

Holly and the Ivy



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Dear family and friends,

We wish you and your family a blessed Christmas, filled with Jesus. As a new-born, He exposed Himself to Herod's hatred and man's rejection. His strength was his vulnerability. A baby, God incarnate, changed history forever.

Fifteen years ago, we made our own feeble attempt to incarnate in Tenancingo, Mexico. We often felt vulnerable in a foreign land as we faced rejection. None wanted to rent to us because we were Christians and neighbors through rocks into our early worship services. Our hope was that He would TRANSFORM the dark Tenancingo region. We made mistakes, but we saw many miracles. God was gracious and blessed (as He always does, BTW!).

Dan, a 1998 summer missionary, didn't know Spanish, but he knew how to wash windows. He made himself vulnerable, stumbling through the few Spanish words he knew to offer his services to businesses in Tenancingo and show the love of Jesus. He met Mario and Sol in their downtown agricultural loan office, washed their windows, and invited them to our coffee house ministry. That evening, Mario and Sol accepted Christ as their Savior and began to attend the Tenancingo church. We disciplined them, and they served in leadership for a number of years with us. Their employer relocated them in 2003.

On our drive to the USA last July, we visited them in Puebla, Mexico. We sat in their living room decorated with traditional Mexican charm and Mario said, "Thank you for saving our marriage. Our lives have been completely changed. And God is touching many other family members."

Mario showed us a picture of his numerous family. "Each one of the thirty-eight have received Jesus Christ as his Savior."

Then Mario added, "My brother is planting a church in his town in Guanajuato, where there are no evangelical churches. There about 60 people beside family members who attend. Our sister is doing the same in the mountains of San Luis, Potosi. They all know Jesus because you invested in us. Thank you and tell those that sent you, thank you." We were overwhelmed to hear how God multiplies our efforts for Him.

So, thank YOU!!!

*This story is to not to show our efforts, because we are nothing extraordinary, but because **GOD is GOOD, and He loves making Himself known through our weakness!** May you know and experience His power and love during this Christmas season, and be blessed with the awe and wonder of that first Christmas night as you contemplate that our Lord WILL return again, but not as a vulnerable baby, in a manger, but on as it says in **Revelation 19: He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God... And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.***

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