



# Risley Family Ministries

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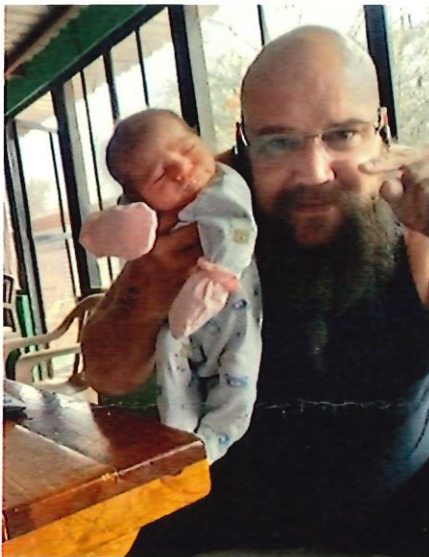
Taking the Gospel to the Mountain Villages, Prisons and Hospitals, of Sonora, Mexico

## February/March 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

It is not my intention to allow so much time to pass between ministry update letters. Ideally, I would like to get a letter out every month, however, it seems like they always end up being two-month updates. I will do what I can to get them out more frequently, but our schedule makes it very difficult, as you can imagine, and so we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding. In addition, both Pastor John and his wife Judy have been dealing with Covid. Since they get out the newsletters for us, this has added to the delay.

We would like to start out this letter by announcing



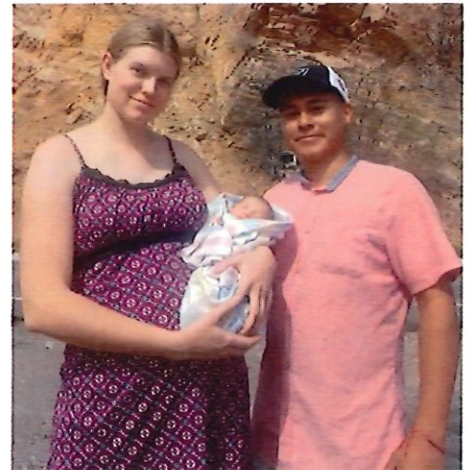
**Me and Hazelita**

a birth in our ever expanding and growing family. Our daughter Emily and her husband Carlos gave birth to a baby girl named Hazel Yuliet Quintana Risley on February 24 of 2025. She is Emily and Carlos's first child and our 3<sup>rd</sup> grandchild (besides our other two

adopted grandchildren). There were some complications with the pregnancy towards the end, but we thank God that all turned out well. Hazel was slightly underweight at only 5lbs 8oz, but she is perfectly healthy as is Emily.

Please keep Amy, another of our daughters, in your

prayers. She is 26, and she and Julio her husband work with us in God's ministry here. She is pregnant as well, and we will get another addition to the clan in late August or early September. She is doing well, but the doctors are treating her for some complications as well. The doctors have ordered her to take it easy and not overexert herself. They don't seem to be too worried, but it is something we would ask that you keep in your prayers because if the need should arise, we are at least an hour and half away from a hospital.



**Emily Carlos  
and Hazel**



God has blessed us with two new additions to our household besides Hazel since our last letter. The first is an elderly man named Francisco "Pancho" who is 72 years old...we think. He had lived by himself for four years, but after repeatedly burning his hands trying to cook and falling multiple times over the last two months, social services asked if there was anything we could do to help.



**Willy helping lead Pancho who is blind**

At first, he didn't want to come live at our house, so we attempted to help care for him in his own home. We helped him bathe, clean his house, and we took him three meals a day. However, one night in February he fell in the middle of the night and was on the floor without a blanket for many hours during one of the coldest nights of this year. We thank God he wasn't injured save for mild hypothermia. After that, he consented to come and live with us. He is doing well now and thoroughly enjoys listening to the gospel music in Spanish that we play before Bible study. He isn't much of a conversationalist, but he has acknowledged faith in Jesus and is very content. His

common expression which he states at least 30 plus times a day when being helped is "Thank God and you". He is a blessing to be around, and God uses his attitude of thankfulness to encourage and raise the spirits of everyone here. We thank God for Pancho and the spirit of gratefulness and love for Jesus and our Heavenly Father that he blesses this house with.

