

RETOOLING FOR CHRIST

The Rotenberger's Newsletter

Spring 2023

We do not toil in vain, if we toil for the Lord!

As this long winter comes to a close, at least in Idaho, things that go easy any other time of the year take so much longer. Just things like cutting firewood, feeding and watering animals, and getting from one place to another, become harder work (toil). We do not use the word **toil** much anymore. Instead, we usually use the word **hard work** when we are speaking of something that takes a lot of physical or mental effort.

Sometimes, the toil of just the things we do daily seem to get us down and ready to give up. We can take comfort in the words that Paul wrote to the Corinthians many years ago. **"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."** 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NASB) Are we daily working for the Lord in everything that we do, or do we only do some things for the Lord and other things for us? If we have given ourselves fully and completely to the Lord, then ALL that we do should be **"...the work of the Lord"**! Then, when the toils in life are weighing us down, we can be steadfast and immovable in the Lord because we will know that our toiling is not in vain, if it is in the Lord! So, as the winter comes to a close, hopefully in Idaho, too, things should be a little bit easier to do (except for all the mud). No matter what time of the year it is, what we are doing, or what struggles we are facing, we can be reassured that...we do not toil in vain, if we toil for the Lord!

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men;

Colossians 3:23 (NASB)



Sandy and Perry

Meet our friends, Pastor Moises, and wife Laura, Castellano!



Saturday evening service



What a wonderful time we



Sandy and some of the women of the church

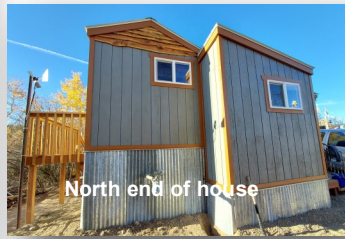
had in Mexico ministering alongside of these dear people! Pastor Moises is the pastor of Templo Monte Sinai Church in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. We spent eleven days ministering in Mexico and Texas the beginning of February 2023 (see Mexico Mission Trip with Net Menders on page 3). Our days were busy with work projects but filled with so much fun and fellowship! This small church has been ministering for the Lord there for many years, and they continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ faithfully. We were there to take care of their physical needs so they can minister to the people better, but by the time we left, we felt so loved and a part of them. We so look forward to the time that we will see them again. May God bless them and the ministry!

Brenda's Tiny House is Almost Finished!



Front of house

It all started almost two years ago when Ken and Lori McCune came up with the idea to provide Brenda Wood, long time missionary and Program Director of Old Faithful Christian Ranch, much needed housing after the passing of her father. We started raising funds for the project, drew up the prints, and shared the need with others. We started preparing the site the summer of 2021. Then, in May 2022, we started building the deck for the house on a reclaimed travel trailer frame. At the end of June, a crew moved that frame/deck to Driggs and up the hill to the place where it



North end of house



South end of house

Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it;
Psalm 127:1a (NASB)

would be set up so the house could be built on top of it. The following week, a small workgroup from Pennsylvania, Colorado, and Idaho started raising the walls. A week continue the construction. Since then, Idaho to work with Sandy, Brenda, and finished too



Workgroup - PA, CO, and ID

We got as far as we could but just could not get it finished before the snow got too deep. Now, we are just waiting for the four feet plus amount of snow to melt away so we can get back to the top of the hill and get the last parts of the project done, which includes: trim, install kitchen cabinets, install bathroom (vanity, toilet, and tub), hook up water system, finish electrical, finish sewer system, plus misc. things. We should be able to celebrate the completion of this house with Brenda sometime this summer...Praise the Lord! (if the snow ever goes away) For all of you who have helped, donated, and prayed for this project, THANK YOU! All the blessings and honor go to our Lord!

later, a family came from Oklahoma to workers have come from Missouri and myself to try and get this tiny house before the Idaho snows would make it difficult to finish. Well...it happened!



Work van under here



Workgroup



Oklahoma family



Painting



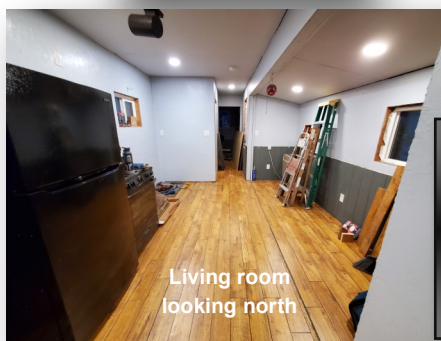
Cutting steel roofing



Bedroom



Living room looking south



Living room looking north

Give thanks to the God of heaven, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
Psalm 136:26 (NASB)

Please be in prayer with us:

For all the churches in this area that are presently without a pastor.

That we can totally finish Brenda's tiny house project as soon as possible so she can move in.

For decisions regarding a car needed for our many traveling needs.

Praise the Lord with us:

That there is enough money raised to pay for Brenda's house.

That God is in control in this changing world that we are living in and that our God's timing is always on time, according to His will!

For supplying for our many ministry needs for so many years.

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Mark 16:15 (NASB)

Mexico Mission Trip with Net Menders Ministry

Again, this year, we were blessed to be able to be a part of this ministry as we served pastors and churches in Texas and Mexico. This year, Perry was asked to lead a team that worked at the Templo Monte Sinai Church in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. We spent the week painting, wiring, tiling, and building. The project included painting three



Perry and Teno building a new water system



Sandy painting a vanity for the new bathroom

rooms, a new bathroom and shower room, a new kitchen, a water system, and propane system. We had a lot of great help from Pastor Moises, Teno, and others from the church. Sandy was asked

to head up two festivals that were

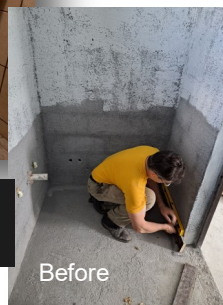
held in Rio Bravo and Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. These festivals featured a free meal, games, crafts, and a bag of black beans and sweet potatoes to take home.



