

THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY in MEXICO

January 2022



Hello dear family and friends,

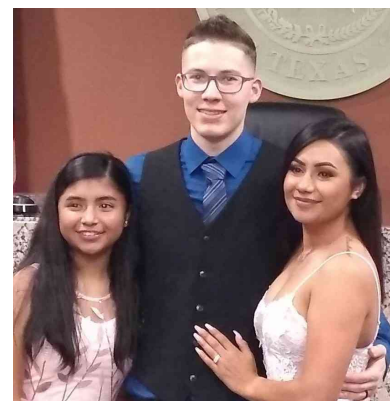
We pray that you are doing well and looking forward to this new year. It has been some time since our last letter and I don't quite know where to start. I think it's actually been 2 years. Some of you have been able to keep up with us on Facebook. While others have no idea what we have been up to and probably have wondered if we are still doing mission's work in Mexico. These past two years have been a challenge for us in many ways, and I'm sure it has been for many of you. Covid has impacted us all in one way or another. Fear and torment have been the greatest enemy during this time and is affecting the whole world. One thing that we decided at the very beginning of the pandemic was that we would put our trust in the Lord. We decided that we would not allow panic, torment, or fear to control our lives. We all need to live by the word of God in these times. The Bible says that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). Even though the world seems to be spinning out of control, we must put our trust in the Lord and know that He is in control. The best thing that we can do in these times is get ready and stay ready for the return of the Lord. Our redemption is drawing near! So we must live by faith and share the love of Jesus. There are so many people who are living in fear and torment. They need to experience the peace that can only be found in the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, what has been going on in the Partridge family since the last newsletter and during the pandemic? It *has* only been 2 years since we sent the last newsletter. So, where do I start? It only seems appropriate to start with Joseph, our oldest son. Well, he was married on January 10th of 2020. On the same day, we were blessed with a beautiful daughter in law (Aylet) and a very sweet granddaughter (Nia). This was a wonderful day! Joseph and Aylet have just celebrated their 2nd anniversary. Then in February 2020, Tina and I were able to go to Seattle, Washington to celebrate our 25th anniversary. This was just before all the shutdowns and restrictions for covid. While we were in Seattle enjoying our time away, our daughter Kari gave birth to her precious baby girl Izabelle.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

I sought the Lord, and he answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. (Psalm 34:4)

Joseph, Aylet, and Nia



As soon as our plane landed back in El Paso, we went directly to the hospital to see our granddaughter. We made it just as they were being discharged from the hospital. How wonderful it was to see and hold our precious granddaughter. In a few days we will be celebrating her 2nd birthday. Oh, how time flies!

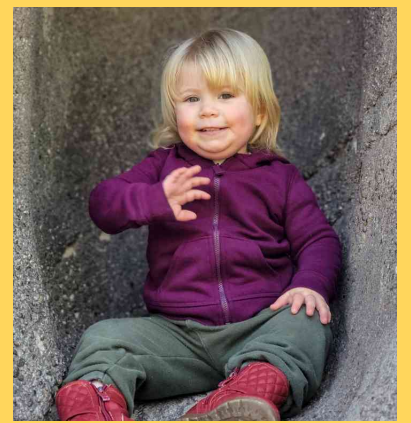
On May 22nd 2020, our son Samuel married a lovely lady named Jezenya. Due to the covid shutdowns and restrictions, they chose to have their wedding in the yard of her parent's home. Samuel and his fiancée asked me to officiate their wedding. It was such an honor, but at the same time very emotional for me. The wedding ceremony and reception was very beautiful.

In June 2020, our son Jadon graduated from high school. He completed 12 years of home-school. Because of the covid restrictions, the home-school community canceled their graduation ceremonies. So in August 2020, we finally decided to have a graduation ceremony and party in our back yard. Despite covid, we had a great turn out with family and friends. Jadon has just recently started Barber school.

October through December 2020 was a very difficult time for our family. We ended up with the nasty covid virus. It started with me and Tina. Then Jadon and Nathan got it. We were able to recover from home. It was definitely the worst virus that we have ever had, and we had some symptoms that took us weeks to get over. At the same time that I was dealing with covid, I injured my leg and couldn't walk it on it for weeks. It actually took a few months for the injury to heal and I even ended up in the emergency room at one point. Covid ended running through the rest of our family and their families. Praise God we all eventually recovered!

