

# THE CHILI PEPPER

HOT NEWS FROM LOS DOMOS, MEXICO

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## What it's Like to do Ministry Without Internet

Walden's Puddle | October 18th, 2022

We live in the woods, up in the mountains, on a lake. It is no mystery who created the beauty that constantly envelopes us. God did. It is no question to ponder as to who made me, mind, body and soul. God did. It is less of a wonder as to what my purpose is in this world... to do the Enoch thing. That is, to walk with God. Like the first couple did in the garden without weeds.

We didn't need to leave our rich country to go live away from people next to the water to contemplate. We needed to follow and obey. In turn we have received the privilege to be a part of another people with a foreign language and a unique culture expressed through traditions, foods, and mannerisms. The worldview is different. The expectations are elusive. The laws and bureaucracies are beyond questioning (because there are no useful answers). But nonetheless, we assimilate and with pleasure. We drive the unattended pothole-laden dirt roads. We attend the gatherings (festive and worshipful). We drink the water.

So when June 11 came and our internet connection to the rest of the world left, it didn't matter too much. We still had people. And for four months and one day without the www, we still had lots of work. Karen had been working through the arduous process of putting her life in writing. A life that has been constantly washed in Scripture. A life that gleaned the best from sermons and filled notebooks with thoughts and considerations from devotional materials. The experiences of trusting God in season and out had been culled to a working manuscript that reflects a life that has attempted to know God. I, too, had my penance as I turned out the light in my office and went back outside to improve the camp facility and the 12+ acres around it. But as is my design, I got more ideas about how to make camp better; better program, better promotion, better facilities. So though I couldn't watch youtube flicks of others making their youth camps improvements or blabber on social media about my hourly progress toward the perfect camp, I was in all other manners, content to just work, and think, and reflect as I improved a cabin or

two or three in our woods.

Disclaimer: I wasn't totally without a communications link. I used my cell phone and a signal so weak that for days on end not even a text message would send. I got exercise walking up to the one square meter location on the upper volleyball court where cell phone connection could be made. What would take seconds in an office took tens of minutes between the boundary lines of the playing field. It was like the contrast between using a microwave verses having to build a fire, wait for the coals, go out and slaughter the cow, do the butcher's cutting and slicing, come back into the kitchen and then cook the meal. Everyday there are people who do one or the other of these approaches to eating. From my puddle, the reflection is muddled by my bias to technology, but so what? Life goes on and Christ is coming back. **I am slave to daily circumstances but not to ultimate outcomes.** That is the promise to those who are His.

As to news? It is as you would expect. We did camp. Kids came. The miracle of changed life that may stay changed may have happened here (more than a few times) but those stories will be written in their journals and pondered upon by them for years to come. As I look back at my "Life" (daily planner-paper format), I can also share that ... I am working with yet another local church to train them so they can use camp as a tool for their discipling process. Camp Duffel did a few events closer to the equator in Columbia. And, next month, three of us will be at the Christian Camping International Mexico national conference each presenting a workshop or two.

Inconvenience reminds us of what is important. Pray for patience and see how you too can be gifted by lack, disruption, and annoyances. Be blessed.

David  
Founder and Executive Director  
Camps International



## What a Praying Person Does Without Internet

Karen's Font | October 18th, 2022

As a mother and grandmother separated from her children for long periods at a time, I sighed when the internet went out. I have been here before. When we came to scout out Los Domos, our family camped overnight here to get a feel for it. It was then that I saw the years of work ahead. Literally and figuratively I cried out to God asking for mercy, begging him not to ask me to obey him in this manner of living in the woods. I didn't want to build a campsite here from scratch. The loneliness, the isolation, the hardship, the inconveniences of no electricity and no water and no bathroom and no bed to sleep on loomed out in front of me. I knew what I was going to have to suffer if David wanted this piece of property.

David on the other hand was ecstatic. He saw a piece of land that had lots of potential. We did buy this land with David already seeing the functioning camp in his head. He continues to have ideas and creates more work for us than we will ever be able to finish in our lifetime.

So if you wonder what life without internet looks like for an older couple, then you apparently don't know who David is. He is an inventor, creator of camp activities and equipper of a facility working towards a goal of providing a facility for hundreds. This is a daily grind to make ministry work and facilitate the ministry to work better, smoother and reach more people. David just finished writing and creating a readers theater drama based on Proverbs 1:7-19 (Listening to the Right Voices) for the youth to put on at a church. What we design here in facility and program then is offered to camps and pastors all over the country and beyond.

Keeping up with David has always been a challenge. His ideas create lots of work. Before I finish one, I am confronted by another. Yet, David has been my biggest fan, encouraging me to write my own story. I haven't felt like I have the ability to do it but he continues to push me to try. As I struggle with expressing myself in writing, I learn. I learn about writing, yes, but mostly I am learning more about God and what he is wanting me to grasp. My roommate in college had to edit and help rewrite all of my English papers. Through grit and stick-to-itness, I am overcoming a multitude of weaknesses. Relying on God and being willing to work hard have been very useful gifts given to us from our heavenly Father that helps us to survive here at Los Domos.

We will continue to pursue doing camps in other parts of the world, in Mexico and locally at Los Domos. As our influence increases we will continue to seek better ways to train and encourage the local church. Our end objective is to facilitate others to do the ministry; helping the pastor to equip and disciple his flock and the camp counselor/guide to become a vital worker in the local church. David is an educator and that heart shows up in many of the things he does. I am wired as an intercessor, and it is much lived out in praying for my visionary husband. So when internet went out, I took that as my responsibility to intercede for an answer to our dilemma. David had four plans in play to get internet here and they continued to fail. But that wasn't the option we were looking for. At one point, eight people were involved in finding solutions. That sums up our work in a nutshell: work, encounter setbacks, pray, receive, work... **So the next time you don't hear from us, remember to pray.**

Obstacles continue to try to stop us from doing kingdom work but because of prayer, God continues to help us find our way around those obstacles or over them. God has never left us stranded or failed to help us in our time of need.

May you find God in your hour of need whatever that may be. For our God is a God who supplies our needs. To God be the glory.

Karen  
Wife/Mother, Intercessor, Camp Advocate



## **We have Internet.**

After a series of failures and local providers not able to service our location, we now have Internet via satellite uplink. This dedicated and reliable connection comes with its own dedicated



cost.

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