

Risley Family Ministries

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

October 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in Christ:

Another month has passed, and the Lord has surely been busy here in Baviacora, Sonora, Mexico. There are quite a few things to mention, and so I will get right to it.

When mom passed in 2020, many in the community took note that we did not act as many here do when a loved one passes. We as a family openly praised God that He had taken her. Don't get me wrong, we were sad that she was no longer physically with us, however, that sadness did not translate into sorrow. We rejoiced in her gain and not our loss.

This was also the way in which we comported ourselves when Dad died. Yes, there was sadness that he was no longer with us here, but that sadness never turned to sorrow over his passing. We simply weren't and aren't sorry God has called him home.

This attitude towards physical death is something that is very uncommon, not just here, but I imagine most places in the world. I can count specifically five different occasions in the last month where people have come to us and directly asked why we are so at peace with Dad's passing. (At least that's the best way for me to explain what they were asking). On each occasion I explained that life is not the end and that we thank God that Mom and Dad are with Him. On three of the five occasions (two men and one woman), after I explained why we have not sorrow and we presented the Gospel, they professed faith in Christ. Two of them are studying the Bible regularly with us. The other man Julio lives in Hermosillo and only comes up to Baviacora occasionally.

Now I know that this is probably not a surprise to any of you, however, there is something that has happened in the last week that is related to this. I would love to share it with you.

There is a local pastor who is very legalistic in his teaching. He demands his members not eat pork. The men must always wear suits and ties. The women must have long hair and wear head covering and dresses, etc. I'm sure you get the picture. He has always been very "negative" towards us, because we don't fit his definition of what a Christian should look like. Even though we cared for his brother-in-law till he died, he has always criticized us openly from his pulpit declaring that we are an

example of people that seem like they love and serve God but are actually heathens, because we dress like the world and refuse to attack the local synagogue of Satan, also known as the local Catholic Church.

We have never paid any attention to him because we aren't here to resist idiots or their beliefs. We teach and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and rely upon the Holy Spirit to fight their stupidity.

Six weeks ago, this pastor's wife was taken to the hospital when she fainted. She was 68 years old and extremely obese (400 plus pounds). They already knew she suffered from uncontrolled type 2 diabetes and renal and heart failure. However, they discovered in the hospital that she had stage four lung cancer that had metastasized and had spread throughout her entire body.

The pastor declared openly that God wouldn't let Satan take his wife and that he had prayed to God, and she would be healed. When she died last week, the funeral was unbelievable.

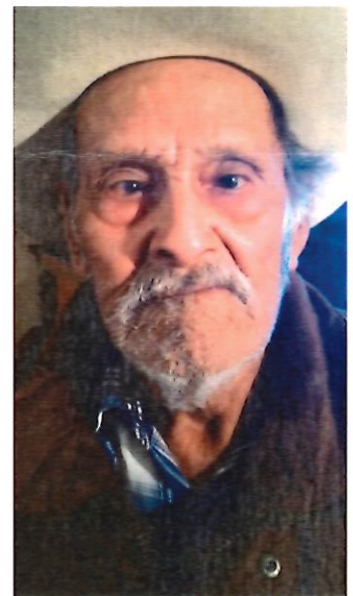
During the funeral, the church members were beating the casket and wailing at the top of their lungs. One lady climbed on top of the casket and laid down declaring she would not move until God took her as well. The wailing and literal screaming in anguish was unbelievable. The pastor himself walked around in utter disbelief, despair, and misery.

Please understand, I am not writing this to demean or berate the sadness and abject sorrow the pastor and his congregation felt. I have no doubt that their anguish, sadness, and sorrow was real, and that is the point. Many people from the community attended both my parents' funerals and this funeral, and the difference is noted.

In just the last week, Courtney and I have had various, (meaning more than ten combined), different conversations with people in the community asking why those BROTHERS (meaning not Catholic) acted so much differently than those who attended Mom and Dad's funerals. Of course, we are grateful for the opportunity to present the Gospel and give direct and unequivocal account of the hope that is within us. We thank God that even after Mom and Dad have passed into eternity, God is still using their earthly life and memory to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, changing subjects, please be in prayer for Lalo, our kids, and grandkids. Lalo has been with us for almost 10 years, and he is a beloved grandfather to our kids and grandkids. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer almost 17 years ago. They didn't operate because, even 17 years ago, they said that he wouldn't survive the operation. He has also been suffering from circulation issues in his legs, renal and heart failure for as long as we can remember.

