

# BORDER CROSSINGS

THE SCHIERKOLKS

JEREZ, ZACATECAS, MEXICO

DECEMBER 2024

*"The secret prayer chamber is a bloody battleground. Here violent and decisive battles are fought out."*  
-O. Hallesby

## **An unexpected farewell**

Doña Esther's grandson came to live with her after he got out of the drug rehabilitation center this past summer. She was 84 years old and the matriarch of our church.

Last month, she took a terrible fall in the middle of the night. Thankfully, her grandson heard her and was able to call for help. She broke her hip and gashed her forehead terribly above her eye.

About a week later, five of us made the dark and lonely drive to the city hospital early in the morning to donate blood for her upcoming surgery. It wasn't expected to be a problem. But when she received the anesthesia, she had a heart attack and died.

Even though she was 84 years old, everyone was taken by surprise. The grandkids were in shock, and her children were angry. These last weeks have provided an important opportunity to anchor the believing family members in the Scripture's teaching about the resurrection of the dead and the 'blessed hope' we have in Jesus.



**An unexpected farewell to the matriarch of our church**

## **Lost sheep update**

We were very surprised recently when a family of five visited our worship service. The mom had been baptized and confirmed in our church years ago. Her

son began attending youth group with us this past year. His sister also recently joined us in the youth group. After the service, the mom asked for everyone's attention. Then she asked for forgiveness from several people she had deeply offended. Wow!

## **Fighting in prayer**

-for this family of five that has come back to the fold.  
-for Doña Esther's family to turn their eyes on Jesus. Christmas will be extremely difficult.  
-for the grandson who was in drug rehab; that he would not forget God's great mercy to him.

Thank you so much for fighting with us in prayer and for your gracious gifts toward our support.

*-For Jesus and His kingdom,  
Todd and Barb Schierkolk*



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