



Greetings from Loreto Mexico...



Don & Lorraine Karsgaard

January, 2019

“The Best Christmas Present ever...”

This past Christmas most of us probably gave gifts and received gifts of some nature. We'd like to share with you an experience we had here in Loreto this Christmas.

There's a Christian man here of about 60-70 years old – it's hard to tell ages here, because many people have really worked hard physically all their lives – for this report I will refer to him as “Sr.G”.

Sr.G is what we would call *‘poor but land rich’* – that means he appears to exist on next to nothing, but at the same time owning a lot of land – land which most people would not likely be interested in buying. Sr.G has no car and no bicycle – he walks everywhere, probably 10-15 miles each day. Sr.G is a kind old man, and people give him food and water, as he visits with them along his journeys. Where is he walking from and to? Maybe nowhere in particular, although sometimes he has made various appointments with people throughout the week.

Sr.G has been attending one of the Christian churches here in Loreto for many years – he really is a dedicated Christian. Not just for that reason, but because his whole purpose and activity in life is to share the love of Jesus and the message of salvation with people. So he walks everywhere stopping to talk to people along the way, and going up to various houses the Lord has led him to go to. He loves giving out tracts – but not without engaging people in conversation before he gives them one. Then he has Bible studies in various homes – not so much with groups of people, but more with the ones and twos he has met at their doorsteps, who have shown an interest in knowing more about salvation.

We have a supply of Bibles that we are constantly replacing – paperback Bibles and New Testaments by the case; devotional Bibles; children's Bibles; several study Bibles; and large print Bibles. Some we give away without charge, others we charge about half of what they would be in stores. (But there are no Bible book stores in Loreto.)

For example a large print bonded leather Bible that is listed to sell for \$54.99 in the US, we make available to people here for only 300 Pesos. (That's about \$15) Now of course we have to buy these Bibles in the US, have them shipped to us in Loreto, and pay importation taxes as well. But some of you reading this have given funds occasionally for us to be able to pay for these, and be able to they sell

them at reduced prices... So the people here are getting a real bargain! However when you consider the daily wage of the average person in Loreto, paying \$15 for one of these large print Bibles is quite a lot of money for them—and they may not have purchased one, if the price was much higher... So this is really a wonderful part of our ministries here, and this is just one example of the Bibles we have available.

Well, Sr.G buys one or two Bibles from us at a time, and then carries them with him as he walks around town - then either recoups his cost or gives them away at the Bible studies.

One day I received an email from the Bible supplier we buy our Bibles from in the US heard — he had read one of our Newsletters — so he offered to give us (free) some very good quality tracts. Of course with joy in our hearts, we thanked him for his offer and waited to received them .

A few days before Christmas day we had some boxes arrive that we had shipped from the US, and among them were these tracts that had been given to us. Well I suppose my faith was small, because I expected a small box of maybe 100-200 tracts; but the box we received weighing 45 pounds, and had in it about 10,000 tracts. WOW – what a blessing! Then Sr.G arrived at our door a couple of days later, and I was pleased to say I had some more tracts for him. (I had not been able to give him some tracts the last time he asked, because we were out – but God tapped on the shoulder of a brother, and he supplied these...)

When I handed Sr.G some of these tracts, you would think they were *‘the best Christmas present ever’* – he was so happy! He quickly put on a big smile, his face glowed, and he hugged me so hard!

(I think that smile and hug was the best present anyone in Loreto could have given me this year.)

What does this say to us as we start another new year?

Maybe we should consider what our priorities really are; should we need to work so hard to pay for things that really have no eternal significance. Sr.G certainly has little tangible wealth showing, as he lives his meager life here in Loreto, but I believe he is rich with treasures in heaven – he is such a good example of someone who lives by what is written for us in Matthew 6:19-34.



Greetings from Loreto Mexico...



Don & Lorraine Karsgaard

So what are you looking forward to in 2019? I know I'm looking forward to giving Sr.G more tracts when he comes by next... And I look forward also to more people arriving at our gate requesting Bibles. In the past, some people have come from as far away as from Guerrero Negro, (a city six hours north of Loreto by car), to buy a study Bible – they'd heard from a Pastor in Loreto that we make these Bibles available to people at very good prices...

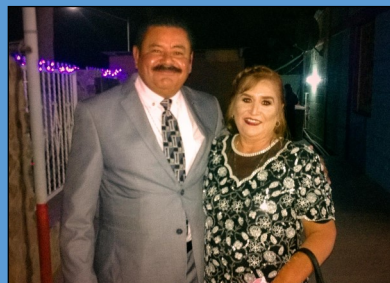
We are also looking forward to going to the prisons in Santa Rosalía and La Paz again in the next couple of months. And, we look forward every week to the activities we have planned for the Loreto Christian Fellowship – starting each Sunday with our English Church service, followed by our popular *FREE* Brunch that some of the people attending help us with.

Thank you so much again for your continuing prayers for us and the ministries we are involved in. And, and thank you too – to those of you who give financially, helping to make so much of these ministries happen and be as fruitful as they are.

We feel truly blessed to be involved in these ministries – another reason why we are thankful for your participation. May you have a very wonderful new year as you too serve the Lord Jesus Christ where you live.

Warmly,

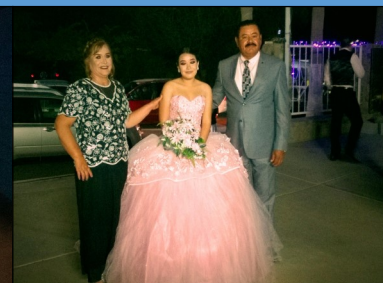
Don & Lorraine



Another great joy we had was on December 30th when attended the 'Quinceañera' held for the daughter of our friends. It all began with a very special service at their church, then proceeded to a banquet hall where there was another program, food, dancing, and more...

A 'Quinceañera' is a special party to celebrate a girl's 15th birthday, (costing often about a years salary). Take a moment to read a good explanation with pictures, history, etc...

<https://www.quinceanera-boutique.com/quinceaneratradition.htm>



Don & Lorraine Karsgaard

Serving in and around Loreto, BCS, Mexico with:
Mexican Medical Ministries AND P. & S. Ministries Society
Email: loreto.ministries@gmail.com

Gifts for support and ministry should be sent to either of the following offices, and a corresponding tax receipt will be issued.

CHIMP - Charities Impact Foundation
Suite 1250 - 1500 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B. C., Canada V6G 2Z6

* Please include a note stating —
"for Don & Lorraine Karsgaard Giving Group"

MEXICAN MEDICAL MINISTRIES
7850 Lester Avenue
Lemon Grove, CA, USA 91945-1821

* Please include a note stating —
"to support Don & Lorraine Karsgaard"