



Pastors to Prisoners Organization

A §501(c) (3) California Nonprofit Organization

1611 S. Melrose Dr. Suite A#355—Vista, CA 92081

www.pastorstoprisoners.org



Yard Pastor Elena Hernandez—MAY 2022 REPORT



"I was in prison and you visited me..."

Matthew 25:36



Here with volunteers Sonia Gomez, Isabel Rodriguez and Nora Tello after ministering at the Cerezo prison in Ensenada, B.C.



Thank you very much to all the people who supports me with your finances through the Pastors to Prisoners Organization every month. I am very grateful for your support! I pray that the Lord will reward you richly for your generosity.

UPDATE ON MY VISIT TO "EL CERESO" IN ENSENADA

I was invited on May 10 (Mother's Day in Mexico) by a group of volunteers who came from Escondido, CA to join them for an event that they were going to have at the women's prison in Ensenada to celebrate Mother's Day. Arrangements were previously made with the authorities to bring catering tacos to the 80 women who attended the event. The volunteers brought a big cake, cup cakes, sodas, Jell-O, and pudding. We all helped the caterers make tacos and to serve. The women had the opportunity to eat plenty tacos plus dessert. They all had a feast! I am grateful that we all had the opportunity to serve and to preach them God's Word. The authorities were very pleased with the outcome of the event and they asked us to come back again.

MY EXPERIENCE MINISTERING IN A MEXICAN PRISON: I have visited many prisons and jails during my life time in other countries. As I looked at the women walking into the banquet area, they all have something in common. Sin has captivated their lives and sadness is reflected in their faces. Some attend church regularly and have made a significant change, but loneliness takes a hold of them and they become depressed. No matter the condition of the prison, the prisoner has lost the ability to make decisions because someone else makes the decisions for them. Others have lost their dignity, their families, their loved ones, and have no hope for the future.

Deep in their heart they cry desperately for help and they know that the only help they can get comes from God. So when the good news of the gospel of JESUS CHRIST is presented to them they are very open to receive it. In prison there are all kinds of people. There are some women who are very aggressive, others are gentle and fragile, but usually the older sharks abuse the young inexperienced women who arrive at the prison. It is all manipulation of the correctional system.

The procedures and rules of the prison are the same as the ones used in the United States prisons, except for a few things: The inmates buy their own toilet paper, hygiene items, etc. The women wear grey sweat pants and the officers wear navy blue uniforms., Certain colors are restricted to the visitors same as in the U.S.. Volunteers sign a book at the entrance and sign out when they leave. The officers are very gentle and the prisons are very old and dusty.

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ELENA'S REPORT (Continued from page 1)

Nevertheless, through the years in ministry I have witnessed wonderful moments when the Holy Spirit has ministered to men and women and a real conversion takes place in their lives. I praise God because His word does not return empty. The psychologists, the witches, the counselors, the therapists, witchcraft, the pope, nothing works to change a woman's or a man's heart, but when JESUS touches the heart of a man or a woman, a real change starts happening in their lives. I am grateful that God caught my attention while I was in prison 50 years ago. Volunteers are an exceptional tool that play an important role in the prison system. They are very much needed to bring a word of hope to inmates.

REACHING ONE FAMILY AT A TIME AT "LAS AVES"



REACHING ONE FAMILY AT A TIME AT “LAS AVES” (CONTINUED)



I am very grateful to Shadow Mountain Church (Tom Heyer) for donating Spanish Bibles in large print for distribution to the families. As I visit them individually at their homes I pray for them and present them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Then I give them a Bible and encourage them to attend church. We are all a piece of this puzzle. Your financial contributions, clothes, toys, food, shoes, Bibles, dishes, pots and pans, blankets, and I am the messenger from God to bring these items to the families.

God has placed a great burden on my heart to help these disadvantaged families because I can never forget from where God brought me from. During my childhood I lived in extreme poverty under the care of my grandmother in a rural town in Sinaloa, Mexico. I don't remember wearing shoes until probably age 9-10 years old. At times we only ate one tortilla with salt to alleviate our hunger. My grandparents were very poor and worked very hard to support seven children that were left with them while the mothers went out to another cities to look for jobs, but they never returned. My mother returned when I was age 10.

