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**To:** info@niemons.org  
**Subject:** Mark & Gina Morris--Summer Ministry Update

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**"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17**

At a recent men's breakfast I was reminded of how important it is to surround myself with brothers in the Lord. The speaker was teaching on Proverbs 27:17 and had one of the men hold a dead-lift bar by himself. No big deal! But then the speaker started adding more weights to it, each one representing things that hit us in life, like health issues, financial problems, grief, etc. After so many weights were added the man dropped everything because it got too heavy. The speaker reminded us that this is the way life is when we try to carry everything on our own. Then he had several other men come up and hold the bar with weights together, AND added even more. Even though there was a lot more weight, when the men worked together, it was no big deal. The speaker reminded us we were never meant to do life on our own; that we're part of God's family and need to encourage one another to keep up the good fight God has called us to. Sometimes we're the ones doing the sharpening. Other times

we need to be sharpened! We're thankful we've had many opportunities this spring and summer to sharpen and be sharpened!

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We've been blessed to have five ministry teams here this summer, most of them working with our little Navajo church in Mariano Lake. These teams built a pavilion for them, led VBS's and Bible studies, ministered to the community and did other various work projects. During our last ministry team we had 12 kids and 4 adults baptized. Pray for each person, whether they heard the Gospel through VBS, Bible study, or the testimonies of those baptized, to grow in the Lord and to seek HIM first, daily.

As Chaplain I've been walking through a critical incident with a young officer who was attacked by two men while out on a call. He was beat-up badly and ended up in the hospital. Thankfully, even though they got ahold of his taser, the two weren't able to get his duty weapon. We're grateful the Lord spared his life and that he's showing signs of recovery--mentally and physically.

As victim advocate I get to help a lot of families going through terrible times in their lives. Some days it can be hard to "keep your chin up". But then there are days when you help a family and they are so appreciative it makes it all worth while. The first picture below is a drawing from the grand daughter of one of my clients that was happy I was helping her grandpa. I have it hanging in my office to remind me that, yes, I'm doing it for them, but more importantly, I'm doing this for the Lord.

We praise the Lord for the safe arrival of little Patience at the end of May! We praise HIM also for providing so we could be there for Kristin and Efrain. Unfortunately she had her own timing and arrived twelve hours after I had to head back. Gina stayed for a couple weeks to help out, and then Melissa flew back with her for a visit and to celebrate Paul's birthday with us. While she was here she finished her advanced diving certification and we met Rachel and her family in Dalhart, TX so she could finally meet Hannah, our

second grand daughter.

Gina's biggest ministry blessing this summer was helping out with a youth event in Albuquerque. She had a great time meeting new friends, serving for the three days and was encouraged to see the energy and excitement of the 1,230 teens and pre-teens waiting to get in to the auditorium every day. On the last day the kids were challenged to not just believe Jesus is the Son of God, but to commit their lives to Christ; 146 kids went forward! Several others were baptized, including two of the leaders/new friends that Gina served with! Pray for these kids and the churches that are discipling them so they can continue growing as they mature in HIM.

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## Prayer Requests:

Just as the summer began we found a water leak between two of the houses. Mark has dug down more than three feet and still can't seem to find the leak. Pray that the property owner would call someone to take care of it since it's beyond our scope of expertise.

Pray for Louise. She fell a few months back and recently had shoulder surgery.

Pray for us to continually seek the LORD first, in all things, and that we would serve HIM with gladness.

Pray for our kids to serve the Lord, to make wise choices, and for the Lord's hand of protection over them.

Praise:

The Lord has connected us with a great small group!

We already have two groups planning to return for 2026!

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