we would attempt to raise funds and look for churches who would be willing to take on the task of building the new house. The response was good, and we had several thousand dollars donated for the



The old trusses were moved to the new house



And lifted in place



Again, all while conducting Vacation Bible School

project. We had two churches scheduled to come in March that had intended to work in another area. When we called and told them of this new need, they said they wanted to come and work on the pastors home. In February, we hired some workers and laid the concrete floor, using the money that had been given. The 2nd week of March, our daughter Julie and her husband Mark brought down 15 people from their church. They worked hard alongside the Mexican workers, and, over the span of just one week, completed all of the outside block walls. In their "spare time", they did a VBS for about 100 kids, and enjoyed meeting the people. Jan was happy to see old friends she had known when she and two other couples held Bible classes every Tuesday for several years when we lived in McAllen. The children they taught are now parents and bringing their children to the VBS.

Then, the last week of March, a group from the EPIC church in Baltimore, Maryland came. We had decided that we could save money by using the trusses from the old house on the new building. They spent the week removing the old roofing and trusses, then modifying them for use on the new house. They even managed to get about half of the trusses in place on the new house. They also held a VBS. These two groups encouraged not only the pastor but the whole community. They worked very hard. It was hot, dirty, dusty and great. Not one person said, "I wish I had never come", and most of them are planning when they will come again. No one ever felt in danger, except for the fact that they thought they might get hugged to death. They gave new life to that colonia. Please keep them in your prayers, especially pastor Antonio and his wife Mari as they minister to the people of Pedro J Mendez.

Our son, Jeff, daughter in law, Kathy, and their son, Brandon, will be bringing a group the end of July from their church, The Well in Brighton, Michigan. Our daughter and grandson, Isaiah, will be coming too, along with several people from their church. Praise God for family. They will continue working on the pastors home. People always ask if it is safe in Reynosa. Do you think we would want our kids and grandkids to be put in danger? What kind of parents and grand parents would we be to expose them to a dangerous situation? We have worked and visited Reynosa every month for over 20 years, and have never seen any incidents of violence. God has blessed us in ways that

you can not believe. He is our king, our master, our everything. We praise him for letting us serve Him, and continually pray that others would put aside their unfounded fears, come on down and serve God by helping people like Antonio and Mari.

As you know, we have been discussing how to utilize the Feed My Sheep funds that have been given, since the schools have begun providing breakfast for the children. We are currently in discussion with Dario Lieja (director of the school in Pedro J. Mendez) about the possibility of starting a scholarship program for children whose parents cannot afford to send them to school. We are just at the beginning of the discussions, and will keep you updated as plans progress.

We plan on traveling to the Michigan area at the end of June and hope to see many of you. As the time gets closer and we have an idea of our schedule, we will get in touch to see when we can get together. In the mean time, we would love to have you come on down to see, first hand, the work that is being done here. Also, to see for yourselves that the threat of violence is blown out of proportion.

Thank you, Lord

Good prognosis for Sylvia's chemo treatments. She has one more treatment and then will be evaluated to see if further treatment is needed.

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

The generosity of the Americans who donated funds for the new pastor's home.

River City New Braunfels and Epic Church from Baltimore.

Please Pray with us

Please continue to keep Sylvia in your prayers as she continues to receive more chemo treatments. There is doubt that insurance will cover further treatments if needed.

That funds will continue to come in so work can continue by Mexican contractors before summer groups come.

Groups that are now preparing for summer trips.

Dios le bendiga

George and Jan

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