

### TELL US HOW YOU CAME TO CHRIST.

In 1979, just after finishing my university studies in Progreso, Yucatán, I started my first job working in construction. While working together with the mason who helped me get my job, I found out he was a believer and had been praying for me for weeks, even though he didn't know who I was. He continued to pray for me each day as we built houses. After three invitations from him, I went with him to church. During the worship time, God touched my heart and I went forward to accept Christ as my Savior. Up until that point I had been living a hard life of drugs, alcohol, and all that comes with that life. I came from a broken home with an absent father and a hard-working mother who did various jobs to provide for her children and given them the opportunity to attend university. After deciding to follow Christ, I was very thankful to God for saving my life.

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

After working in Progreso in construction, I moved to Cancun to work. While there I searched for a church to grow my faith. However, at that time there were not many evangelical churches and I became very confused after attending a few congregations with various teachings. So, I asked God to reveal His truth to me through reading his Word daily and praying. Later after getting baptized I was praying and God spoke to me, showing me that I was “crucified with Christ” and no longer needed to live in the past (Galatians 2:20). From that time until now I have not stopped preaching and teaching the Gospel.

First, I started preaching on the streets; then in parks, markets, and prisons trying to help the poor have a better life through Christ. Later, I helped construct an orphanage, and for two years my wife and I attended to the needs of orphaned children. From there God gave me the opportunity to earn a living by distributing Biblical resources to churches in various communities, so that I could continue to teach the Gospel message, planting churches throughout the Yucatán.

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

I am a minister of the National Council of the Assemblies of God directing the evangelism project, establishing evangelical churches in the Yucatán. Our strategy is to have weekly prayer vigils for these churches and missions. Currently, I am working on establishing a church in each municipality of Hunucmá.

### WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH?

My vision is to establish churches of people who study the Bible and are committed to preaching the Gospel. Additionally, that every person would understand Christ's message and know how to live a Christian life through committing to daily prayer and seeking God's guidance; reading Scripture daily; and listening for God to speak to them, so they can in turn share Christ with others.

### WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR YOUR MINISTRY?

To live 100 percent according to the will of God. And as Galatians 2:20 says, *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (NIV).”*

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

For my family – spiritual strength. For the church, there are many needs. Some of the needs are as follows:

- ✓ Teachers for children's classes.
- ✓ Prayer for those living in spiritual darkness – that they will realize their need for Christ.
- ✓ Financial help to purchase supplies for potlucks and children's activities.
- ✓ Financial support for the implementation of a family Movie and Dinner program.
- ✓ Financial support and labour for the completion of our church in Hunucmá.

## HOW CAN OTHERS HELP?

Pray, pray, and continue to pray for this ministry.

Sincerely,

Pastor Ricardo Villanueva