Last week his Foley catheter was blocked, and the doctors discovered that his prostate had enlarged to the point that it was literally squeezing the tube so tight that urine could not pass. The hospital refused to admit him. After physically forcing a solid shunt into his urethra, they sent him home instead of admitting him and



Don Lalo

performing the operation that he needed to bypass the urethra and drain the bladder directly.



**Not to be gross,
but as God is my
witness, this is the
diaper and rectal
thermometer!**

The next morning, when we went to get him dressed and ready for the day, we were absolutely astounded to find that the hospital had not removed the rectal thermometer from Lalo's rectum before they sent him back to us. I swear brothers and sisters, you can't make this stuff up!

That day he took an even graver turn for the worse. We sent him by ambulance directly to the government hospital in Hermosillo. They refused to accept him. The reason they gave was, "He is old, sick, and going to die".

Thank God that one of his nieces works as a nurse in a different hospital, and they were able to get him admitted there.

He will not be with us for long, and I'm sure by the time you read this, he will have already graduated. Please pray for our grandchildren, Willy and Pita, because they are especially close to him.

Please pray for Rebeca. She is 82 years old and suffered extreme trauma very late in her life. I have spoken of her before. She is the elderly lady whose family brought her to us

because they couldn't, or wouldn't, care for her anymore. They claimed that she had fallen, had hip surgery, and suffered from Alzheimer's. We later found out that none of that was true. The truth was that when she was 77 years old, she had been in intensive care for one or two months in Hermosillo due to a broken hip and various other injuries that she had sustained during a home invasion and rape. For many years we assumed her separation from reality was dementia, but we later found out that it was the result of trauma due to the unrepeatable trauma she suffered at the hands of her attacker. Thankfully, after learning this, we had a better idea of how to approach and handle the situation. However, now true Alzheimer's dementia is starting to set in. She is not just disconnected from reality but from her reality *that isn't real*. That might not make sense, but it is the only way I can explain it. You may remember that I spoke about this a year ago. Her situation has gotten much worse. She now routinely reacts by striking, spitting, biting, cussing, and throwing whatever is at hand, including her own urine and feces at whoever is attending to her needs. Please pray that God will give her mental rest and comfort from her torment.



Rebeca

You will probably remember me writing about Karla and her two little girls, Maria and Perla, that live with us. She doesn't usually sleep here but most days she and her



Karla

daughters are here from early morning to late evening. Cheryl and I have known her since she was eight years old. She has had a very difficult childhood, including multiple molestations from her brother and uncle, not to mention her grandmother's very abnormal and deviant upbringing.

Since she has been with us, she has really been doing well, but last week she didn't show up for a couple days in a row. This was uncommon, but not unheard-of, so we didn't worry. However, that afternoon she called to say that she needed to

go to the hospital. We rushed over to find that she had tried to commit suicide by overdosing on diazepam. Of course, it would have taken far more than she had of that particular drug to have caused death, but they pumped her stomach and admitted her to a psych ward for evaluation. The next morning, she was released because there was not a psychiatrist available to see her. We are caring for her daughters and doing all that we can for her. Please pray that God's wisdom and blessing be upon us and her, because this is unfamiliar territory.



Perla and Maria
Karla's little girls

We

Finally, I would like to ask your prayers concerning another issue. Emily our daughter has made some unwise choices. She has left us to live with a man that is very dangerous for her to be with. She is 22 years old and free to make her own decisions. We ask that you pray for her safety, especially considering that we have just found out that she is four months pregnant. Please pray God's will be done and remember Emily and the baby in your prayers. We also ask that you pray that God brings her to the realization that no matter what decisions she has made or what situation she might be in, we are always here for her no strings attached.



we **Emily** thank our Father in heaven for your faithful prayers and support. Speaking of which, please remember that we can no longer accept checks made payable to **Risley Family Ministries**. They must be made out to **Grady Risley** if you wish to send them to our P.O. Box. You can also make the checks out to "**Tucson Bible Church**" with a note designating them for Risley Family Ministries or Mexico and mail them to.

Tucson Bible Church
111 N Sarnoff DR
Tucson, AZ 85710-2933

Sending financial support to Tucson Bible Church is preferable, because I am only able to make quick trips to the U.S. once every six weeks or so. We can also receive transfers directly from account to account through **Zelle** if that would be more convenient at donguillermorisley@gmail.com or gradywisley77@gmail.com

Once again, thank you and may the Lord bless each and every one of you.

Grady and Cheryl Risley
Along with the rest of the Risley Family