

Lost Sheep Ministry News

September 2014

The Great Commission: Matthew 28: 18 - 20 is a commission for all Christians to go, *make Disciples*, and *teach* them to **OBEY** all that I have commanded you. LSM is dedicated to evangelizing the lost and making disciples of Christ that make Disciples of Christ according to II Timothy 2:2.



Notes from Brother Bob:

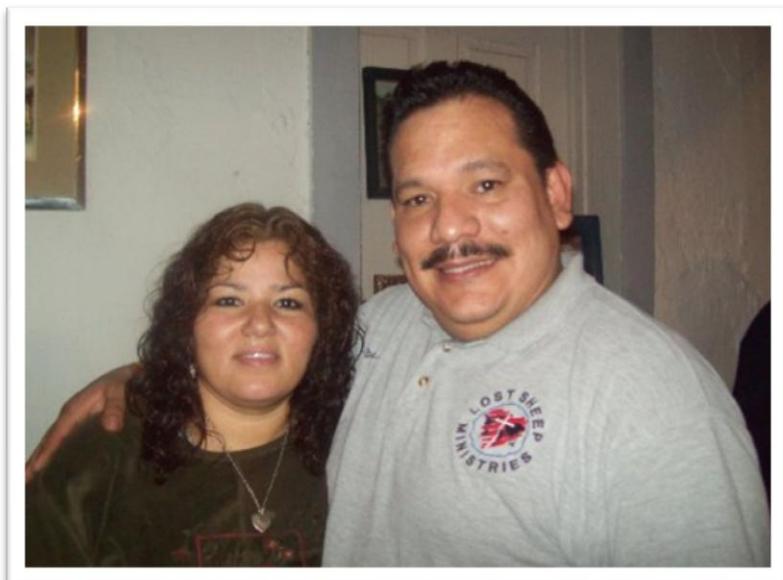
Pastor Bob's return mission to Nigeria West Africa during September has been reported in an extra issue of our Newsletter.

I have asked Lazarus and Dalia Vargas to provide a report about our work in Mexico for our regular September issue for September. Lazarus and Dalia Vargas make regular trips into to Mexico on behalf of Lost Sheep Ministries and the following report is being

provided by them:

Good afternoon, my fellow brethren in the labor and work of our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ! I was asked by Pastor Bob Gibson to jot down the remarkable things that are being done in Mexico by God in Piedras Negras, Mexico through Lost Sheep Ministries and through your faithful prayers.

When I first met my husband, Lazarus Vargas, I just thought he was a regular "bench warmer" at Fellowship Church in Houston, TX.



I had no idea that he had the calling to be a missionary. I loved his passion for God's word and his expressive way of worshipping. Later - God, by HIS grace and mercy - cultivated a love relationship between my newfound charismatic friend, Lazarus Vargas, and me. I was not very excited about being married to anyone involved in ministry - that is - a real ministry with a title. Of course, we are all called to be ambassadors of the King of kings and the Lord of lords. As Christ commanded the disciples in Matthew 28: 18-20: And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Amen I just didn't want to be in an "organized" ministry. But God had other plans.

There are several projects in Piedras Negras, Mexico (just across the US border from Eagle Pass, TX) that have been completed. We are working with Pastor Frank Banda and his wife, Isabel. They work tirelessly in building more churches in Piedras Negras, Mexico and the surrounding cities. The church in the Periodista area has been completed. It has been named Bethesda Escuela de Alimentacion de la Fe, or Bethesda School of Faith Feeding Program. I remember translating there with a sister in Christ who is a ventriloquist. The building was a dilapidated structure that was falling apart, with dirt floors, and when it rained, it was like a makeshift sprinkler system! I was so afraid of falling off the platform that night while translating. Well, that church was torn down and rebuilt with cement bricks, a bathroom for women and one for men, Sunday school classes, and a kitchen. Baptisms are performed in a river nearby.

The other church that has been rebuilt is the one that is located at the railroad tracks. I remember asking where the bathroom was, and it was almost like a latrine! I decided I'd just wait until we got to a service station or to the pastor's home. That church was also built with a "sprinkler system"! Each time it rained, everyone ran for cover! It just needed an overhaul. So, through the prayers, monetary gifts, items donated, and tireless work of Pastor Frank Banda, his wife, Isabel, their children, and my husband and me, and everyone who has given so unselfishly, after two years, that church has been completed!

