

TELL US HOW YOU CAME TO CHRIST

Early in our married life, my wife became a follower of Christ and wanted me to attend church with her. I attended for three years just to please my wife, although I still didn't believe there was a God and had many doubts. One day I said to God that I was tired of not believing in Him. It was then, I decided to ask for a sign. What happened next changed my life forever...

When my daughter was around three years old she drowned in a swimming pool. We rushed her to the local hospital where she was pronounced dead. We took her to another hospital, where they also confirmed she was dead and started to prepare her for the morgue. My wife and I were devastated. I made a pact with God in that hospital that I would serve him every day of my life if he would resurrect my daughter. Within 15 minutes of this prayer, after being dead for more than three hours, she came back to consciousness... but remained in a coma. We were told that she could be severely mentally handicapped. She had lost too much time without oxygen to her brain. But God provided another miracle...

Fifteen hours later, my daughter left the hospital as if nothing had happened. Thus began my call to serve God. After that experience, I became a *true* believer of Jesus Christ.

BEFORE BECOMING A PASTOR, HOW DID YOU KNOW GOD CALLED YOU TO BE IN MINISTRY?

During my journey as a Christian, I still had doubts. Not about God's existence, but about contradictions in the Bible based on my own interpretation. After continually asking questions of my pastor, he suggested I take three years of studies in Pastoral Theology that would allow me to find answers for many of my doubts. I never imagined how important those courses would be for my future. God always surprises us with the plans He has for our lives. After I finished my courses, God placed in my heart the need to share what I had learned with others.

WHAT TYPE OF MINISTRY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AND WHAT PEOPLE DO YOU WORK AMONG?

Over the next few years, working part-time to support ourselves and preaching at various churches, my wife and I felt God calling us to start a new church to share the Gospel with those in our neighbourhood. Together with 20 adults, 12 of whom became believers, we began a church plant in the city of Mérida, Yucatán with the help of local pastors. We ministered to the people of the Yucatán through mission work in various pueblos, establishing churches and training pastors to meet the needs of those living in spiritual darkness.

This was not an easy task with both spiritual and physical poverty looming over these pueblos. For those living in these poor communities there is a daily struggle to make a living, feed their families, and provide opportunities for a good education. Most don't have the resources to keep their children in school, or provide daily necessities to raise healthy children. The outlook is bleak, with alcohol, drugs and suicide being the only option for many youth. And because of long-held cultural and religious beliefs that offer no hope for a better future, the youth become depressed and turn to suicide as the only option to escape reality. Currently, the state of Yucatán holds the highest suicide rate nationally – with 5 out of every 10 suicides being youth between the ages of 15 and 29.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH?

To extend the Kingdom of God into every state, town, or city of the Yucatán. We would like to reach those who have not heard by establishing a church or mission in each city and town in the region, in the name of the Lord Jesus. The only truth we want to teach is the word of God, which is pure and complete.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS FOR YOUR MINISTRY?

Our goal for our church ministry is to grow a congregation of believers who will:

- ⇒ Feed the homeless.
- ⇒ Love the orphans.
- ⇒ Care for lonely and abandoned seniors.
- ⇒ Disciple the youth to walk away from suicide.
- ⇒ Develop healthy families, God's way.

We would like our church to be filled with classrooms for our Sunday school, as well as a place to receive missionaries who want to work on-site. We have local people who want to come work, but they don't have the resources to do so, nor transportation to get here. Luke 10: 2 says, "He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord...to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

We believe God has given us the opportunity to plant and harvest in these times of confusion. By bringing his Word we are not only bringing safety and comfort, but also salvation through Jesus Christ. We seize this opportunity and do not regret going forward to accomplish our dreams to help build the Kingdom of Christ.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT NEEDS OF YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR CHURCH?

Currently, we don't have financial support from our church members. As in all churches, we have ministerial expenses. My wife and I have personal needs for food, clothing, and medicine. We do not have a personal health care plan for my wife and I. Our church is of lower-middle class, and there are not many attending yet to help support the financial needs of the church, nor to pay a wage for a pastor. The church has a monthly income of approximately \$2,800-\$3,200 pesos (\$200.00-\$250 CDN), which is not sufficient to cover all expenses. Our church now meets weekly for services on Sunday on our donated land using plastic folding chairs and tarps to keep the heat of the sun off.

Materially, we are in need of clothes, New Testaments in Spanish, donations for meals for the seniors home and for the people of H'oran Hospital where we serve. As well, offerings, or whatever God puts in the heart of every brother and friend committed to the Lord who desires to provide physical or financial help for our ministry.

We also need projection equipment to bring the Jesus film in DVD in the Maya language. This will help establish missions in the villages that films are shown and support pastors of Christian churches, aiding them in spreading the Gospel to those in their region. We also hope and pray that God will send us missionaries to extend his Kingdom in the Yucatán.

HOW CAN OTHERS HELP?

Primarily, prayer – that our dream of building the sanctuary becomes a reality. Our desire is to give all glory to Jesus in everything we do, because the reward comes from Jesus, not man. (Matthew 6: 1-4).

We are excited that together we will create the next generation of global missionaries ... in Mexico and in Canada! Side by side, shoulder to shoulder we will serve the physically and spiritually poor, together strengthening the Kingdom for God's glory. I pray that you will decide to come along with us, support us, and pray for us so that God's holy name will be known to all nations. The doors of our church are open to anyone who wants to participate in the work of our Lord Jesus. I invite all who want to live that experience to come win souls for Jesus in our city. *Through helping us, you are helping others.*

We appreciate everything you do for the body of Christ and for all those in need in the love of the Lord. It says in 2 Timothy 4: 8, “Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

Trusting in Jesus,

Michael and Alicia Lechuga

Philippians 4:12: “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” AMEN.