



THE VAMONOS NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends and Family,



Jan had a chance to spend time with her Mom



Great grandpa got to play with the grand kids

We hope you are all well and enjoying your summer. It has been awhile since our last news letter and we have a lot to share with you

We had a wonderful time in Michigan, visiting friends and family. We visited Jan's sister and brother in law in Valparaiso, Indiana on our way to Michigan. We also visited her mom who will be 99 in October. She lives n a nursing home that is beautiful, and Jan's sister, Phyllis, teaches a Bible Study and conducts many other activities for the people. Jan is so grateful to have her sister caring for her mom.

We arrived at Jeff's in time for Father's Day, and had spent time with our granddaughter, Alicen, who is in Lansing, studying to be a doctor. She wants to go to Washington State for her schooling. We got to spend a lot of time with our great grand daughter, Charlie. She is so much fun, and Meghan and Josh are great parents. They are expecting a little boy in October.

We had a chance to visit old friends in Port Huron. One of our friends live right on the St. Clair river, and she hosted a reunion at her place. It was a beautiful evening as we talked and tried to remember all we used to do back in the day our kids were small.

It is always our hope to visited churches that have supported us over the years. Highland Congregational Church is one of them.

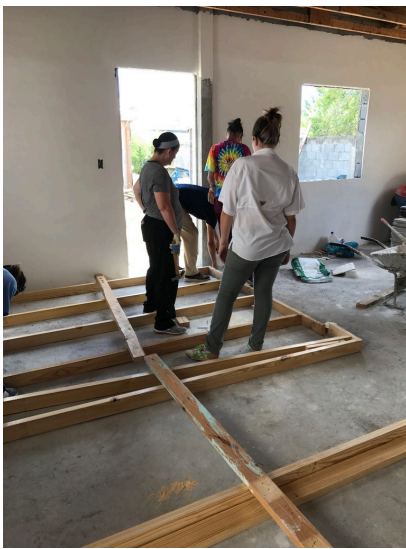


C'mon ! How How can you not love Charlie?

This is the church we attended when we went on our very first mission trip. We never thought we would become missionaries. We are forever grateful. Our lives were never the same. They now have a great young pastor and the church is really growing. We also saw many of the people we knew from long ago. The only problem we had was we were hugged to death.

On July 4th we had a big get together with family and friends. Our grand son, David, his wife, Megan, and his two little boys, Logan and Gavin, came from South Carolina. Their friends also came with their two boys. There was a lot of boating, tubing, and, of course, fire works on the lake. We really had a wonderful time.

We arrived home in time to go to Reynosa with our daughter, Julie's, church to continue the work on the home of the pastor in Colonia Pedro J. Mendez. We have worked many times in that colonia. The



The group began building interior walls. By the end of the week, there were actual ROOMS! Becky had come all the way from Michigan to join the group. By the end of the week she was known as "The Stucco Queen"!

church name is El Sendero, meaning "the path". It was one of the churches Aaron pastored many years ago. Jan and some friends from Mission, Texas spent every Tuesday teaching bible studies for children and women. It was one of her favorite memories of being missionaries in Reynosa.

The man that pastors the El Sendero church is Antonio, and his wife Mari. They feed over 70 children a day, lead Bible studies and conduct services. We decided to help them almost a year ago, as some of the older buildings were in very bad shape. One of the buildings was their home. So we tore down the old house and started to build a new home out of block for them. The home is coming along. Julie, Mark and their church friends did a great job, and they plan to continue to help until the house is complete. Probably the biggest blessing for us was to see our family serving together. Julie and Mark brought their two sons, Isaiah and Clint along with them, and they were an enormous help when it came to hanging the drywall. Several times, Mark said it would not have gotten done if the boys



hadn't been part of the team. Then, to see them helping at Bible school and interacting with the children was something we will long remember.

While we were there, Mari shared with the group that she was diagnosed with bone cancer. She had had cancer several years ago in both breasts and now it has come back in the bones of her legs and feet. Please keep her in your prayers.