During the building of that church, the pastor and his "soldiers", as he humbly refers to them, continued on with the church services and people in that area attended church services outside, with their chairs out in the hot sun! What devotion and hunger for God's word! The church is appropriately named Bethesda Casa de Adoracion, or Bethesda House of Worship.

Pastor Banda and his wife also began a ministry in the downtown area of Piedras Negras, Mexico. That building is rental space where the Word of God is taught to the homeless in the area and, afterwards, the homeless who attended the services are fed a delicious, hot meal! I know because we have gone there on our missionary trips and I never say no to a meal - neither does my husband. We have seen many people surrender their hearts to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. I have cried tears full of joy seeing these individuals make the most important decision of their lives here on earth, which have eternal benefits! Lost Sheep Ministries has provided funds for the food to cook those meals, to pay for the property and everything else that entails in running that ministry.

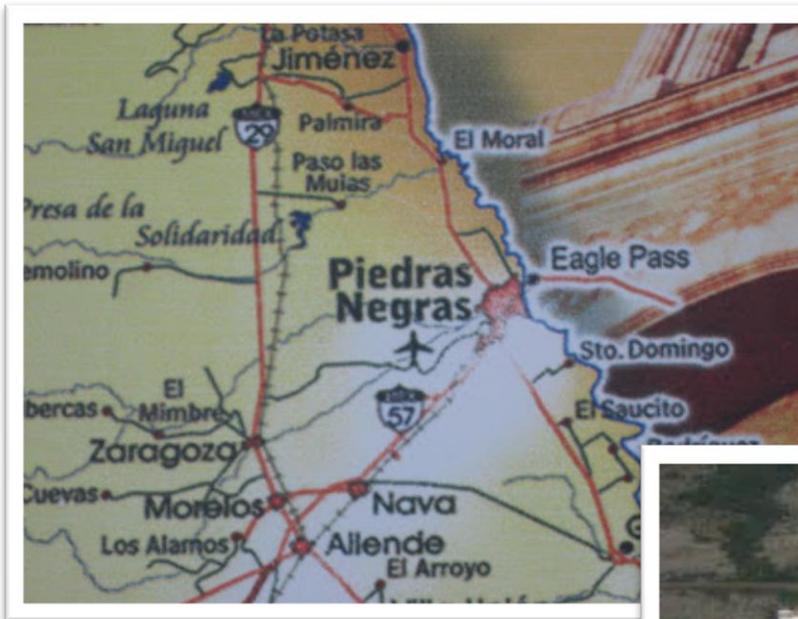
Another church planting is in Ciudad Acuna, Mexico. The pastor is also making plans of building a church there, but, for now, services are being conducted in a very large patio at one of the church members' home. People in the nearby communities gather at the home to hear the Word of God! Some walk for miles to attend these services! I have seen the old, worn-out soles on their shoes, but, what I don't see is the complaining of having to walk in the hot sun. It is so inspiring to see their hunger for God's word! Yes, a lot of them may go just to get something for free, but what they come out with is the LOVE of God in their hearts!

The current church planting is in the Piedras Negras Prison!!! It is the first time ever that anyone has ever been given permission to build a church in a prison in Piedras Negras! They've had services in rooms, but not an actually structure used solely to house worship services. The most exciting aspect of this church is that it is being built by the prisoners there! And, they are so excited! It is not a huge building - actually, it is only 30'x60'. But, the men at the prison are so hungry for God's word! They sense a peace that passes all understanding; they know that there is hope in the midst of their chains; they have found the Pearl of great PRICE!

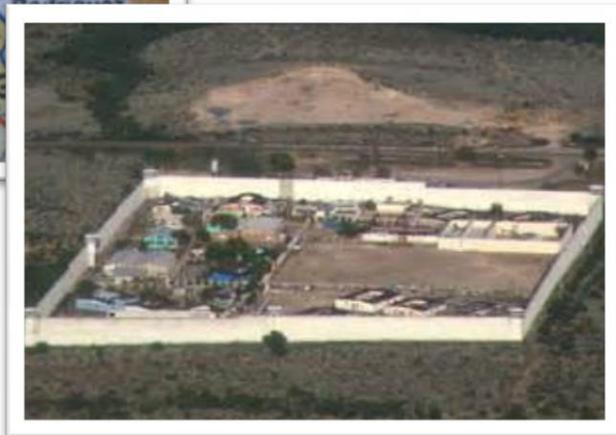
I remember when I was 13 years old and I was living at the Buckner Baptist Children's Home in Dallas, Texas. I felt alone, abandoned, afraid, and unwanted. But, when I was told of this wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ, who loved me and died for me and who wanted to give me eternal life, I was overwhelmed with unspeakable joy! I surrendered my life over to the



