

December 12, 2014

Christmas 2014



In many ways this has been a great year — despite the difficult times we've had... So we'd like to share with you just how the Lord has been so good to us!

This is a 'Very Special Time' of the year, when we remember the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to be **The Savior of the world!** **We thank Him especially for His 'gift' of grace** that provides for us the faith we need to be able to trust Him. (Ephesians 2:8-9) As we say at our Health Fairs, "God loves us: past, present, and future; and He is willing and able to help us with the needs of our body, soul, and spirit..." We are completely cared for by our loving Lord, when we listen to Him, obey Him, and rest in His arms... **We couldn't ask for a better 'present'!**

We've had some difficult times this year — The four most difficult ones being: (1) The doctor we have had for all of our Health Fairs for the past 6 years explained that she could not help us this year — the result being that we have had difficulties getting doctors for our Health Fairs during this past year — in fact we didn't have a doctor at our last Health Fair; (2) Our truck was totaled due to a manufacturing defect in the right tire; (3) The SUV we bought to replace the truck has been in the repair shop for over a month now; (4) The laws in Canada have changed regarding Federal Charities, causing the need for us to begin another Charity to receive donations for our support — with the complication that we cannot have this new Provincial Charity functioning for several more months, therefore we set ourselves up with the CHIMP Foundation as a stopgap measure not realizing the delays they were having in getting set up to fully handle automatic monthly donations — the result being that we have lost some of our supporters...

BUT, the Lord has been looking after us in some very special many ways — Here are three highlights: (1) When we had the accident with our truck, we could easily have been badly hurt or killed, according to the attending police and others — but we came away with only a couple of scratches and a bruise; (2) We felt led to buy a SUV rather than another truck for various reasons, and the Lord has since touched the heart of one man to donate his truck to fill our need for a truck, and it will arrive in Loreto February 18; (3) Mexican Medical Ministries will be assisting us with our Health Fairs starting with our February Team, by providing men to help with the heavy work and men to also drive the truck and pull the dental trailer...

ALSO, the Lord has encouraged us in some 'Wonderful Overwhelming Ways' ('WOW') this past year. Here are three highlights: (1) At several of our evangelistic Community Health Fairs this past year we had 40-50 Christian Mexican nationals working with us; (2) At one of our Health Fairs in April we had over 100 people pray to receive Christ as Lord and Savior; (3) In May at the prison in Santa Rosalía we had 120 men ask for Bibles, as a result of 240 men asking for Bibles the previous November... WOW!

NOW, as we look forward to 2015, we are continuing to trust the Lord, obeying Him as He leads us, just as we are told in Luke 2 that Mary did — Let's review: Mary was committed to God..., but she had questions..., she understood the impossibilities..., but she also knew at the same time that she was being led by God... Therefore Mary's response was, "I will obey the Lord's promptings — so let it be done to me as you have said..." — and so the Savior of the world was born... **Mary did her part...** with the result that so many people have been blessed by God as a result. We are looking forward again this coming year to God blessing many people through what we will do — simply because **we will do our part...** And we are trusting as the Lord leads you, that **you too, will do your part...** — be it ministry around you (and that really is your first priority), and possibly also supporting us in what we'll be doing in and around Loreto — your prayers and financial support are critical to the success of these ministries — they are valued, (no matter how small or large they may be, God put's them all together to meet our needs) — and **you are appreciated!**

So thank you so much again — for your concerns, your love, your prayers and your financial support. May God bless you also as you too look forward to 2015 — obeying the Lord's promptings...

Together with you, In His service,

Don & Lorraine

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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE — ‘FOR US ALL...’

Last Saturday we had an ‘Inter-Church Missionary Service’ here in Loreto — it was the first time to have such a service in Loreto — all of the churches here were invited to come and listen to a missionary that was specially asked to come to Loreto for this service — he would drive 15 hours to and from Ensenada, just to talk to us...

Before the service began, there was an ‘All Pastor’s Meeting’ for Marcos Schultz to speak to all the Pastors — encouraging us all to consider that it is time for Mexican Christians to send fellow Mexican Christians as missionaries to other countries throughout the world...

In both meetings, Marcos talked about his time in Venezuela and also of the tremendous fear many people live under without Christ. He was dressed in typical native apparel..., he used an overhead projector to show us pictures..., and he illustrated his talks with many tribal artifacts he had brought — a bow, arrows, spears, and many smaller things as well...

He explained to us how God’s intentions to bless mankind have always been to include **all the nations of the world** — and gave us many scriptural references to confirm this...

We left that meeting reminding ourselves that the excitement we should have about Christmas should not only be that Jesus came to be ‘my Savior’ or ‘our Savior’, but as the angel proclaimed, Jesus came to bring peace and good news **for all nations** — with the implication of this being that all of our Churches should be filled with people from many cultures and different nationalities... We should never become, or be proud in any way of any exclusivity, or Jesus may say to us as He did to others in Mark 11:17, “My Temple is to be **a house of prayer for all nations**, but you have turned it into a den of thieves.” — (Ouch!)

This was God’s plan from the beginning — to include the gathering together of people from **all nations** to praise His Name... And this is to be the purpose of our Churches today, as it says to all of us in Luke 24:46-47, “...the Messiah will suffer, and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to — **all the nations**...” And as Christians, we have all been commissioned in Matthew 28:19-20, “Therefore go and make disciples of **all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit — teaching them to obey everything I have taught you...”

Sadly though, many of our Churches today have lost this Biblical perspective — (Ouch!) — They think of their mission field as being only their neighbors, their community, or their city, or to just ‘good’ people..., or to just people who think and act like they do...

Let us therefore this Christmas make this a matter of decision and prayer — that we will all become less exclusive in all we think and do..., and that we will do everything we can to reach out to others — especially to those of different cultures..., different languages..., and different nationalities than our own... “For God so loved **the world**...” (John 3:16)