As always, Bible school was provided for the children each day.

very thin, and actually flakes off. Kids with this disease are called "Butterfly children" because it is said their skin is as thin as a butterfly's wings. He has to have his body covered for fear of the disease. Many of the folks on the mission team want to help by providing coverings and medication. Please pray for him, as there is no cure. It is especially difficult, as Pedro J. Mendez is a hard place to live. There is a big dump there. Some people pick up garbage and

Mari also asked us to come and visit a small boy that is suffering from a very serious skin disease. His skin is



bring it there, and others bring in donkey carts, fill them up and salvage what they can. This colonia has always had a dump but now it is huge. You see children looking for things to sell. It is very sad.

The "Fish Gate " Church. Pastor Valente's congregation has continued to work over the years.

We had a wonderful time at the camp. After being in Pedro and seeing the dump and then sweltering in the heat the camp is like a bit of heaven. Olga and her two helpers

make us the best food ever. We really are grateful for a nice cool shower and a bed.

Many of you may recall that several groups came down over the years to help Pastor Valente build a new church. The last project was the beginnings of the second floor. Well, even though the groups activity has diminished, work has continued by the folks in the church. Some of the folks that were here had worked on the building and wanted to go see the progress. The outside is nearly complete, and the second floor is close to being usable. It is only lacking doors so the materials and equipment can be secured when there is no one there. It is always a blessing to see people return to see the fruits of their labors taking shape!

As always, we spent some time with Hugo and Sylvia. She is still fighting her cancer in the lymph nodes and has chemo treatments every two weeks in Monterrey. Please keep her in your prayers. She is not in pain, but gets very tired.

One final thing.....

On a final note, we have been seeking God's will for us. For those of you who don't know our whole story, we have been in mission work since 1989. We went on a short term trip to the Dominican Republic, with our son, Jeff, who was the leader. It was an eye opening experience and we couldn't stop talking about it.

We returned to the Dominican Republic two more times. The organization we were working with asked if we would organize trips to Mexico. We did and spent five years organizing mission trips right across the Texas border. In 1997, we left our Jobs in Michigan and moved to Texas and started a ministry called Vamonos Community Ministries meaning, "lets go". God enabled us to help build four churches, two schools and a Christian camp. All of these are still being used.

We are in our early 70's. The last couple of years have been difficult, and we have been spending much time in prayer and discussion of our future. As a result, we decided it is time for us to step back and retire from active ministry. There are a couple of reasons for this. First, is the decreasing ministry opportunities we have. In the past, we spent a lot of our time helping churches who were coming down on trips. We have a few groups still coming, but, for the most part, churches have a fear of Mexico due to the media coverage. The other, but more important reason is family and we feel that we need to spend our remaining years closer to them. Our son, daughter in law, 5 grand children, and a sweet great grand daughter live in Michigan. In a few months we will have a new great grandson. As we have said, Jan's mother and sister live in Indiana, which is only 3 hours from Brighton. Our grandson, David, lives with his family just outside Charlotte, North Carolina, which is only a 10 hour drive. So we have decided to sell our home here in San Antonio and return to "the frozen north". We are in the process of turning all of the Vamonos administrative duties to Hugo and Sylvia, and we will be returning to Michigan as soon as our house sells. We plan to get involved in one of the churches that have served us. We had originally told Hugo and Sylvia that we wanted to retire, but they rejected our request. They want us to remain on the board of directors, continue to be part of the decision making process, even if it's from a distance, and be available to U.S. churches for information on Reynosa, the camp and how they can serve or support the ministry. We will always have missions in our lives, and plan to return to Mexico a couple of times a year to see the camp staff

and visit the folks there who have become so close to us. We will be contacting, directly, those of you who have been supporting us to talk about how this decision effects your giving. So, again, we ask for your prayers, as it has been a very difficult decision for us after spending 28 years in ministry.

Thank you, Lord

Good results from Sylvia's thyroid surgery. The thyroid was not cancerous, but she still has some cancer that has shown up in some lymph nodes..

Good progress on the Pastor's home, and donations to continue the work.

Hugo and Sylvia, who continue to serve God at the camp, even through their current trials.

Please Pray with us

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

Pastor Antonio's wife, Mari, as she battles bone cancer.

Completion of the Pastor's home in Pedro J.Mendez.

Transition of Vamonos administration over to Hugo and Sylvia.

Sale of our home and move to Michigan.

Dios le bendiga

George and Jan

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