

# Risley Family Ministries

Post Office Box 219

Sierra Vista, AZ 85636

E-Mail: [risleyfamilyministriesmexico@gmail.com](mailto:risleyfamilyministriesmexico@gmail.com) & [gradywrисley77@gmail.com](mailto:gradywrисley77@gmail.com)

Taking the Gospel to the Mountain Villages, Prisons and Hospitals, of Sonora, Mexico

*November 2023*

Brothers and sisters, I would like to start out by assuring you that God is continuing to bless us and His ministry here in Sonora, Mexico. However, as is often the case, the more God blesses, the more Satan and the world try to hinder and impede those who seek to trust, love, and serve Him. A lot of things have happened in the last two months. I wish I was able to get these letters out more frequently, but we have been super busy.

I would like to start out by giving you the sad news that Emily's marriage to Alfredo has been "annulled". Unknown to Emily, last May, Alfredo deserted the Mexican Army and joined a well-known group of "pharmaceutical transporters" in Sinaloa, Mexico.

In April, Alfredo had told Emily that the Military was sending him to a six-month training course. In late August, after receiving a few weird phone calls from Alfredo, Emily was suspicious and called the Military to find out where exactly Alfredo was training. The military refused to give her any information at first, because Alfredo had never reported to them that he had gotten married. After talking to some high-ranking officials, Emily was informed that Alfredo had deserted, and that for her own protection, she should be aware that he was now a wanted fugitive.

The next time he called, Emily asked him what was going on. He came clean about the entire thing and straight out told her who he was working for and how much money he was making. He asked her to join him, and she refused. Thankfully, given the situation, the marriage was "legally" annulled, without him ever being present.

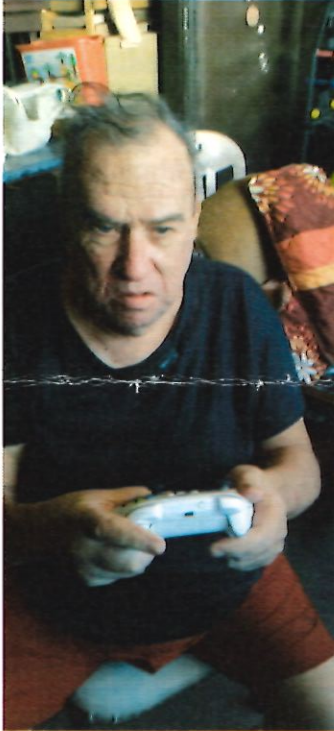
I know I have written somewhat cryptically and the reason for that is that these letters go far and wide. I



**Emily is  
heartbroken but  
still working**

probably shouldn't even have mentioned it, but I did so because we would very much appreciate your prayers for Emily and the current situation her relationship to Alfredo has created.

The local "pharmaceutical transporters" have found out that Emily was married to somebody that has now joined their competition from Sinaloa. Reagan and I have had a few encounters late at night with people interested in "talking" to Emily. Thankfully, so far, we have convinced them to leave peacefully. As you can imagine, there is more to the story. Thankfully, over the last few weeks, we have received word that there is no longer an issue. Please pray this is true and that we can continue to serve the brothers and sisters that God has brought to us without violence.



**Dad playing his farmer game**

Dad is doing well. His memory loss and dementia continue to advance, but his physical health is better than it has been in years. Six months ago, Dad sat down with Courtney, Cheryl, and I and told us that He no longer wanted to take all the medication that he had been prescribed. He said he was sick and tired of taking twenty plus pills and two insulin injections every day just to "not die". He said the pills make him nauseous, and the insulin was causing him to gain more and more weight. He said he would rather spend the remaining time on earth that God gives him "living" instead of enduring the side effects of trying not to die.

We all understood and told him he had our support. In the last six months Dad has lost substantial weight while eating and enjoying foods that he had not eaten for years. Leg cramps which had plagued him for the last 15 years have completely subsided. He has more energy and loves working in his flower garden and playing a farming game I downloaded for him on an Xbox. We are truly blessed that our Heavenly Father has given us the opportunity to care for our earthly father in his final years... ***even when he wakes up the whole house, raiding our cabinets looking for more Little Debbie's and milk at three-o'clock in the morning. lol***

I would like to mention a few prayer requests concerning the physical health of some of the elderly folks God has brought to us. Each of the ten men and women that are currently living with us in our home have health and/or mental infirmities, but there are a few specific ailments I would like to point out.