The second new addition to the ranks we have been blessed with isn't a newcomer by any means. Alfonzo "Fonchito" is 92 years old. He has been enjoying meals and fellowship at our house almost every day for quite a few years. However, he failed to show up for two days last month, so I went to his house to see how he was doing. There was no answer, and his neighbors hadn't seen him for two days. Reagan and I, along with social services and police, broke into his house expecting the worst. Thankfully,



**Listening to Panchos Gospel music before Bible study**



**Fonchito**

Fonchito was alive but in very poor condition. He had fallen on his bathroom floor and had been unable to get up for almost two full days. The doctors checked him and, thankfully, nothing was broken, and it hadn't been as cold those two nights as it had been when Pancho fell. However, due to Fonchito's advanced age, he was in very bad shape. His granddaughter agreed that he was unable to live alone any longer, and as much as Fonchito didn't want to, he submitted to coming and living with us so we could care for him. Please pray for Fonchito. He is a very



independent and proud man, and he is not adapting well to being here. It isn't that he is angry or upset with us in any way. It is simply that he, in his own words, says, "he feels



**Ignacio**

like a caged animal". He is used to going where he wanted when he wanted and now, he has to be pushed in a wheelchair. Not being able to walk is taking its toll on him. I think we can all understand how he must be feeling, so please keep him in your prayers. I honestly don't think he will be with us here for very long. He is refusing to eat and he drinks only enough to keep his mouth wet. Please pray God's will be done and that Fonchito finds peace and comfort.

You may remember in the last letter I shared with you the story of Ignacio "Nacho", who's family abandoned him in his wheelchair on the town square. Ignacio was in terrible shape and had terrible bed sores that had gone untreated for many months. We thank God that Nacho's bed sores are completely healed and he has put on about ten pounds. The terrible pain he suffered from arthritis has eased, and he is doing better than we could have ever expected for a 92-year-old abused man. We thank God for his never-ending and limitless mercy. Please pray that Ignacio's recovery continues.

Many of you will remember Don Pepe. He has been with us, on and off, from the very beginning. Please keep him in your prayers, Pepe is currently suffering from a severe case of shingles and is in constant, excruciating pain. For those who may not know, shingles is a reactivation of the Herpes Zoster virus, which is the same virus that causes chickenpox in childhood. After recovering from chickenpox, the virus lies dormant in the nervous system and can resurface later in life as shingles. He has a splotchy rash covering his right leg and back, and the nerves in the affected area feel like the nerves are being electrocuted or set on fire. It is a deeply painful and exhausting condition. Please keep him in your prayers.

There is one last thing I would like to mention before wrapping up this letter. Please keep us, and particularly Cheryl, in your prayers. We are currently caring for and ministering to thirteen elderly brothers and sisters that God has blessed us with. That number is far from the most we have ever cared for at one time, but we aren't as young as we once were. We have rarely had so many at the same time that require this level of total and complete care and attention. Eight of the thirteen folks we care for are in wheelchairs and can do nothing for themselves. As I mentioned, Pancho, who walks on his own, is completely blind and must be guided. Please pray God maintains our strength, health, and resilience, especially as the heat of the summer approaches.

As a side note, please keep my eyesight in your prayers. Last month an optometrist who has been helping us for years told me that he thought I have "macular



**Don Pepe**



degeneration". We consulted an Ophthalmologist. After a few tests he said I most likely do have "macular degeneration". Since it's in the early stages, it's hard to be sure without more expensive and invasive tests. The treatment is effective and inexpensive, so it was easier to start the treatment than to run the tests. Hopefully, it will slow down if not completely halt the deterioration of my sight for many years. We thank God that it was caught in the early stages and that the treatment is cheap and effective. Please don't misunderstand, I'm by no means blind yet or even close to it. As of right now, the only symptom is that I have difficulty focusing on small objects and reading without fairly strong glasses.

God is good and we thank Him so much for all of you and your faithful love, prayers and support as we seek to serve and minister to all that He brings to us. As Pancho says...we thank God and you.

As a reminder, we are still receiving some checks made out to Risley Family Ministries. If you have uncashed checks please cancel them or note that they won't be cashed. Since dad passed, **we are no longer able to cash 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. However, the most efficient way to financially support God's ministry here in Sonora is to 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**

Pastor John and his wife Judy will then deposit them and transfer the funds to our account through **Zelle** at [donguillermorisley@gmail.com](mailto:donguillermorisley@gmail.com) or [gradywrisley77@gmail.com](mailto:gradywrisley77@gmail.com)

Thank you once again, and may the Lord richly bless each and every one of you.

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