



January 2026

Happy 2026!

Isaiah 55:11

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.



Isaiah 26:3 says “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. This verse was sent to me at the beginning of this month by a dear missionary friend in Chile. On New Year’s Eve our youngest daughter’s (Abigail) husband passed away, immediately turning everyone’s lives upside down. I am thankful that I have been able to jump in and help as only a mom can do. I am also thankful that the children’s home has such a fantastic director and that we already had January and February planned out. Technology is also fantastic as I can meet with them on zoom. Please keep our daughter, the kids and the rest of the family in prayer as we help her navigate these next steps. Praise God HE is in control. Sorry to start on a sad note but as you can imagine my heart is heavy.

As I stated in our last letter, I was able to bring Michelle, our director’s daughter back to Ohio with me for a few weeks. She has always wanted to come with me and this time it worked out. We had lots of fun giving her new things to try, did the touristy stuff on the drive north, took her to the Ark Encounter (if you haven’t been, it’s so very worth the time) and on the way back south we even stopped at the St. Louis Arch. Too bad she had to get back for school.

As our scorching summer turned into an equally hot fall school started with out fanfare. With the heat the kids just wanted to stay cool and in the shade. Don’t blame them one bit. Needless to say, i made sure to keep the ice pops loaded in the freezer! We did manage to completely finish one bathroom after the group from Fellowship Baptist Church left. Now we just have to finish the flooring in the men’s bathroom. In October we hosted our first women’s workshop on domestic violence in coordination with DAI Mexico’s Ana Maria Ampuero from Ecuador as our facilitator. This was a 3-day intensive workshop with 4-hour sessions. 20 ladies attended. We held an outside dinner and bonfire for our last evening, where each lady shared from her heart which brought tears and many hugs. It was a wonderful success for all involved. We plan to have another session this spring.

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As soon as that was over, I headed back north as we needed to get the Juarez Christmas Smiles Gift bag project collection completed and gifts bagged. We were able to bag gifts for over 400 children. Thank you to Fellowship Baptist Church/Columbus, Monclova Rd Baptist Church and Monclova Christian Academy for collecting items and bagging up gifts.



In December Bob & Rick from Fellowship Baptist accompanied Howard and I to Juarez to get some projects done and help with the gift bags. As with all projects we had big plans to get many things done, but replacing 2 doors and fixing the rotting wood around them and the flooring took the whole week. I am thankful for me that are willing to help with this aging building.



Finally, we have been able to hire a wonderful couple to help us with our mission helping children and families. Isai and Wendy Pena and their 3 children will be joining with us and will be living in one of the apartments on our compound. Isai is a pastor and competent leader that fits wonderfully with us. As of now they have committed to be with us until June. We have offered the chapel space for him to start a church for the colony which is much needed. Please pray that if this is the correct fit for us long term that God makes that clear to all of us.



As the year has started off with a bit of a whimper due to this cold snap (I am a northerner so I can deal with it haha) please be in prayer for the children, the rest of the school year, our aging building, the poor old van, upcoming pastor's trainings, ladies workshops and the group work trip planned for July.



Thank you for your continued prayers and support,
Howard & Rosie

