



HAPPY SPRINGTIME - April 2024

An Update from Thelma Meneses



And a very happy day to you, friend. I hope you are well and enjoying the blessings of the Lord.

THE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF THE AIR



If you get the Academy Prayer Calendar each month, you know a little about the activities we have with our students, especially prisoners. If you do not receive the prayer calendar, we will happily send it to you each month if you let us know. Here are a few excerpts from recent correspondence:

Robel was released from a prison in California last month and here is part of what he wrote while waiting to leave:

"I turned my life over to Christ in 2017. I loved the Lord, but I was tied to drugs, pornography, and other sins. In 2019 I turned myself in to the authorities of the USA to pay my debt and to start to live free in Christ."

Pray for him that he will continue with the Lord.

Kelly, from a prison close to us says,

"Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and kindness. Your consideration, time, and service you give to us is truly appreciated. You give us hope and inspire us beyond words can express."

From a Washington state penitentiary, José wrote,

"I have little time reading the Bible and I think I am having a spiritual awakening. Can you help me with Bible studies to prepare me to have a better understanding about the Word of God?"

Alvaro is in prison in California and said in a recent letter,

"I lived many years far away from my Savior, but thanks to His grace and mercy, in 2015 I surrendered my life and will to my Savior. Another religious group gave me your address. None of you know me but you are helping me with my rehabilitation and spiritual growth. Thank you very much."

As a reminder, the Christian Academy of the Air is a Spanish Bible correspondence and online school, 22 studies (20 are books 150-225 pages each) on a Bible school/seminary level. We also now have the first two studies in English. We charge nothing for prisoners to study.

One ongoing concern for us in the Academy is the diminished amount of communication we have with prisoners. For example, with inmates in Texas we have to send everything to a Dallas address and pray they will forward the courses to our students. Thanks for joining us in prayer regarding this problem.

On the bright side we have a former prisoner, now a chaplain, who is starting to distribute our Academy information to six prisons here in Texas. We are anxiously waiting to receive correspondence from hundreds of new students!

If you are a pray-er, remember the Academy director, Josefina Ríos, who has a heavy load, especially because we still do not have any employees, only volunteers and another "elderly" missionary besides me helping. This is because we do not have enough incoming money yet to hire somebody. You may recall that the Academy sponsors a Mothers' Day luncheon every year. Last year we had over 500 so you can understand what a huge opportunity it is for us to present the Gospel and to enroll new students. The local police department is a co-sponsor, and many businesses contribute to the expenses of this large event. Thanks for your prayers.



With Josefina in the CAA office.

MY FAMILY



I am always happy to share what is going on with my children. My dear son-in-law, Steven, had shoulder surgery in January to repair a torn rotator cuff with complications. He is doing physical therapy and is recovering. Despite this, Steven and Alicia are happy to report that God is blessing his business, "Fix-A-Crack" and it



Mario and I enjoyed a delicious dinner at Alicia and Steven's home.

is growing to include tinting, windshield protection film and paint protection film. Alicia is receiving more attention for her work advocating for "glass children." She has been invited to speak at a retreat in Connecticut next month for an Orthodox Jewish community and will be doing webinars for an Australian sibling support organization this summer.



My son, Mario, just had his 53rd birthday and as usual I had a party at his Day Hab where he goes during the week. What is better than



Decorated by Mario!

pizza, a diet coke, potato chips, apple sauce and Mom's home baked chocolate cake for about 30

people? No calories of course.

I am so thankful for the dedicated people who are willing to take care of special adults not only in Day Hab but in the beautiful house where Mario lives with three other disabled men. And a double bonus is that the great director, Jorge, and I are good friends. He has such compassion and love for the clients. I still have Mario at home every other weekend, though I admit by the time they pick him up Sunday afternoon, I am ready for a nap!

Did you see the eclipse? WOW - what a beautiful manifestation of God and His complete control over our "small" earth. Hopefully it will be an awakening for people to better understand our need for the Lord in every aspect of our lives.



"By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding He set the heavens in place." Proverbs 3:19

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands." Psalm 19:1

I want to share with you how wonderful it is to still be here and to be involved in the exciting ministry of the Christian Academy of the Air. Yes, I have problems moving around. I have "graduated" to a walker full time, and have chronic arthritis, fibromyalgia, and I'm half blind in my left eye. But at almost 91, it truly is a privilege to work for Jesus though my limitations increase. Whatever your age, do you make a difference in people's lives sharing with them the New Life that Jesus has for all of us? Do I make a difference? Do you know what having "new life in Jesus" means? It would be a privilege to share with you.

I love this quote by Mark Twain: *"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."* How about if we change it to: **SHOWING JESUS' LOVE** is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

May I leave another challenge for you and for me today:

From the Bible in the book of Proverbs, 4:23, *"Above all else guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."*

Blessings, friend, and if/when you have a special prayer request, it would be a privilege to add you to my Daily Prayer Book.

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Send your donation to:
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P O Box 50
San Juan, TX 78589



Or to help my missionary support:
Reach Beyond PO Box 39800
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
(Be sure to mention my name)

P.S. I have hesitated to mention this, but here goes: I have a very large old stamp collection. I say "old" because I haven't done anything with it for about 45 years. I have countless USA blocks and full sheets and my other specialty was Costa Rica and Colombia. Would you or a friend be interested in buying it?