Then in January 2021 just before our 26th anniversary, Tina and I had a wedding renewal service. We were married in 1995 at a small courthouse in Florida. We always talked about how we wanted to have a ceremony but we never did. After 25 years of marriage we finally decided it was time. Despite covid restrictions, we had a wonderful celebration with family and friends.

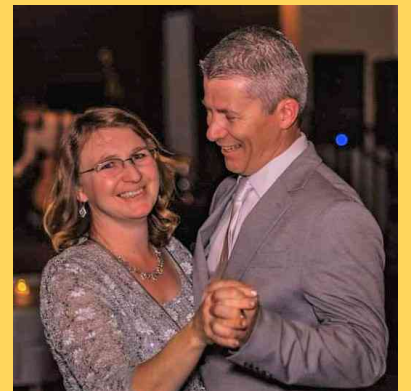
On February 11 2021, our next granddaughter was born. Our son Samuel and daughter in law Jezenya had a beautiful baby girl Adelyn. We will be celebrating her first birthday in a few days. Our family has really grown over these past two years. We definitely have a full house on holidays, but it is wonderful. We have truly been blessed. We love being grandparents to our three beautiful granddaughters! Nathan our youngest son (our baby) just turned 15 in December. We are about to start teaching him how to drive. No, we are not nervous. We already got the nervousness out with teaching his older siblings to drive. So, teaching Nathan won't be too bad. However, it does make us feel old (lol) that our baby will be driving. Nathan loves basketball and football. He is our only child that is still able to help us with the ministry in Mexico. He was just two and half years old when we first came to minister in Mexico as missionary family. Well, that pretty much briefly sums up the last 2 years of our family life.



Izabelle



Samuel and Jezenya



What a celebration!



Adelyn

Ministry in Covid times. How has it affected ministry in Mexico?

2020 started out pretty much normal for the ministry in Juarez. We were just finishing up with 12 Christmas outreaches. We were able to reach about 1,500 children plus parents with the gospel through the Christmas outreaches. We were also able to give out new jackets, toys, candy, and warm meals to all 1500 children. We were able to give around 1,000 new children's jackets to other Pastors and ministries. In February of 2020 we had a marriage conference, prayer conference, and ministered in a few churches. Then came March of 2020, when the US closed the border from Mexico to all non-essential travel due to the spread of covid. We assumed that we were not considered essential so we did not cross to Juarez for a couple of months.

I decided in May to cross over to Juarez to take some food to a church for their children's feeding program. I wasn't sure if I would have any trouble coming back into the US since the border was open only for essential travel. When I came back, the border patrol officer asked what I was doing in Mexico. I told him that I had taken food to a church, but I didn't know if I was considered essential. He told me that I was essential. I was excited! Due to the pandemic, stay at home orders, and business shut downs there were many families suffering with a lack of food. So from May 2020 through September 2020, our primary ministry was crossing food to Juarez. During that time, we crossed tons of food to Juarez and gave it to the churches. Although the churches were closed, the Pastors were able to take the food to families in their communities. This allowed them to reach out to the families and pray for them and encourage them. Ministry continued and families were reached.

Then on September 25th 2020, I decided to take over hand sanitizer to the Pastors. I had received a large donation from a church in El Paso. The churches in Juarez had just been given permission from the government that they could partially reopen with a limited capacity. One of the requirements was they must provide hand sanitizer. So I loaded up the hand sanitizer in my Expedition and crossed the border to Juarez. The Mexican customs randomly chose to stop me and inspect my vehicle. When they saw the hand sanitizer, they informed me that I wasn't allowed to bring it to Mexico. They threatened to seize my vehicle and fine me 2,500 dollars. A long story short, I was detained by the Mexican customs for 3 hours. They finally told me that I must pay a \$600 tax for the sanitizer. They also allowed me to keep my vehicle and cross the hand sanitizer to Mexico. After this situation, I decided that I should take a break from crossing donations to Mexico. So, I didn't cross any donations to Juarez during October or November. The churches in Juarez were again forced by the government to close due to another rise in covid cases. With this in mind, we decided that we needed to be creative for the Christmas Outreaches. We knew that with the churches closed we would not be able to have 100+ children in each outreach. We came up with a plan and decided to only have 6 Christmas outreaches and limit the amount of children. We asked each Pastor to choose a certain number of families that had the greatest need and invite them to come, but since the church was closed we decided to have 1 family come at a time. The Pastors set a time for each family to come. We planned to pray over each family and give them a box of food and give each child a gift and a new jacket. This was the plan.

