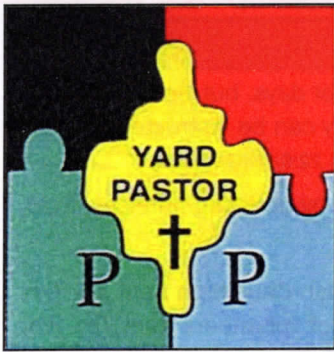




# Pastors to Prisoners Organization

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

**Elena Hernandez**  
MISSIONARY NEWSLETTER



**APRIL 2021**



**Local children from the community receiving shoes during their Friday breakfast. Many come barefooted and this could be the only meal they have during the day.**

Thank you very much for your support through the Pastors to Prisoners Organization. I appreciate it very much!

I thank God for the opportunity to continue ministering in Camalu, B.C. to the women in recovery and the children's ministry.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Through the years ministering in corrections in a prison setting, in a women's rehab, and now in a children's ministry, I have observed that the church has a healing ministry that mends those who come wounded looking for some hope to alleviate their suffering.

When ministering to Level IV inmate it was like dealing with children misbehaving and giving them consequences for their bad behavior. Despite their bad behavior, they attended church voluntarily. There must have been some kind of spiritual need in them that brought them to church. Ministering to children is almost the same thing, but in a different setting. They come to church because they know that they are going to receive a meal, but they are also looking for something different than the setting they have at home. These children are growing up without discipline because their parents work seven days a week and they are left alone at home. If a tree grows crooked when it is small and you mend it, there is hope that one day that tree will grow straight. It is the same paradox with these children. If we show them discipline, respect and love now that they are young, something will stay in their hearts forever and they will never forget these teachings when they grow old.

The work that the church is doing with these children is more than just feeding them twice or three times a week. They are shown kindness, respect, discipline, consequences if they misbehave. They are also shown hygiene, and the importance of praying and giving thanks to God for the food that they receive.

*Continued on page 2*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY *(Continued from page 1)*

These children lack many commodities, including shoes and clothing. Some don't take a shower for days, but God loves them and they are precious to His eyes. God has commanded these children to the church so that they can be instructed with His Word. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) (NKJ Version)

Thank you very much to all those people who so generously contributed to the children's ministry by donating finances, food, shoes and clothing. May God reward you according to His riches in glory.

Below are some photos taken during the DIA DEL NIÑO celebration at the Jireh Community Christian Church on April 30. This is a big holiday in Mexico as the schools and local entities celebrate children's day. A dear group of volunteers from *The Way World Outreach Church* in San Bernardino, CA came and distributed toys and candies to many children.



## PRISON MINISTRY UPDATE

Prison ministry is an extraordinary ministry that has a great spiritual reward. I have witnessed many men and women changed by the Spirit of God through the years. There is no man or no woman that can resist the power of God. *"Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God."* (Ezequiel 11:19-20) (NKJ Version)

The Bible teaches us many examples of people with hearts like stone changed into hearts of flesh. One good example is Manasseh, King of Jerusalem *"Therefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon; 12 "Now, when he was in affliction, he implored the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers;" 13 "and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God."* (2 Chronicles 33:11-13) (NKJ Version)

There are men in prison that they say they eat metal and spit nails – that's how tough they think they are. However, I have seen the same men in segregation crying as they receive a long sentence or feel lost in the jungle of imprisonment. I believe that volunteers play a vital role in the correctional system, and I am looking forward to returning to prison ministry (not at the same pace that I was volunteering before), but volunteering perhaps once a week. I am in the process of completing my application for Donovan prison, and praying to God for direction.

## JUVENILE'S RECOVERY HOME UPDATE



There are currently 8 juveniles in recovery at The Living With Hope Recovery Center and two supervisors. In the past they have admitted children up to 9-year old that were brought by government agencies that couldn't deal with their rebellion. Presently only adolescents 13 to 17 years old are admitted. The biggest challenge for these young men is to acknowledge that they have an addiction and need to deal with it. They also struggle submitting to authority. The process at the center is tough — they wash their own clothes and do chores. This is a process that teaches them to appreciate all the commodities that they had at home. Through discipline and discipleship these young men are changing their lives.

