

# Risley Family Ministries

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

## September 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

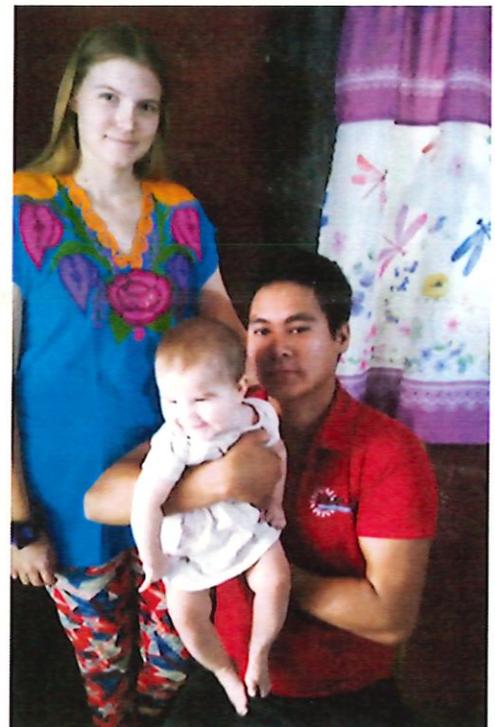


Naelith and Amy

Before I get into a very heavy subject that I feel I must discuss with you in this letter, I would first like to make an announcement and cover a few things that have happened over the last two months. I would like to begin by announcing the arrival of our fourth grandchild. We give glory and honor to God for the wonderful blessing of Naelith Escarlette Risley who was born to our daughter Amy and her husband Julio, on July 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. We thank God that both Naelith and Amy are healthy. In spite of some complications late in the pregnancy, there were absolutely no complications during the birth itself. Cheryl and I do request your prayers for guidance though as we contemplate

neither Cheryl nor I can pronounce Naelith's given name. Until otherwise led, we are sticking with... number four.

Speaking of grandbabies, Emily our second oldest daughter and mother of number 3... I mean Hazel, our third grandbaby who is now 8 months old, is expecting again. Emily and her husband Carlos are overjoyed, however, Emily told Cheryl that the pregnancy came as a surprise to her because she had been told that she wouldn't become pregnant again if she was breast-feeding. Cheryl, in a very serious tone, told Emily that she was sorry she hadn't explained to her earlier that it wasn't breast feeding, but something else that causes or prevents pregnancy. It took Emily a minute to get the joke, but



Emily Hazel and Hose

Carlos immediately erupted in laughter, spitting his mouthful of soda across the room. We thank God for Emily's pregnancy, and we look forward to meeting number 5 sometime next spring.



Piriri

Many of you know well who Piriri is due to the numerous times I've mentioned and written about him in previous letters. We have known Piriri ever since we first moved to this area. He was the man who planted a garden when we had the first soup kitchen and raised fresh vegetables for us to use. He was one of the first people that came to Christ when we moved to Baviacora. After having both legs amputated due to circulatory issues brought on by diabetes, Piriri came to live full time with us in our house so we could care for him.

Piriri loved the Lord and enjoyed reading his Bible daily. He was outspoken and didn't know the meaning of the word bashful. He was always the first to answer or try to answer any question asked

in our Bible studies and anybody he felt wasn't

participating in the Bible studies to the extent he thought they should be, was sure to get a talking to. On August 5<sup>th</sup> Piriri came to full life in our Lord as he passed into eternity. We are not unaccustomed to physical death and the mixed sadness and joy that accompanies it. Often the passing of those we care for is a welcome blessing due to the pain and discomfort they were enduring. Having said that, Piriri was a very close and personal member of our family who had been with us, as I said, for more than 20 years, and his absence is deeply noted and felt. However, in spite our sadness, we thank God for His mercy, and we rejoice in the knowledge that he is at this moment running with our Lord and savior.

Unfortunately, this brings me to the difficult part of this letter. We are encountering a resistance like never before, and to be quite honest... I don't know where the Lord is going to take His ministry from here. We urgently request your prayers for God's guidance and direction. I will briefly try to explain what is going on and why the situation is so unlike difficulties we have experienced before.