Progreso work team



New bathroom



Before

The festivals were held for the church attendees and anyone in the community. Even though Sandy and I do not speak a lot of Spanish, we were able to share a lot of fun and the love of Jesus

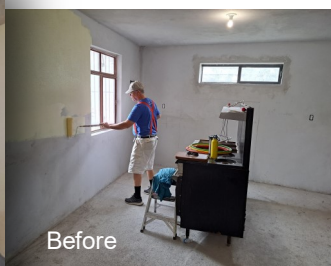
Christ. If this trip sounds like something you would like to be involved in

next year, like the Butlers from Marsh Valley Bible Church who came with us this year, you can check out Net Menders on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088389458471>



New church kitchen



Before



Festival at Nuevo Progreso

Other ministry opportunities since our last newsletter:

In this newsletter, we focus a lot on the big projects that our Lord allows us to be part of, but there are so many other things that we have been blessed to be part of during this past year. We can NEVER say it enough, that without all of your help (financially, prayerfully, and physically), we would not have the ability to minister full-time as we do.

Preached at seven different churches, 15 different Sundays

In this area, there are a lot of churches that only have one pastor and need someone to preach on any given Sunday when they are sick, away, or the church is in between pastors.

Many of the churches are about one hour away from our home and even in other states.



What a blessing it

is to bring the Word of God to these lighthouses in their communities!

Officiated a 20th year wedding renewal

It was our pleasure to be involved in, and for Perry to officiate, this wedding. The couple was



desiring to renew their vows and to have the full, Godly wedding that they never had 20 years ago.

We, again, are incredibly thankful for our prayer and financial supporters who help us minister!

Helped at Vacation Bible School



Inkom Community Bible Church/Marsh Valley Bible Church shared Jesus with the community.

Sandy was one of the leaders and wore a different costume that related to the topic each day. Wearing a garbage bag and shelf liner??? -- A friend said Perry needs to buy her more clothing!

Supported Old Faithful Christian Ranch, Idaho

Either now and then on the property, or advice through phone calls, we stay involved.



Our grandson was a camper, our son-in-law was his cabin leader, and Sandy was on staff Jr. High Week.

- ⇒ **Ministered to people in need in this area**
- ⇒ **Officiated two funerals**
- ⇒ **Continued ministering to a long-time friend in prison who now truly understands what a relationship with Jesus Christ and living for Him, even in prison, is all about. Recently, he and some others started a Bible study.**

BE ONE TOGETHER

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If the Lord leads, to help support the Rotenbergers or the ministry of Be One Together, you can simply do any of the following:

Donate online with a credit card at: www.beonetogether.com/donate/

A check can be mailed into the ministry center at Be One Together at the address above.

Setup an online bill pay through your bank.

Zelle Pay lets you arrange to have your donation withdrawn from your account and directly deposited into the mission's account. Get setup for this option through your banking institution or with the Zelle App.

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FROM THE SANDY SIDE

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news . . .” (Isaiah 52:7 NIV) Two very precious people in our lives, who live in a mountainous area in Idaho, shared good news with us last year! They invited us to stay with them at their place in Costa Rica. With free airline tickets from our mileage plus program, we took advantage of their gracious offer in December. They wanted us to have a break after working for six months building the tiny home over an hour from our house, staying in a camper week after week, coming home to busy weekends, and then being sick while preparing for Christmas and flying. Our friends live less than 10 minutes from the beach, so we played in the waves, boogie boarded, kayaked, met new people, saw baby turtle eggs, and snorkeled day after day. One day while snorkeling, a bright, yellow fish about an inch long, swam in front of me, around me, and would come back to me, even when I moved to a new spot. I felt like I was its only friend in the ocean, but we found out that it is a Golden Trevally, and when they are babies, they swim near larger fish, divers, or snorkelers for protection. That fish reminds me of how we should be with our great and mighty God – close to Him! “But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.” (Psalm 5:11 NIV)

Family news:

Tianna: Daycare in her home / Tyler: Concrete pumper truck operator and motocross racer

They are both very busy in South Dakota and super supportive of their boys in their activities!

Colby (age 14): 8th grade, talented, school band, wrestler, football player, track and field, and motocross racer

Eli (age 8): 2nd grade, naturally athletic, football player, soccer player, bowler, and motocross racer

Jackson (age 7): 1st grade, sweet smile and heart, soccer player, bowler, and future motocross racer

(We had the opportunity to take just the three boys on vacation in August. We experienced ‘firsts’ with them and made special memories. I was proud of them but also proud of us for accomplishing it!)

Maleah: 4th grade teacher / Aaron: Police officer

They are both very busy chasing their daughter here in Idaho Falls and are expecting a boy the end of June!

Enslee (almost 2): energetic, full of life, hilarious, happy, talkative, determined

(Since we live in the same town, we have the privilege to babysit!)

Thank you SO much for your love, friendship, smiles, hugs, warmth, support, and interest! You are a gift and a blessing in our lives. Until we meet again, celebrate the Lamb of God, not the Easter bunny!

