

Holly and I want to express our sincerest wishes, ahead of time, for a wonderful 2025 New Year and for thinking of us on the field. What a tremendous ride we have been on these last many years. We continue on towards Heaven!

I marvel how our Heavenly Father keeps us divinely appointed to share and learn. Many times, the most unexpected things surprise us and keep us going for the good of the world. When recently on an Uber from downtown from where I had taken a bus from the new all government airport, Felipe Ángeles International, 22 miles north of CDMX, I met the driver, Rafael. I was somewhat disturbed and quite exhausted on the ride back but as I often do when helping me relax and for people to open up, I asked him questions about himself. [People often like to talk about themselves, can't you tell from reading my letters? HaJa.] I don't remember how we began to speak about pets, but he told me an intriguing story about a mischievous yellow retriever his cousin found, which they named, Marley. He at first did not want to care for him and told his wife that if they took him in she would take care of him but then, and he said, he didn't know how or why, he began to take him out to the restroom, to feed him, took him on walks and then runs, etc. He felt drawn to Marley. I just kept listening. "Marley, he knew when things were not right. You see, I had a bitter spirit in my heart that showed up on my face as an ugly and angry scowl", he continued. And as he contemplated, "perhaps it was Marley that helped me realize that I had it ever since my mom and dad divorced when I was but a tender boy. Marley died last year." He was finishing the story when we reached my destination, tears welled up in his eyes, and I remembered the scripture where "mine eye affecteth mine heart" and we are to weep with those that weep. That was when the Lord prompted me, gently, to send (scripture-after-eternal-scripture) straight into his heart; and for the first time in my life I realized, if we would only talk to people long enough for the tears to flow, then we could gently place Jesus Christ, the Word, right inside their open heart. He humbly believed on Jesus Christ. Interesting fact: God made the land animals and man on the same day, but he made the animals first.

A recent flight we purchased was oversold and we were one of the lucky ones that was spared the luxury of flying. With the promise from the airline director and staff that we would be flown to a nearby airport and bussed the rest of the way, the 8 of us went away believing it would be just as they said. When we arrived at our "new destination" there was no van, no bus and we were ignored by the staff of the airline. So, it was every man for himself and it was getting late. I took this opportunity to pray with the group that included 4 from South America, 1 from Cuba and 1 from Mexico. There were too many tears and many cries for God to extend His Merciful hand as I prayed for them and let me tell you, I have seen the face of grief and the eyes of fear and dread and it is hard to turn away from. ***There have been many times in our travels in Ole' Mexico, where our hearts have been ripped out of our chests just to be served back to us on a rusty metal platter and this was one of them!*** We prayed and all of them called on Jesus Christ. That was a tough night! Our Jesus has allowed us to get into situations that were not in vain but have altered our hearts, for good. Paul the Apostle put it this way, "I die daily" [to the world]. 1 John 2:16 comes to mind. (For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.)

Our Mexican ***Christ-más Sunday*** or "***More Christ***" time was complete with the auditorium full of precious members and visitors. Some were missing due to holiday travel. The ladies had decorated with poinsettia plants all along the top wall and snow decorations strung throughout and a beautifully blue lit Christmas tree, it almost seemed like we were in Canada enjoying a White Christmas. One of the families that I mentioned a few months back, that had recently come back into our fellowship was baptized. Mikel's wife, Karen, was recently saved and she came forward to follow the Lord in baptism. Amen and Amen. It was a special time and they are rejoicing and encouraging her as she grows in grace.

And, finally to each and every one of you, that were gracious enough to send us Nativity Funds, we "***Thank You***" and can actively see our Heavenly Father encouraging, protecting and keeping each of you living longer for giving with hearts full of love and joy! We face 2025 like a flint and are prayerfully imagining all it entails. In Mexico City,

Missionaries David and Holly Combe
Mark 11:22

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Longview, Texas
Faith Baptist Church, Oak Creek, Wisconsin