However, this all changed on the night of December 12, 2020 when I decided to take the first 200 jackets to Juarez. As I crossed the border into Juarez, the Mexican customs stopped me and asked me if I had anything to declare. I told them that I had the children's jackets and was going to give them to children in need. Another long story short, that night I was detained by the Mexican customs for several hours. They ended up confiscating my Expedition and the jackets. They said that I would have to pay a fine of \$8,500 to get the vehicle back. I couldn't pay it so I never got the vehicle back. We then had to cancel the Christmas Outreaches because there was no way for us to cross the food boxes, jackets, and gifts to Juarez. We ended up donating all the food boxes that we had prepared to a Pastor who was able to get them to other families in Mexico.

After encountering this situation, I was angry in my heart and never wanted to go back to Mexico. One morning a couple weeks later, we were praying in our home and our son Nathan said, "Dad, I think we should pray for the men who took our vehicle." Oh, I didn't want to do that because I was still angry in my heart. However, I humbled myself in that moment and prayed for those men who confiscated my vehicle. I felt all the anger leave my heart. We didn't quit the ministry in Mexico, but decided that we should not go back for a little while.

It was 8 weeks before we started going back to Juarez. The victory is that the Lord allowed us to go back and reach each family that the Pastors had invited for those 6 Christmas Outreaches. It did however take us a few months because we had to be very careful on the amount of stuff that we crossed into Juarez. We definitely didn't want to have anymore trouble with the Mexican customs. We were able to take each family a box of food and give each child a gift. We were also able to bless them, encourage them, and pray for them. **Many of these families received Jesus and to this day they are serving Jesus and have become very faithful in their church.**

We continued to minister in Juarez throughout 2021. However, we still had to be careful what we cross to Mexico. We have not been able to cross as much donations as we have in the past. We are now getting more donations over to Juarez, but we don't have to cross it all ourselves. The Pastors will come to our house or send someone to our house to get the donations. This has freed us up so much that we are able to focus more on personal ministry in Juarez. Throughout 2021, we preached and ministered in many churches, taught a weekly English class, had a prayer conference, and had monthly meetings with the Pastors where we ministered and encouraged them and shared a meal with them. In December and January, since the covid restrictions have eased and the churches are fully open in Juarez, we were once again able to have the Christmas outreaches. We had 75-120 children in each outreach. Many of the children as well as parents received Jesus. We were also able to pray for them and see God touch them. We gave out toys, goodie bags, children's Bibles, and new jackets to all the children.

At some of the outreaches, we were also able to provide a warm meal for the children. We were able to bless about 1,400 children in Juarez with a new jacket this December and January. Covid has not stopped us from ministering in Juarez and reaching out with the love and peace of God. **Yes, we did encounter some difficult situations, but we did not stop or give up. God renewed our strength and gave us new focus. And in 2022, we will continue to reach out with the love of Jesus in Juarez and in El Paso. We will not fear, because God is our peace. People need the Lord and we will do our best to do our part. Praise the Lord!**



Prayer Requests

We covet your prayers as we continue to minister in Mexico this year 2022. God has given us some direction for this year to help families who are in very serious need both spiritually and physically. We have 3 families right now that live in the outskirts of Juarez that have some very serious needs and we would like to help them. One of the families is a single mother with 4 children. They need a stove and refrigerator. Their roof leaks bad when it rains. They don't have running water in the kitchen. The next family is a grandmother who cares for 4 grandchildren that were abandoned by their mom and dad. She also cares for her mother who can hardly walk because of her knee conditions. They don't have running water in the kitchen. The last family is a mom and dad with 3 children. They live in a house that is one room and a kitchen. They also don't have running water in their kitchen. Their roof also leaks. They expressed that they would like to have another small room so that their kids don't have to sleep in the same room with them. Because there is no running water in their community, they need a water tank. Each one of these families have recently become believers and are attending a church that we have been working with. We pray that God will provide the finances that we can help them in some or all of their needs.

Lastly we desire your prayer for our finances. We lost financial support during these covid years, but God was faithful and He provided for us. Our prayer is that God will encourage others to come along side us and commit to support the ministry. Most of all we covet your prayers for wisdom, strength, and health as we continue ministering in Mexico.

With much love and many blessings,

Randall and Tina

