

Desert Streams Ministries

Taking Streams of Living Water to a Dry and Weary Land.

Update — July, 2026

Dear Friends, Family, and Supporters:

Summer is one of my favorite times of the year. I guess it always has been. As a kid, we always looked forward to getting out of school in June and having about three months of vacation. Since my dad was an elementary school teacher, he also had a summer break similar to ours. Summer was always family fun — camping trips, bike rides, and swimming. But it was also sometimes a bit of work — cutting the lawn, painting, and working in the garden.

Our Bible School is on summer break right now, but for us, it is the time we use to record new courses, create new course content, write material, and update our Learning Management System (it's best to do this when there aren't any students, just in case something breaks in the process). It's time to prepare for the next season.

Summer here is always cooler than spring. The days are often cloudy and it rains most afternoons. The grass and wild plants turn a beautiful deep green. People often complain about the rain, but rain is just what we need during these months. It replenishes the aquifers, waters fields and the forest, helps bring the fall harvest, and makes the trees grow. The summer rains prepare the land for the winter and spring, which in our area are the dry seasons.

In much the same way, our lives need the summer rains of the Holy Spirit and times of refreshing in His presence. These “spiritual rains” prepare us for times when we don't feel His presence, dry seasons of trials and difficulties. But just as the summer rains soak the earth and provide water for the deepest roots of the trees of the forest, so too, are our lives watered by the Word and the Spirit. And just as the tall trees have deep root systems to sustain them during dry spells, so too should our lives have deep roots in the principles of the Word of God. This is exactly what makes our lives fruitful and stable!

The Psalmist says it like this:

“He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.” (Psalms 1:3, NKJV)



Sara and I with Gabriel and Paloma. Anna is on the far left.

Bible School

As I mentioned, we use the second half of June and all of July to work on the development of our Bible School material and the online platform. Anna has been writing a couple of new courses. One of them is our academic orientation course, a simple course to help the students get acquainted with our online system and the way we work. A second course she is developing is on the topic of worship and praise. It has been wonderful to watch her write the lessons, often referencing the same books and teachings that impacted my own life over 35 years ago.



Gabriel and Paloma, after recording the course.

Anna and I started out with a conversation about what should be covered in the course. And now, as she writes each lesson, I review it and find droves of Biblical treasures. She is outlining many of the concepts that I would often teach when we did worship seminars in various churches back in the 1990's. How the new generations need this same teaching today!

It seems that in many Christian circles (especially here in Mexico), modern worship has turned into more of a “performance” done by a select few on a stage, instead of the experience of the entire congregation partic-

ipating as a kingdom of priests. How we need to get back to teaching on the priesthood of all believers, and the fact that all of us (even those who aren't very good singers!) need to join together in worship as the body of Christ. God never intended for worship to be entertainment! Lights, sound systems, and special effects are NOT the essence of worship. Rather, worship is the offering of the broken and contrite hearts of the entire congregation before the person of Jesus.

The third weekend of June we hosted Gabriel and Paloma Ramírez from Morelia, so they could teach a new course on camera. Titled “Ministering to the Needs of People”, this course, written by Bill Scheidler, a former teacher at Portland Bible College, focuses on how to minister and pray for people during key moments in their lives. It is very practical. Gabriel and Paloma, who recently graduated from the Advanced School of Ministry degree program, have been working with us over the last couple of years. They are both excellent Bible teachers and great course facilitators. We will be offering this new course in the month of August.



Gabriel, recording a session of the course called Ministering to People's Needs.

We will probably be recording a couple of more courses over the next several months, as these will fill in the gaps for our full-time program, which also opens in August.

On the technical side of things, I have been developing all the functionality needed to enroll full-time and part-time students. I needed to make several additions to our home-grown learning management system to be able to track enrollment applications, set up payment plans, send and retrieve personal and pastoral references, and auto-enroll students in the courses they should be taking each semester. I have also been revamping several other details of the software.

Soon we will be receiving our students again for a new semester. Please pray especially for those who may be considering studying in our full-time or part-time certificate programs.

Family

I'd also like to inform you about our family. We now officially have a doctor in the family. Our son David Jeremiah has finished his doctorate degree in aerospace engineering and will be graduating on August 8. Sara was able to attend in-person his doctoral defense in College Station, Texas, at the beginning of June. Anna and I watched live on Zoom from home. We are looking forward to being at his graduation in August.



Daniel and Ella.

Our son Daniel, with his wife Elisa, will be having a baby boy in September. This will be their second child. We see Ella, who is 1½ years old, on FaceTime a few times a week. She is so cute! However, we often need an interpreter, because she speaks three languages: English, Spanish, and Japanese. We don't have a problem with her English or Spanish, but she has been teaching us several words in Japanese. It's amazing how all of this is just totally natural for a baby.

Sara continues to teach English at two elementary schools in the community. She has been enjoying this very much, and has also had the opportunity to substitute-teach at one of them. She also continues her studies, and is getting closer and closer to receiving a university degree in Christian Counseling.

Our Church

In the month of May, I had the privilege of baptizing about a dozen believers in our church. Among them were many young people, as well as some who are older, but just recently committed their lives to Christ. It is wonderful to see how the Holy Spirit works in their lives.

Also, in June we celebrated all those in our church who successfully completed Bible School courses online. We had a good group that accepted the challenge and stuck with the weekly course work during the entire semester. It was especially neat to see one young man, Emiliano, take on six courses at once (a full-time workload) and complete all of them.

You may also remember that in the last newsletter, we had been asking for prayers for Karla, who needed a kidney transplant. The transplant was successfully done in the month of May, and both Karla and her father, Javier, are recovering. Karla still needs prayer. She has been in and out of the hospital over the last several weeks, battling a couple of different infections. In order to receive the

transplanted organ, the immune system must be medically suppressed, and this opens up the body to developing infections very easily. Please continue to pray for her.

Thanks!

Sara and I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and support. We are very grateful for each of you who remembers us, gives, and prays for the ministry we are doing. Mexico needs Jesus! And we aim to be vessels of honor to carry His name to the nation.

With love,

David and Sara Lont with Anna

You can see our newsletters any time online:

www.desert-streams.org

P.S. - Supporting our ministry is easy and gifts are tax deductible:

1) ONLINE: **www.WorldOutreach.org/36** and follow the prompts. You can also set-up automatic monthly gifts if you select the “monthly” option. 2) BY MAIL: checks to World Outreach Ministries, PO Box B, Marietta, GA 30061 and indicate for David and Sara Lont WOM #36. 3) BILL PAY: which you can do through your online banking.

Please reach out to us by email! You can contact us at: **dsm@desert-streams.org**.



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