



Greetings from Loreto Mexico...



News from Don & Lorraine – May 31, 2021

Many people have been asking us, “How is Loreto doing amidst COVID-19? Is Loreto in the recovery stages yet?”

As we have mentioned previously, there have been two pastors in Loreto who died due to the Coronavirus during Christmas time, as well as others... And while the numbers of deaths have seemed to decrease in the past couple of months, the community is still under massive restrictions — wearing masks is a must! The stores and churches while open are limiting the numbers inside their buildings, and everyone’s temperatures are taken at the door. And people in general are still taking this pandemic very seriously.

The new Bilingual Church which we are supporting in Loreto opened in February and it is doing extremely well — last Sunday for example there were about 40 adults and 20 children in attendance. The church opened as “*Calvary Loreto*” but really its full name is “*Calvary Chapel Loreto*”. There is a website you can go to [Calvary Loreto - Iglesia Bilingüe](#) and they also have an active Facebook Page, which we also encourage you to go to: [Calvary Chapel Loreto - Inicio | Facebook](#).

We continue to bring Bibles down to Loreto — this month we brought 16 more cases with us, and we continue to have people coming from far distances to get them. Just today for example we had a pastor and his wife who came from Tijuana to visit one of the churches in Loreto, came to buy a large print Bible, two Thompson Study Bibles and a Pastor’s Bible.

Prison Ministry Update:

During this past year the Director of the prison that we have been active in for over ten years in Santa Rosalía had to leave his position for health reasons (cancer) and due to the present staff there, we unfortunately do not think it will be very easy for us to return. However the good news is that before the Pandemic the Santa Rosalía Prison was being visited regularly by several pastors from their city and we have reason to believe this will continue following the Pandemic.

In our March Newsletter we mentioned how encouraged we’ve been with the prison in La Paz — they are looking forward to us returning as soon as they open after COVID... We have also been thrilled at the way the First Baptist Church in La Paz has helped us in the past with our Health Fairs in this prison, and we believe they are now ready to take over this ministry. So please pray for this development... As a first step in this regard we have moved all of our health fair supplies to a storage locker in La Paz, and we’ve made the key available to them. This does not mean that we have now left this ministry or turned it all over to them as yet, but it’s a good step forward to show the trust we have in them.



Elmer Cardenas and his wife Crystal are the pastors of Calvary Chapel Loreto.



Last Sunday—May 30...
Pastor Elmer preaching; Carlos translating...



May 29: Pastor Jose and Lilia from San Lucas
and new Mexican Medical missionaries
Erin and Wayne Hilliker



Greetings from Loreto Mexico...



"What are some of the results from your ministries?"

Some very good friends of ours invited us to a restaurant here in Loreto last week, and while enjoying breakfast together, we were asked, ***"what are some of the results you've been able to see from your ministries over the years?"*** (They weren't really questioning the validity of our ministries, however they knew that sometimes we can get so busy with all kinds of things that we can overlook the encouragement we often need, and I believe the real intent behind their question was to give us some encouragement...)

Well there was so much we could have shared with them as to how the pastors in Loreto are now working together and how they are continually supporting each other... We could've shared how hundreds of people's lives have been affected because they now have a large print Bible and as a result they now can read the Bible whereas before they could not... We could've shared how many other people's lives have been so enriched because they now have study Bibles..., and also how hundreds of people's lives have been positively affected because their pastor now has a study Bible... We could've shared how hundreds (maybe thousands) of people have come into relationship with the Lord as a result of the evangelical health fairs we've conducted since coming to Loreto in 2004...

Instead we just told them of some men who had looked us up after they'd been released from prison, to tell us how thankful they were for the times we'd spent with them when they were in prison.

We have shared with you before how people have sometimes driven many miles to buy a large print Bible or a study Bible from us—we sell them for 300 Pesos each (which is approximately \$15 USD even though we buy them for as much as \$30 to \$40 each...) In any case there are no Bible book stores close to us, and to sell them at our cost would make these Bibles unaffordable for them—so thank you for your financial support that has helped us to be able get these Bibles into the homes and churches of hundreds of people over the past few years.

The point in sharing all of this with you is to tell you how we were really encouraged this past Saturday to have a couple visit us from a small community about 3 hours north of Loreto. This couple looked familiar, and then they told us they used to live in Loreto at which time they attended *"Iglesia Victoria en Cristo"*...

On Saturday this couple had come to buy 3 large print Bibles, and to tell us about their little church and its outreaches into their community. As a result we gave them a case of Bibles to give to new Christians, and also a box of 100 Gospels of John to give to people interested in knowing more about the Lord Jesus, their church, etc.

Now also while we were having our visit with Pastor Jose and Lilia, Wayne and Erin Hilliker also dropped in for a visit and for lunch. (Wayne and Erin are fairly new missionaries with Mexican Medical Ministries—and we have been glad to be of some help to them as they have been getting settled into their new ministries in La Paz.) So when they heard what this other couple were sharing with us, they went out to their van and brought in a large box of skipping ropes to give to them to use in their children's ministries—and upon receiving them Ellie exclaimed, *"we now have prizes to give to the children—thank you so very much!"*

Before Jose and Lilia left to go back home they wanted to let us know that while they had been attending *"Iglesia Victoria en Cristo"* in Loreto—before moving north in 2015 to San Lucas (not to be confused with Cabo San Lucas)—they had helped us with one of the health fairs we'd put on—and that it was during that time that they felt called to become pastors. (How encouraging!) We then also shared with them that we'd held Health Fairs in 2008 and 2010 in the church they now pastor in San Lucas—when that church was first being established. (And they then were also encouraged!)

So we were very encouraged yet again this last Saturday..., and we trust you too have been encouraged while reading this report.

Please remember to pray for Pastors Jose and Lilia as they pastor a church in the small community of San Lucas..., as well as remembering to pray for our prison ministries, and Pastors Elmer and Crystal of our new bilingual church in Loreto...

We also want to again thank you for all of your prayers and your support that have contributed to these wonderful and fruitful ministries we've been involved in, in and around Loreto. And, may God bless you too as you seek to serve Him where He has you living.

We continually praise the Lord for your partnership!

Don & Lorraine



Don & Lorraine Karsgaard

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

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