

May 5, 2015

- Greetings to all friends who are a part of Good Samaritan Ministries. We give thanks for you all.
- This year we are celebrating the more than 30 years ministry done by our dear Pastor and leader, Rev. Feliberto Pereira. Pastor Feliberto came to the valley of Texas in November of 1969 after his escape from Cuba's communist regime. He started as a Pastor in San Benito and later developed the ministry out of Los Fresnos to refugees and the poor and displaced that we work in today. His journey has been blessed and he leads us all in giving thanks to God for favor and blessing. In the 1980's Central America was in turmoil and Cuban refugees kept coming on rafts and boats and the sheriff of Cameron County asked Feliberto to help the many new arrivals who were needing help. Soon the United States government who has a Immigration Processing Center close by asked Pastor Feliberto to help them because of the volume of political refugees that were streaming across the border. The Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) got involved with this ministry along with the Southwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to help it



Pastor Feliberto helps unload the 45,000 pounds of rice recently donated to Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries by the Coastal Plains Area.

become the huge ministry that it is today.

Pastor Feliberto, all of us involved in doing God's work thank you for your more than 30 years of faithfulness and courage to keep on serving our Lord in good times and bad. We are thankful for you and commit to give to and pray for the ministry to those needing God's loving touch in their lives.

BUILDING LIVES TOGETHER.



1992, FCC McKinney starts a tradition of churches working mission with SWGSM!

For over 20 years churches have come down to the Valley of Texas and worked on both sides of the border to help those with needs. Jesus says in Matthew 25 if we did such deeds of love and kindness to the "least of these" we did such deeds of kindness unto Him. FCC, McKinney from Texas was one of the first churches to do this mission work (note a young Les Hodson on the far right) . In the

Fall of 1991 Esther Rodriguez and her husband were in desperate need of a new home after their home burned down during a home invasion crime. Esther was an Elder at Iglesia Ebenezer Cristiana in Los Fresnos and was actively serving God though teaching, sharing, translating and even some preaching. So in 1992, FCC, McKinney joined with Westmont Christian Church in Lubbock to build them a new home. Many people were a part of this rebuild and it led to a wanting of other churches to do more in Christ's name. This mission trip was so wonderfully meaningful for those involved that it started a ministry of folks from all over the US coming to the valley to help folks in need. FCC, McKinney ended up coming for more than 20 years straight. Pastor Feliberto was already ministering to refugees and the poor plus leading the Ebenezer Christian Church. These ministry opportunities combined led to the forming of Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries. In this newsletter we are being especially thankful for those who have spent so many years ministering in Christ's Name. Thank you to all who work, give, pray and serve!



- EASTER BAPTISMS FOR NEW ARRIVALS



This past Easter Pastor Feliberto had the honor of baptizing some of the new arrivals from Cuba after they accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries not only cares about helping these brave souls find a new home here in the United States but it also shares the good news of God's love and salvation found in Jesus Christ. Pray for the ministry as we share God's mercy and love to all we meet.

Dear Readers,

Today I will write about the Mr. Fariñas and family.

Mr. & Mrs. Fariñas and son, had to leave Cuba, because of Mr. Farinas ideological position, which is contrary to the Communism of Cuban Government.

Mr. Fariñas, is an active member of the Masonic Logic in Cuba, he is a well-educated and a hardworking man. Him and his family escaped to Ecuador South America, from where their voyage began to the United States, crossing the jungles of Colombia, Mr. Fariñas is diabetic and became ill in the jungle, two of his toes were amputated in Costa Rica. In Nicaragua and Honduras their situation was difficult, they were robbed of everything they had. In Mexico they

were arrested and spent time in the immigration jail, Mr. Fariñas, became ill again, and had another toe amputated.

Mr. Farias and family were given 48 hours to leave Mexico, they traveled and reached the border of the United States, crossing from Matamoros to Brownsville.

Immigration gave them quick attention and received the necessary documentation to be in the United States. They had no money, poor health and hungry, someone gave them Pastor Feliberto Pereira's phone number, when they called Pastor Pereira, immediately went to pick them up from immigration facility, food & transportation was provided to the family by SWGSM.

Family went to Houston, TX., where they had a place to stay.

Mr. Fariñas and family are extremely grateful, for the help they received from Pastor Pereira "SWGSM", with transportation and housing in Houston.

Every three or four days I get a call from Mr. Farias & family, to express their gratitude to us.

To let us know they are willing to share their small apartment with anyone in need of help, as they were helped.

Let us pray for as many that as they reach our media



Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries needs your support more than ever before. We have ministries to every type of need there is. Come, give, pray - call us at 956-233-5198. E-mail at info@swgsm.org.

Call today and line up a mission trip to the valley of Texas!

STAY CONNECTED

