

God's Blessings At Christmas!

Dear Praying Friends,

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December 12, 2022



Jesus Christ came to this messed-up world *"to seek and to save that which was lost."* Luke 19:10.

Our prayers were answered as my permanent visa papers were accepted by immigration as I entered Mexico in September. During September and October, God gave me many opportunities to preach in our main church and several of our mission churches and preaching points.

Being back in Guadalajara with so many of my spiritual sons and daughters was wonderful. This city of 8 million, continues to grow each day, and the outreach of the Gospel is by no means keeping up with this growth. An especially large, populated section on the outskirts of Guadalajara desperately needs the Lord. Please pray that this new area, Bosques de Santa Anita, populated with middle-class people might soon have a Gospel witness and be reached for the Lord.

Since the first part of November, I have been living with Ivan and Tania Largent and their seven lovely children on a ranch in the northern part of Uruguay, where they are raising almost every imaginable farm animal. As "tent-maker"/missionaries here from Texas, they serve the Lord, working with the pastor in the nearby town of Melo. They also look for opportunities to witness to the fellow ranchers in the area. One of the Uruguayan customs generally involves a kiss on the right cheek when greeting people and again saying goodbye. A kiss is often feigned, but cheek touching is mandatory. They actually go around kissing everyone in the room or wherever they are. This practice is a bit difficult for me to get accustomed to doing!

The other day as I walked toward a small flock of sheep to share a few moments with them, they all turned and looked toward me; however, as I stepped nearer, they scattered as if a lion was coming to devour them. It brought to my mind the well-known verse in Isaiah 53:6, *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.* I find the attitude of so many of the people of Uruguay as sheep that have no desire to hear the voice of the "Good Shepherd," the Lord Jesus Christ. This country, with a population of 3,503,149, needs a real dedication by the believers to hold one-on-one Bible studies to reach the lost for Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord for the few churches in this northern area who have bound together to have 1,000 books of *Becoming a True Christian* printed and will begin to teach the members so that they can teach and reach others for the Gospel. These books will be delivered by the end of the year. I have had the opportunity to preach in several churches since coming. The congregations are small.

On December 30, I will cross the border into Brazil, where I will spend the night in the home of Pastor Leonardo and his family. On the 31st, I'll take the 6 hours bus trip to Porto Alegre, where I'll fly to Panama, leaving at 1:45 a.m. on New Year's Day, and from there I go to Lima, Perú arriving at 12:45 p.m. I won't see a bed for at least 36 hours. I'm not happy about traveling so many hours without rest. Soon after arriving in Lima, I'll be meeting with pastors to encourage them regarding personal evangelism to have the church members start home Bible studies with unsaved friends and neighbors. I am looking forward to preaching in many of those churches during my ministry there through February. We look forward to printing at least 2,000 books for their evangelism needs.

I'll travel to Bolivia in March to carry out this same ministry. Then I plan to minister during the entire month of April in Paraguay. Please pray with me as I look forward to preaching and teaching God's Word in many churches that have scheduled meetings for me. The plans are to print the book, *Becoming a True Christian* in each of these countries. All these plans are very flexible in the Hands of our Lord, and **I desire that all be done only according to His will.**

Please travel with me in prayer, for I urgently need it. Please pray for many discouraged pastors. I am doing my best to encourage them as I challenge them to be faithful. Thank you for your continued financial and prayer support. Thank you for caring, sharing, and praying as you show your love. I know that you need prayer, and I pray for you and appreciate you.

Your friend and fellow servant,

Pastor Philippi

Pastor Myron Philippi