If you have read the last few letters, you will recall that we had faced some fresh allegations of abuse and misconduct towards a couple of the elderly brothers and sisters that God has brought to us to care for in our home. The source of some, if not most, of those allegations and false reports was identified, and, while she didn't face any punishment for her actions, she was exposed. However, it didn't and hasn't stopped there.

Since August, we have been inundated with accusations and investigations regarding alleged abuse and mistreatment. Many of these reports have come from anonymous sources, but some have also been raised by families of those we have

cared for, both individuals still living, and some who have already passed away while in our care.

It seems as if all of this stems from gossip spreading throughout the community. It is true that we have been falsely accused of things in the past, but every single time an accusation was made and investigated by the governing authority, the claim was declared false, and we were vindicated of any wrongdoing.

However, this has not stopped the same people we have helped and ministered to in the community from actively trying to destroy for others the very ministry that they themselves so earnestly needed and were thankful for in the past.

Mexican Social Services has been to our house to investigate reported elderly abuse three times since the beginning of August. Each time they came they conducted the investigation, and after examining everything and questioning everyone present, they left our house fully satisfied that the accusation was false.

Last time though was the most disturbing of all. The last time the government investigators came, the lead investigator entered our house and presented me with the complaint allegation. The allegation was "physical abuse and neglect of an elderly person". The report was made anonymously but the "witness" stated that they had personally witnessed me strike a man named, "Rafael Corrales Piri" in the face on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August and that for two days following that incident I had refused to care, feed, change, or attend to "Rafael" in any way. The report was even so specific as to give the exact dates of the neglect which started on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2025 and lasted through the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2025.

The investigator was surprised to learn that this claim was not only false, but absolutely impossible. We showed the investigator the death certificate of Raphael Corrales Piriri who had passed away in our care on December 20<sup>th</sup> of 2023.

As you can imagine, the investigator of course was furious and with good reason. Let me explain why. Accusations of elderly abuse, especially physical abuse, are treated the same way as allegations of sexual abuse or crimes. Meaning, by law, any accusation must be treated as if true and investigated immediately. This means that when an allegation is made a team of investigators from the Social Services must drive up from Hermosillo which is almost two hours away.

The funny thing is about this particular investigator, she is the same investigator that had come to investigate an allegation made two years ago. We were cleared immediately of any wrongdoing, and, after seeing what we are doing, she and her coworkers started taking up a monthly collection of oatmeal and various canned goods which they send us each month. As such, when the official part was over and before she left, we sat down for coffee. I asked her what in the world was going on. She shook her head and said she didn't know for sure but that we needed to hire an attorney. She said she knows how the government works, and because there have been so many accusations in such a short time, the government was almost certainly going to take action and file official charges against me.

The long story short: the investigations they conduct only serve as evidence to bring charges if the allegations are found to be true. She said even though they have the paperwork showing we were cleared, the office that will file the charges only looks

at the reports that show crime. In other words, the department that files the charges won't even see that we have been cleared of the allegation they are basing the charges on until charges are brought.

That is just the tip of the iceberg though. The local State Police have come with the intent of arresting me two times in the last month based upon emergency calls claiming I was physically abusing an elderly person in our house. (This is in addition to those in the last letter) The only reason they left without taking me to jail was because in the first case the person I was reported to be abusing had never been in our home, and in the second case, the person I was being accused of abusing was a vagrant we had sheltered on behalf of Social Services who had stayed for a week and then left our home last April.

However, these personal accusations, threats, and difficulties are not the issue. What I mean by that is that the true harm is not in the difficulties we are facing, those happen all the time. This is more than just hard times, difficulties, or setbacks. These accusations are actually threatening the very ministry itself. Allegations do not have to be true for people to believe them, and that is exactly what is happening.

In the last two weeks the families of Pancho, Raphael (different Raphael), Rebeca, and Alfredo, people we have cared for in our home for years, came to our house to remove them because of, quote, "how we treat people here". Pancho's and Alfredo's families actually came with a State Police escort to assure them there wouldn't be any problem.

These aren't personal attacks that only affect us as individuals. These attacks are very quickly approaching the point where they will make ministering in the way God has led us to do impossible. It isn't like we can pick up and move somewhere else and start again. The accusations being made are felonies, and even though there is not a single shred of truth in them, just like when I was accused of attempted rape, the accusation is enough.