## WOMEN'S RECOVERY HOME UPDATE

There are currently ten women in recovery at the women's recovery home now. One woman escaped about three weeks ago. One of the biggest problems with them is rebellion. There are two 13-year-old teenagers that are very rebellious and have a problem submitting to authority. My experience is that men and women in recovery are very manipulative, same as the population in prison.

But something positive is coming out of these women through daily Bible studies, discipline, respect and compassion. Some of them come from neglected and abused backgrounds. When they are asked to wash their own clothes and cook they resent it, but at the end they appreciate it because they are learning things they did not know before. Some women truly want to change, but their minds are still in a continuous mind battle about the possibility of relapsing.



Women at the Recovery Home during a worship service.



A young Woman in recovery ready to have her baby girl any day now. Our special thanks to people who have donated baby's clothes and a crib for her.

Elena Hernandez  
[www.pastorstoprisoners.org](http://www.pastorstoprisoners.org)  
 Email: [elenahernandezptp@gmail.com](mailto:elenahernandezptp@gmail.com)  
 Cell: 661-425-3363  
 Facebook: [joinprison Elena](https://www.facebook.com/joinprisonElena)  
 P.O. Box 334

#### YEAR-END TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS:

Your continued financial support is greatly needed.  
 Please mail checks to:

**Pastors to Prisoners Organization**  
 P. O. Box 2757, La Mesa, CA 91943-2757

And please write in the memo section of your check:  
 "Support for Elena Hernandez"      Thank You!

### MEN'S RECOVERY HOME UPDATE



There are currently 91 men in recovery from all kind of backgrounds, i.e., businessmen, truck drivers, construction workers, students, men deported from U.S. prisons with addictions, etc. The State Medical Staff visits the center regularly and provides them with medical attention. They have a very busy routine, since their day starts at 5:30 a.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m.

I was very surprised to learn that they take showers with cold water. Gas is very expensive in Mexico. Please pray for them.

**Left: Men worshipping at the chapel in the Recovery Home.**

**PRAISE REPORT:** **1)** We celebrate that the Women's Recovery Home was able to get a bigger water pump so that they can get enough water for showers and for essential chores. Before they had a smaller pump that was not bringing enough water. **2)** We are very grateful to Sister Nereida Quiroz for all the poultry and ground beef that she has been donating to the recovery home. **3)** I am grateful to God for the door he has opened to fix the water pump and timing belt of my car through Brother Henry Barajas, who is a mechanic and will do the work for free. Praise God! **4)** I am very grateful to the PASTORS TO PRISONERS ORGANIZATION for their continued financial support while the COVID-19 pandemic has lasted. Thank you very much to all of you who support me with your gifts through this organization. May God bless you.

### PRAYER REQUESTS FOR:

| Men's Home       | Juvenile's Home     | Women's Home      | Children's Ministry  |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Sugar            | Milk (in carton)    | Milk (in carton)  | Milk (in carton)     |
| Cooking Oil      | Cooking oil         | Cooking oil       | Sugar                |
| Clorox           | Bread               | Sugar             | Snack Bars           |
| Rice             | Eggs                | Chicken consome   | Cookies              |
| Toilette paper   | Rice                | Eggs              | Spaghetti sauce      |
| Flour            | Oatmeal             | Flour / Lard      | Butter               |
| Maseca           | Cereal              | Oatmeal           | Bread for Sandwiches |
| Detergent        | Clorox              | Mozzarella cheese | Hot dog buns         |
| Lard (Inca)      | Detergent           | Toilette paper    | Dish soap            |
| Lentils          | Toilette paper      | Toothpaste        | Toilette paper       |
| Oatmeal          | Maseca              | Clorox / Fabuloso | Oatmeal              |
| Milk (in carton) | 1 TV & 1 DVD PLAYER | Dish soap         | Napkins              |

**Pastors to Prisoners Organization—P.O. Box 2757, La Mesa, CA 91943-2757**