



Gatica Pipeline

A few drips from my pen...

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Our Gratitude Box

We are grateful for:

- **Our supporters who remain faithful with their donations and prayers each month... It is because of you that we are able to continue on.**
- **Our churches that partner with us**
- **The many emails and words of encouragement sent our way**
- **Our family, even though we don't see them often**

For those of you who know me well, you know that one of my favorite gifts comes from Barnes & Noble in the form of a gift card. I love to read although it is often difficult to find the time to do so. After being an Elementary teacher for 20+ years, I find myself enjoying more fiction than non-fiction. I am constantly complaining because Karen Kingsbury, one of my favorite Christian authors, doesn't write fast enough for me. I have read everything she has written to date.

There are times that I force

myself to pick up a non-fiction book. One that I have read recently is The Hole in our Gospel by the President of World Vision U.S., Richard Stearns. I was hesitant to read this book at first because I felt that it probably dwelt on Africa more than it did on poverty world-wide. Much to my surprise, Stearns did a good job of depicting the poor in all countries of the world even though a lot of his stories that he shared did come from an African country. He focused more on the issues and problems of pov-

erty than he did specifically as it relates to just the continent of Africa for which I was thankful. Now that I have read it, I want to go back and re-read it with my highlighter in hand. Pick up a copy the next time you are in the bookstore. It has a lot of good "meat for the soul".

"Frankly, giving things to the poor does much more to make the giver feel good than it does to fundamentally address and improve the condition of those in need."

Richard Stearns

The drug war continues...

Daily news articles tell the story. Vehicles are being stopped at the border with drugs being found in a welded compartment, stuffed in the dash, wrapped on the passengers, or tucked in metal boxes wrapped around the wheel hubs. Creativity at its best. The violence continues as does

the corruption. More equipment for the government to fight the drug war has been supplied by the U.S.A. government. On the U.S.A. side, the number of Border Patrol officers have been beefed up. We now have the presence of the ICE force and rumor has it that more military are going to

be sent to our crossing. The desire to become rich overnight is evident on both sides of the border with very little time being spent on thinking about the consequences. Many will spend years in jail for a measly \$500-\$1000 leaving their family in the streets while dealers become richer.

Casa de los Ancianos...



Armando helps serve Tacos a la Discado

We continue to serve dinner every fifth Thursday to our elderly friends at the Casa de los Ancianos. Our friends, Armando and Cely, help us by fixing the menu: Tacos a la discado (tacos fixed with a mixture of various meats, tomato, onion, and cilantro fried up in a disk), frijoles a la charra (a Pinto bean soup), and a cupcake to finish it off. This is one of their favorite menus at the home. Cely is a far better cook than I am. We are thank-

ful that they are willing to share in our ministry. The director has asked us to build some physical therapy kits for the elderly that will help them keep their fingers, hands, wrists, arms, and legs limbered up. She has an idea of what she wants so we will check that out and then make some adjustments. We plan to build one kit first and have them try it out. If all seems well, then we will work on more. Stiffness sets in when they just sit.

H1N1 Flu Scare...

"Bad news goes about in clogs, good news in stocking feet."

A Welsh Proverb

Children in many of the Mexican schools here have lost close to 3 weeks of school due to the flu threat. The government had shut down Mexico City for several days but business is back to norm. There was a big run on the white "painter" type masks. Many of the private schools are requiring their students to wear them

everyday while public schools have made it optional. For a short period of time we were not able to go in and pay our electric, our water/sewage bills or telephone. Your bills could be paid at the 7 Eleven store but not at the department. That has eased somewhat as well. Things are pretty much back to normal. Reynosa has

had three cases of the flu leading to death. A Health Department official is posted randomly at the Pharr International Bridge crossing here in Reynosa and will stop you and ask how you are feeling. They also give you information and tell you about their services that are available at local clinics.

Bare Nes Bags...