**Rebeca is happy because she just ate breakfast**



**Jesus is bummed because breakfast was oatmeal**

“Guate” has been with us for almost two years (I think). Since the first day he came, he has complained about pain in his right shoulder. When we asked him about why it hurt, he said that when he was younger, he had fallen off a horse and broken his arm and/or shoulder. He said the doctors had used a metal plate to fix his shoulder but that for the last few years the pain in his shoulder had been getting worse and worse.

Guate has a lot of family members, but only one, a niece who is 67 years old and caring for her own elderly mother, will help him in any way. Before I continue, I would like to bring you up to date on how the medical system works here in Mexico. IT DOESN'T!

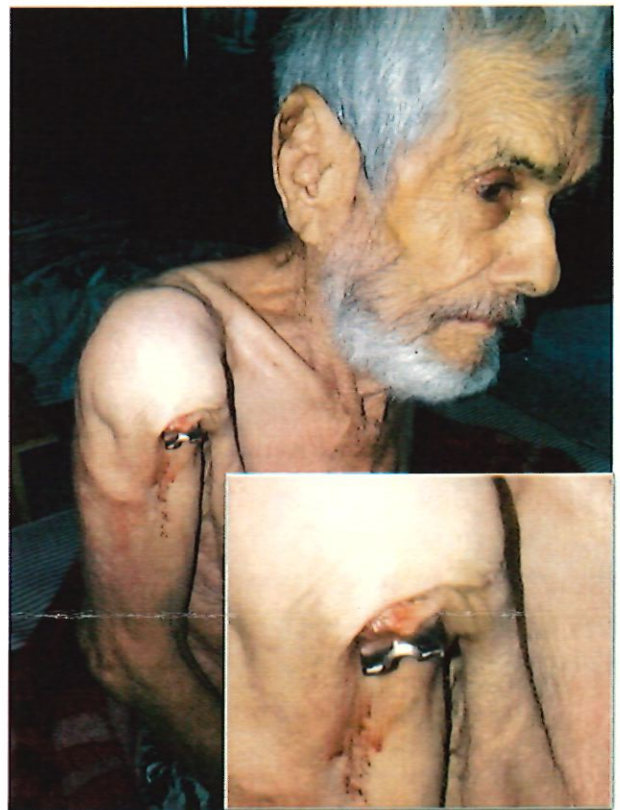
If an elderly person needs to go to the hospital (government-run hospital), a family member must accompany them and stay with them the whole time they are at the hospital. If there is not a family member available... THEY WILL NOT BE SEEN BY A DOCTOR

OR ADMITTED, end of story.

Shortly after Christmas last year, Guate's shoulder pain became unbearable. After talking with his family in Hermosillo (a city about 100 miles away from us), the family agreed to meet Guate at the hospital emergency room. We sent Guate in the local ambulance to the hospital, but the family never showed up. After waiting for four hours the ambulance brought Guate back to the house without ever seeing a doctor.

Four months ago, when the metal plate in Guate's arm became visible under the skin, we once again tried to send him down to the hospital, but the family once again failed to show up.

Two months ago, the metal plate broke through the skin of his arm. We finally were able to work out a deal with Guate's niece who lives here in town to go down with Guate, and we would care for her mother while she was gone. She agreed, and last week we once more sent Guate to the hospital in an ambulance. The doctor in the emergency room examined Guate's shoulder and called a surgeon. The surgeon examined Guate and confirmed that he needed



**Guate and the metal plate sticking out of his arm**

surgery to remove the protruding metal plate from his arm. No kidding! Finally, something would be done. The surgeon set an appointment for Guate to come to his office so they could set a date for the operation. He then gave Guate's niece orders for labs and an x-ray which she was to bring with them to the appointment.