And accusations are enough as I discovered. Since these issues started I decided that maybe it was a sign to try and get back into preaching in the prisons. I figured since we only have five people here now, I would try to start preaching in the prisons again at least once a week. However, because I was charged with a felony, "attempted rape", and, even though I was completely cleared of the charges, the requirements for me to be able to get back into the prisons is unbelievable. Basically, I would have to be officially ordained by a Mexican-based Church and accompanied by another minister for the first year before I would be allowed to enter on my own. Or, I could start my own official nonprofit in Mexico and, after having it for three years, I could then enter.

We aren't even able to take food to houses anymore. As many of you know we take food daily to an average of 10 elderly people who live in their own homes but need assistance. We take prepared meals daily and talk, fellowship, and minister to each individually at least twice a week.

Services demanded that we stop because someone who ate at our house claimed they had suffered food poisoning. Social Services said we could no longer deliver food to people's homes until our kitchen passes a safety inspection. They

literally don't have the authority to do that, but our lawyer warned me that if we don't stop, and somebody claims that they got sick from the food we brought, we would be in serious trouble. (Just a note... the food poisoning claim wasn't made by anyone we take food to; it was from someone who ate at our house)

For the first time, Brothers and Sisters... We don't know where to go from here. It isn't because there aren't people to help, it's because it seems like if things keep going the way they are, we literally aren't going to be able to continue helping and ministering any more. At least in the way and to the extent that we have.

I could go on, but I have probably given too many details already. I trust you have seen enough to give you an understanding of the situation and why it is so dire. However, while we are disappointed and frustrated, please know and understand we are not discouraged. God is clearly protecting us, and we are thankful for all of your prayers and support. But we are facing a situation we have never encountered before, and we are having difficulty seeing a way forward.

We aren't finished by any means. We are still caring for five elderly brothers and sisters in our house, and even with all these issues, we are expecting two more by the end of September. We are of course still holding a twice weekly Bible study, though admittedly, that has shrunk to just our family, our elderly folks, and Cesar the guy who works with us. What I mean to say is that we hope you don't take this letter as a sign or indication that we have given up on ministry or ministering in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in any way shape or form.

Having said that, I wanted to let you know the issues, because as fellow ministers, we are accepting financial donations in order to minister full time. If that ministry is not able to be done, I will no longer accept donations for it. Believe me, we aren't there yet, but it very well might get to that point. It is in God's hands. I want to make it absolutely clear that I am not saying we will ever stop ministering as Christians. However, being a Christian in another country alone does not qualify as a ministry, and if it comes to that, we will no longer accept financial contributions that could and would be used by other ministries.

Please keep us in your prayers as you are in ours. As always, we thank God for your faithful love, prayers, and support. As you can imagine, this has been a very difficult letter to write and is probably even more poorly written than previous letters. Once again in closing, please pray for God's guidance for us. Thank you and may God richly bless and guide all of us.

P.S. Since originally writing this letter a few days ago, the family of Rebeca has brought her back because they said they couldn't care for her. We thank God for Rebeca and ask your prayers for her.

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

**A note from Pastor John:**

**There is an old saying that you receive the most incoming fire from the enemy when you are over the target. This is where this ministry finds itself. Satan is tired of the tremendous success the Risley Family Ministry has had over the years. Literally thousands of Mexicans have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ over the last 30 years or so. Now, as never before, I believe it is important that all of us continue to support Grady and this ministry.**

**As Pastor of Tucson Bible Church, it is my responsibility, along with our Board of Deacons, to assure that we are getting the "most bang" for our mission dollars. I and the Board of Tucson Bible Church continue to believe we are still getting the most bang for our buck with the Risley Family Ministries. If they were not doing such a good job, Satan and the Mexican government would not be attacking them as they are. If I did not believe this, I would not be spending my time facilitating financial support to the Risleys nor would our church still be making this ministry our number one priority in our mission support.**

**Thanks for your continued prayer and financial support for God's work done in Mexico.**

**In Christ,**

**Pastor John Hintz**