With more and more people knocking on our gate needing food and the government being more consistent with taking food to the Children's Home downtown, we have begun to make up what we call-"Bare Nes

Bags" to give to those who are struggling to provide for their families. The U.S.A. recession has affected those here working in the factories. Jobs are scarce and wages and hours have been cut, some completely.



Jorge helps prepare the "Bare Nes Bags"

P.E.T. Program...

Back in December 2008 Karen Otteni, a Board member, and I accompanied the Aldergate Sunday School class from McAllen First Methodist on a trip to a P.E.T. plant at the Methodist church in Nuevo Progreso, MX. A short time later we spoke with Susan Hel-lums, the Border Area Mission Coordinator, about the apparent inactivity of the plant and

shared some thoughts we had for “making it work”. She presented our proposal for leadership to the P.E.T. Board of Directors of the Progreso plant. It has become clear to us that they are dealing with more than just a leadership issue so we have pulled our proposal and have since contacted the P.E.T. International Office. We are in the process of checking to see if



Jorge helps our neighbor, Simon on his P.E.T.

P.E.T. stands for **P**ersonal **E**nergy **T**ransport. They are a small cart given free of charge to those who have lost the use of one or both legs in third world countries. There are several plants in the U.S.A. and four in foreign countries making these carts and shipping them all over the world. The only requirement is that the recipient will not sell his/her P.E.T. Each P.E.T. costs \$250.00 to build and deliver. None of this money is used to pay for labor. Most plants operate on a volunteer basis only.



Lifting Burdens, Inc. will qualify to become a small affiliate of P.E.T. International. We will keep you posted.

Lifting Burdens would like to set up a “multi-purpose” P.E.T. program on our site. We hope to be able to use this program to teach and train the high school students from Big Heart Children’s Home that attend Regents School across the street. We will provide lessons on machine safety, maintenance and use. A major emphasis will be on sequence and following directions. They will be able to build P.E.T.s as well as get a feel for what it would be like to work in a factory setting. As a part of the program, we hope to be able to involve them in the actual delivery of

P.E.T.s they build to those who are in need of this “gift of mobility”.

There is also the possibility of using some of the recipients of P.E.T.s to help us with sanding or painting of some parts in an effort to help them give “the gift”.

The plant will also be used by mission groups who would like to come to help meet the need.

We will also be setting it up to help us with producing some physical therapy kits that will aid the elderly at the Nursing Home where we are presently working.

*“If you think you are too small to make a difference, try spending the night in a closed room with a mosquito.”
-an African saying*

Cornerstone Project...

Once a year our church here in McAllen, TX (First United Methodist) participates in a Cornerstone Project. Our Border Area Mission Coordinator, Susan Hellums forms us into teams. This year there were three teams that built ramps for the handicap and one team installed doors and made minor repairs. Our team built a ramp for a retired missionary who had served in Mexico for some 30 years. He is suffering from Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease. Cornerstone gave us the opportunity to work with and get to know some of our brothers and sisters from our church as well as help out in the community.



Susan Hellums takes time out to help our team finish up on our ramp

We are on the web:

www.liftingburdens.org

*Blessins on you all,
Jorge and Marilyn*

All-Purpose Memorial Building Update...



Metal protectors

Jorge has finished welding the black window protectors and just about has them all installed. Once he does, he can go about hanging the final pieces of drywall on that side of the building. Rodolfo, the director of Regents School down the street who does drywall on the side, has promised to put the finishing touches on both rooms the first part of July once school is out here. Jorge will probably move to laying the block

for the bathroom in the back and try and get that finished before fall. He also has closing in the car port somewhere down on his list. That might have to wait for a missions group. We can make do with what we have if we need to. These projects should keep him plenty busy this summer since we do not have groups coming down to help us this year. I will probably be stuck with painting. (Ted, I am going to pick a

color that I know you will really like.)

The actual use of the All-Purpose Memorial Building will depend on the decision we get back from P.E.T. International.

We have not given up on our plans to put in a small computer lab to be used by students at Regents School, Pastors and their families, and friends and neighbors we can trust...all in God's good time.