lordship of Jesus Christ and my life has never been the same! I have felt what those prisoners feel. I have experienced despair, loneliness, rejection, unloved, no self-worth. So, when I heard of this new church that is being built



inside the Piedras Negras prison, I was brought to tears. I know that the LORD is not done with us yet. I know that, as HIS word says in Philippians 1:6 "***Being confident in this: that HE who began a good work in you shall perfect until the day of Christ Jesus, our LORD.***" I know that this is just the "tip of the iceberg". I know that through Christ we can do ALL things!



As we continue on collaborating in church planting in Mexico, I am reminded of the apostle Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15:58 states: "***Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.***"

Our reward is not here on earth. Our reward is an eternal reward in Heaven when we see our Savior, our LORD, Jesus Christ face to face and we cast our crowns full of jewels at the Master's feet! Because only He is worthy of all praise, honor, and glory! Thank you for your love, prayers, and continued support of Lost Sheep Ministries. With love in Christ, *Lazarus and Dalia Vargas*

The urgent need for student disciples of Christ:

The greatest ministry need and opportunity is all around us in our schools. Each town and village has multitudes of students that will be parents of families and members of our churches in just a few years. We are commissioned by Christ to make disciples of them but instead, we either ignore them or at best try to compete with the world with entertaining games, pizza, movies, and lots of fun. We should know by now that this strategy is a loser!

Lost Sheep Ministries has developed a training course for students. It is called Training Student Trainers (TST). It is based upon *T4T*, A Discipleship ReRevolution by Steve Smith with Ying Kai and *The Seven Checkpoints* by Andy Stanley and Stuart Hall.

The Introduction and eight Power point presentations and student manuals are on our web. Select the Training Student Trainers (TST) tab on our Lost Sheep Ministries web home page and then view or download the course materials .

Additionally, LSM has prepared a book for students entitled *Abstinence Beats Recovery*. The book is a collection of true stories provided by alcoholic and drug addicts that want to help students avoid the poor choices they have made which has lead to poverty, homelessness, broken relationships and inability to hold a job.

RECOMMENDED READING: *Reclaiming Christianity* by A.W. Tozer

Until the day he died, A.W. Tozer never deviated from exhorting the Church to walk like those who truly belong to the kingdom of God. Although he never softened his censure of what he called "churchianity" built around showmanship, he believed he Church was ripe for reformation, and he longed to see its return to the Holy Spirit-filled, humble, loving fellowship that typified the Early Church.

If you have ever wondered why the Church has little influence in the world today, and , equally, how your life could more closely reflect the powerful witness that characterized the early Christians, Tozer's flinty and uncompromising words will remind you of what is missing and challenge you to shun what is superficial so that you can walk toward authentic faith.

We highly recommend the study and application of this book.

Lost Sheep Ministries (LSM) was founded in February of 1992 by Evangelist Bob Gibson. Our primary goal is to demonstrate our obedience to the Great Commandment by our obedience to the Great Commission. Brother Bob may be reached at brobatlsm@gmail.com

This monthly newsletter will be forwarded by email only. Email addresses may be removed or added to distribution by notifying John Overton at dotjohn@comcast.net. Our website is at this URL - www.lostsheepministries.com. All of our Newsletters are posted on our website.

Tax Deductable Donations to LSM:

Lost Sheep Ministries is a 501(c) non-profit organization. Donations may be made to LSM, 2951 Marina Bay Drive, Suite 130-144, League City, TX 77573.

We are seeking funds to train Chinese students to take the Gospel back to their country (\$100/month per student), Bibles for new Christians in Mexico (English and Spanish), and funds to publish our book for students, *Abstinence Beats Recovery*. Please designate if your gift is for a specific ministry else it will be used for general expenses.



"What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not **leave** the ninety-nine in the open pasture and **go** after the one which is lost until he **finds** it? "When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. "And when he **comes home**, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, '**Rejoice** with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' "I tell you that in the same way, there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Luke 15:4-7