SFTHMin in Nicaragua/Trip #31

This section is focused on time spent at PROJECT 101 with our students in Xiloa during classes, at the "meet the parents" banquet and building a picnic table. This is time to mingle with the students and parents and to recognize the students for their achievements. We took beautiful Bibles as gifts. Our team served the students and their families a full course meal after the award / graduation ceremony.



"Picnic Table" Straight from the sawmill, the wood we built the picnic table out of never saw a planer. Steve did the design and cut the pieces and I screwed and bolted it together. Steve and I work together like peas and carrots. During the banquet I counted 11 people eating around the table, a well-needed project.





"Meet the parents" banquet

Every trip we consider it important for our English students to see the SFTHMin team serve them. It builds incredible relationships with the parents as they entrust the time with their children to us. We also made sure that each parent had a Bible. Everyone got a beanie baby and a toothbrush as an extra gift. This trip was so full of God's favor that it's going to take several newsletters to get it all included.





It's Holiday Season In the Jail

It's time for our annual Christmas card give-away in jail. Every year we give each resident 3) Christmas cards, 1) with a hand-written word of encouragement and 2) for them to send home to their family and friends. Each resident also gets a toothbrush and a free-world tube of toothpaste. We usually have approximately 175 residents, ladies and gentlemen to serve.

The last Sunday before Christmas we do Communion with all the residents. We are so grateful for a God-Fearing Sheriff that allows the SFTHMin team to have this special time. Many of the residents have never participated in a communion service.

Thank You for your continued prayer and financial support as we know the Godly influence of this work is going deep and building young men and ladies that will impact their communities.

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STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART MINISTRIES INC. INTL.

3rd Triannial 2026

What does Mission trip #31 look like?

The SFTHMin team has just returned from our trip #31. We had 4) major projects on our agenda and by God's grace we marked off all four of them. I will only focus on two of the projects this newsletter then the other two in the Feb 2027 newsletter. #1 Finding our sponsored children that we have lost contact with since 2017. #2 Water well pump installation and storage tank and tower. #3 Building a picnic table at SFTHMin English School. #4 Graduation / award banquet for students at SFTHMin English School. The two projects I will share in this newsletter are finding our former sponsored children and building the picnic table.

Where it all Started

In 1989 during a tumultuous time in our family, our church and most of all our personal walk with God, we sold everything except our personal house, quit my job, loaded a few belongings into a 1976 Ford pickup and headed to a mission 9 hours south of the border in Zacatecas Mexico. We had never been out of our comfort zone like that before, not knowing the language or culture but we adapted. Little did we know that the mission was made up of sponsored children through an organization in Colorado. Skip ahead 12 years at a music convention, we were introduced to the same organization and we sponsored 2 Nicaraguan children. The sponsorship program is responsible for the children's health and spiritual well-being till they are 18; then they are out of the program. Our sponsored boy (Juan) finished the program and graduated. Our sponsored girl (Nancy) was dropped at the age of 14, four years before finishing. Without a lot of details, I (Galen) unintentionally breached a strict rule the organization had concerning visiting your child so they terminated our account and sponsorship thus leaving Nancy without a sponsor. For the past 9 years Mary and I have felt we need to re-connect with these two children and explain to Nancy why we did not continue our visits. A hovering fear that these sponsored children have is that they will do something to cause their sponsors to evaporate.





Monday morning we loaded our team and started a 2 hour journey to Leon. While passing through the village of Nagarote we visited project #149 that was built by SFTHMin donors in 2012, all is well. When we arrived to the project where Juan and Nancy had attended it was shut down. It was closed in 2020 and never re-opened, so the hunt was on. This neighborhood is incredibly busy, narrow streets, horse carts, chickens etc. I remembered where the church was that oversaw this project and upon inquiring, the pastor recognized us and remembered when we built Juan's family a house in 2009.

Set The Story Straight

In this letter I am explaining the power of setting your story straight. Now is the time, don't put it off. In Romans 6:6, Paul explains the "body"of sin left behind. Once we accept Gods grace through faith then we are born from above or born again, (John 3:1-21) the only part of us that is ready for heaven is our Spirit. When we hear the trumpet blow this body will put on a new body that is prepared for heaven and while on this earth our Soul (Mind, Will, and Emotions) will daily need to be transformed or renewed by the Word of God (spoken and written) so we can know Gods will for us, Romans 12:1-2.



The body of sin that enslaved us still hangs around and needs to be dealt with on a daily basis. It's has had years to entangle and integrate with our thoughts, actions, behaviors, etc. and needs to be transformed because we are a new creation and have a new nature. 2 Cor 5:17

Just because we are born from above and have a new nature (Spirit) does not mean that the "world" is going to be still. This section I want to encourage you to make sure that the old man is really dead. Sometimes it means hunting someone down and looking them in the eyes and setting the story straight. Clean out your closet, you will know when you are through.

I had a long conversation last week with a gentleman in the County jail and right off he told me he was a drug addict and chased it with booze. After some deep closet cleaning he admitted booze and drugs were only used to kill the pain. So we began to clean the corpses out of his closet that were left behind. He was born from above but had failed to go to the people he wronged and dismantle the body of sin he still was a slave to.

How did I know the thoughts that Nancy (front page story) carried for those years until I took the initiative to look for her, go to her village, down her street and set us both free.

Start today, it may be uncomfortable. It took years to assemble that body and it will take discipline to disassemble it. You start by the words of your mouth. In Proverbs 18:21 It says Life and Death are in the power of your tongue. Don't slobber mouth or speak loosely, or use unnecessary words. Be specific, kind and be sure the person you are releasing understands you are serious, then don't touch the forbidden fruit again. Don't live another day with a dead corpse in your closet that can be dealt with. Never let the bars stay inside, keep them outside. If not now, when?

"We're all just walking each other home."

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Jan 31
Lamar Co Jail

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What did mission trip #31 look like?

(Continued from front page)

As we arrived at Juan's house he was standing in the street and what a surprised look on his face. He is now 27 years old, married, has an 18 month old baby (David) and are expecting another baby. He joined our team and was happy to take us to Nancy's house.



As Mary and I walked to the front fence, Nancy's husband answered the door and we explained who we were. What a surprise and welcome we had when she came to the gate. Now she is married, pregnant, with a baby on her hip, 23 years old, a beautiful grown lady. We started to sponsor Nancy when she was 5 years old and Juan was 6 years old. We made plans to meet at a plaza the next day for some time at the market and then a banquet at the hotel. The natives know the markets, what to buy and who the best vendors are. Both families headed to the baby clothes and loaded up baby items, with a much different focus then 10 years ago. At the banquet after we were finished eating, we turned our focus on the story that started this part of the trip. I began to explain why she was dropped from our sponsorship and that they mattered to us but it had been a mistake on my part. We had no idea what Nancy had been dealing with for the past 9 years, but as we were explaining the situation the flood gates opened and it was so clear why the Holy Spirit had prompted us many times to find Nancy and set the story straight. What freedom that transparency produces when power of words are shared. Mission accomplished.





My cousin Glenda Yoder also found her former sponsored child in the same village. Her child was raised by her grandmother so Glenda took the grandmother and her child shopping and to our banquet also.



You Matter + are Valued ! ~ Mary

Sowing into the kingdom Matters to God Blessings Galen