This story is very common among these families in Las Aves (county of Camalu, B.C.). There are families that have children and the husband has left looking for a better job to another country as a field worker in the farms, but never came back. Children live in extreme poverty sleeping on rocky floors, fearing that a scorpion or a tarantula will bite them. There is no electricity at night and they use candles. They hardly have anything to eat, and most of them do not have shoes to attend school.

JESUS said in the Bible that he is interested in the well being of the children. In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said: *"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for theirs is the Kingdom of God."* (NIV).

God also said in Exodus 23:10-11, *"For six years you are to sow your fields and harvest the crops, but during the seventh year let the land lie unplowed and unused. Then the poor among your people may eat from it."* (NIV).

In Psalms 41:1 Jesus said, *"Blessed are those who have regard for the poor, the Lord delivers them in times of trouble."* (NIV)

We are all called to help the poor. We certainly are not the Welfare Department nor we can meet the needs of all these families, but one nickel at a time fills the jar. The most needed items are shoes for boys and girls sizes 11, 12, 13 and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Preferably new shoes are wanted, but if you have shoes that are semi-used and in good condition, that will be very much appreciated also. There is a need also for solar lights, cots and camping stoves as well as small gas cylinders. If you have any of these items that you can donate, please let me know. Thank you!

YEAR END TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

NOTE: Pastors to Prisoners has a new Treasurer as of April, 2022. Her name is Judy Gustafson and you can reach her for any questions at jgustafson.ptp@gmail.com or at (760) 519-4454.

Your continued financial support is greatly appreciated.

Please mail check to the **NEW ADDRESS** for Pastors to Prisoners:

Pastors to Prisoners Organization
1611 S. Melrose Dr.
Suite A#355
Vista, CA 92081

Please write a note on a separate paper: "Support for Elena Hernandez"

Donate online: www.pastorstoprisoners.org
info@ptpca.org

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PRAYER REQUEST: PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1) Recently I have been invited to join Dr. Peter Nalos (who is a cardiologist surgeon in Bakersfield, CA) and his wife Karen on a missionary trip to Uganda to visit one of the schools and orphanage that he has planted in Kampala. The trip is planned for October 1 through the 14, 2022. If you would like to support me financially for this trip which will cost \$2,500, it will be greatly appreciated. We will be visiting some prisons and schools and orphanages. Dr. Nalos has funded more than 60 schools in Africa through his organization AFRICAN CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS. I had the privilege of traveling with him and his wife in 2017 to Ethiopia, where we visited many of the schools he has planted.

Dr. Nalos was raised in a home that was very oriented to international travel and missions. Several years of his early childhood were spent in Switzerland. His father, Ervin, was a holocaust survivor from Czechoslovakia, who immigrated to Canada and later to the USA. Dr. Nalos was exposed frequently to missionary pilots and surgeons from around the world. While at a summer camp, he vividly remembers an American surgeon who worked for many years as a surgeon in Cameroon, Africa. He showed the young people some amazing photos of tropical diseases. This must have planted a seed in Dr. Nalos' life, as many years later, he went to the Cameroon jungle in Africa and felt an urgent need to care for the starving children there.

He has built a school in Cradock for disabled children where there are almost 200 children affected by the HIV virus, who come to this school for many hours each day. They receive food, shelter, blankets and teaching. AFRICAN CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS has completed a 4,000 square foot school for many disabled children in Cradock, South Africa. This is a great need for this community. His organization has also completed expansion of an overcrowded existing inner-city school with 125 children per class, by adding five new 1,000 square foot classrooms. Please pray that God will use us as we travel to Kampala and have a conference with Pastors and leaders that are working in the orphanages and schools. Karen and I are scheduled to talk to the mothers of these children to encourage them.

2) Pray for the house where I live in San Jacinto. The wind blew off all the roof rolls that were installed two years ago and is in need of new roof rolls. There have been some seismic movements during the last two years in this area that have impacted the house by cracking some walls and ceilings. The floors are also cracking in some parts of the house.

3) My application for Section 8 Housing Authorities is being processed. Please pray that I may get approved soon.

4) Pray for my health and for protection as I travel back and forth to San Diego.

THANK YOU!