That evening we were surprised to see the ambulance pull up returning Guate to the house. We asked Guate's niece why she had brought him back. She said not to worry, she would take him down again for his appointment with the surgeon. She showed me Guate's appointment slip and lab orders. Guate's appointment isn't until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February of next year! She gave me a prescription for antibiotics that Guate is supposed to take for the infection until his next doctor's visit and a copy of the doctor's orders to wash his arm twice daily with soap and water.



**Abby treating  
Lina's leg sores**

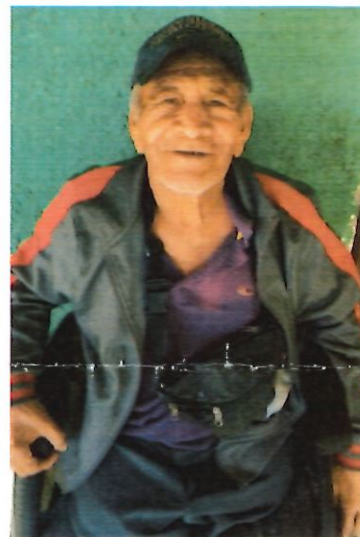
We are doing what we can, but his shoulder is constantly oozing, and the pain is considerable. Please pray for Guate as we care for him as best we can until his next appointment.

Another lady we would ask you to pray for is Lina. Lina has been with us for over 8 years. She loves the Lord and thinks of our kids and grandchildren as her own. She has suffered from heart problems and circulation issues since she has been with us. As a result of her circulation issues, she gets ulcerous sores that open on her legs and feet. As her health continues to

diminish these sores are becoming more frequent and heal much slower than in years past. She currently walks with a walker, but she will soon have to have at least one of her legs amputated. Please pray God's blessings on her. If she is unable to walk her heart condition will deteriorate exponentially.

Please keep Piriri in your prayers. He suffered a stroke last month, but we thank God he is recovering well. He is still very weak on one side, but thankfully his strength and speech are getting better day by day.

Please keep Lalo in your prayers. He will have to have his left leg amputated in January of next year if the circulation doesn't improve. He has already had surgery to remove a portion of his foot that was gangrenous. Lalo is always working to help keep the yard clean, and even though he is over 80 years old, he is still very active. Please pray God's will be done and that Lalo is able to find peace in our Lord no matter what happens.



**Piriri is  
recovering from  
a stroke**



**Lalo's leg which  
will be amputated  
due to diabetes**

I would like to wrap up this letter by saying that God continues to bless His ministry here in Mexico. We are privileged to serve Him and all the folks He brings to us. However, there is something I would like to address. We have always sought to walk by faith and serve our Heavenly Father in Spirit and in truth. We trust the Spirit to lead and guide us. We strive to do whatever God desires, whenever He desires it, wherever he desires we do it, however he leads us to do it, and with whatever He gives us to do it with.

You, as our brothers and sisters in Christ, are partners with us in God's ministry here. As such, I feel it's my responsibility to keep you informed as to what is going on in the ministry. For this reason, I would like you to know that we are not seeing the response to the Gospel that we once did. Ever since covid hit the openness and reception of people in general to the Gospel has been steadily declining. I would love to send out a letter saying that we had seen many new people come to the Lord this month and how great they have responded to His love and mercy... but that just isn't the case.

I realize this probably doesn't sound encouraging, and it certainly isn't what you hope to hear from the missionaries you are working with in God's ministry. However, because you are supporting God's ministry with your love, prayers, and financial donations, I want to be open with you and let you know what the situation is so that you can join with us in prayer.

If you know us at all, you know that we will never stop demonstrating God's love and presenting the Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ at every opportunity. We continue to trust the Spirit to lead and guide us as we persevere in representing and presenting God at every opportunity. We are in no way discouraged, and we hope that you will not be discouraged by what I have written. Instead, we pray that this will encourage you to pray earnestly with us for the people we are blessed with ministering to. Please join us in asking our Heavenly Father to touch the hearts of all people everywhere and cause them to be sensitive to Him and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Thank you.

In Christ,  
Grady W. Risley  
And all the rest of the Risley Family

