



Dear friends and family, Happy New Year 2024

Do you have your New Year's resolutions list all made out? I can honestly say that "I don't even have a list." Why not?", you say. Well, as many more have observed before me, typical New Year resolutions often wilt because we don't have a WHY AM I DOING THIS big enough to weather the inevitable temptations, distractions, and setbacks.

For me, a list just won't cut it. It's too easy to quit a list. Instead, I want to focus on some thoughts that I have heard from the Lord regarding this year in 2024. Andrew Murray states in his book, The School of Obedience. **"Our aim is high, we** can only reach it by a new inflow of the power that comes from above. It is only by FAITH, that we get a new vision and lay hold of the powers of the heavenly world, that is secured to us in Christ, through the Holy Spirit, and only by FAITH that we can obey and obtain the promise."

The first chapter of Thessalonians 5:23-24 echoes this sentiment. **"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it."** So what will your WHY be for the year to come? Will we live worthy of our calling — staying steadfast in the belief that He who has called us is faithful or not?



We are a few weeks into the new year and are already out and about with ministry up in the villages, teaching Discipleship classes along with Sunday support roles at BE Church Pozos nearby, Zúme classes with a church in the city are resuming, and Oren will be starting Spanish classes. Homeschool and music lessons will resume this month, and our younger three children will be participating in a Ranger Program for youth on Saturdays.

It has been an encouraging, although seemingly short few weeks as our older two children, Talon and Evelyn were able to fly home for Christmas and they were also able to renew their Permanent Residency Visas this month, which now gives them the freedom to come and go to Mexico at their leisure.

Talon was able to borrow a bass guitar to play and Lydia played the cajón on Sunday at BeChurch. We are so excited about where the Lord has them on their faith journey and also look forward to this next year of being your hands and feet of Jesus to bring His light to the lost souls in Central Mexico.

Prayer Requests: For spiritual growth in the villages and at BE Church Pozos. Also, pray for safe travels to and from our current areas of ministry.

January 2024

- The Barnes family

