

TELL US HOW YOU CAME TO CHRIST.

In 1984, when I was 17, I became a follower of Christ at a Bible camp for youth. My childhood friend had invited me to go with him to camp. At that time, I was a drug dealer and part of a gang.

Ever since I was young, I suffered because of people in my life who hurt me. I grew up without knowing my biological father, and I hated my mother because she had many men in her life. Not having a caring father in my life contributed to growing up alone in the streets – a hurting young man full of anger. But thanks to God I went to this camp and heard, for the first time, the message of God's love from a missionary who shared John 3:16 with me. He explained that Christ loved me and died for my sins, offering forgiveness and a new life in Christ so that I could have eternal life with him. So, on July 31, 1984, when I accepted Christ into my life, my life was forever changed.

In the following months, the missionary disciplined me daily by teaching me from the Word of God and becoming my spiritual father. The hate left my heart and the love and passion for others grew – resulting in a desire to share the Gospel message with others.

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

The missionary taught me to preach God's Word in the streets, to evangelize, and to disciple other young people who needed Christ. Often he would leave me alone in the streets and parks to preach. Later he asked me if I would be willing to go to seminary to learn more. So in 1985 I left for Argentina to study in a Bible School, returning to Mexico in 1990. During those five years I learned many new things about God and his work among his people.

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

My main ministry is to preach the Gospel and disciple others through camps for children, youth, and families – focusing mainly in the poorest, rural Mayan communities. Also, my passion is to train these youth and families to live a life serving Christ and others. As well, to send them into the world to share the Gospel and disciple new believers. Currently, many have become pastors and missionaries.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH?

God has given us a vision to see many come to know Christ and to dedicate their lives in service for the glory of God. As well, to be a blessing to others.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR YOUR MINISTRY?

- ⇒ To offer annual camps during holiday times.
- ⇒ That the camp will be a centre for the transformation of lives (through discipleship and teaching).
- ⇒ To run a vocational or community center for evangelism. Offering free computer, carpentry, or baking courses; as well, athletic training (football, swimming, etc.).
- ⇒ To have a recreational/teaching farm for primary schools when they come visit, and to hear God's Word.
- ⇒ Have funds to pay workers who look after the camp; we currently have one family living at the camp.

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

- ⇒ At present, we need our personal support level to reach 100%. There are times when I need to work at a regular job to support my family. We have two sons in university, and a daughter still in high school.
- ⇒ And the camp work is growing every day. We don't have sufficient funds to provide for ministry expenses, such as vehicle maintenance, gasoline, and other costs of running a camp ministry.

HOW CAN OTHERS HELP?

- ⇒ Pray for wisdom and strength – it is not easy.
- ⇒ Pray for my wife and children, health, and protection.
- ⇒ Funds for Camp John 3:16 construction.
- ⇒ Funds to support evangelistic outreaches.

We also thank God for last year – 2015, and for the start of this new year, 2016. God has been good and heard the prayers of all of you, helping us move ahead with camp construction. We have built a multi-purpose building and a multi- sports court. As well, we are currently building five dormitories, with plans to build a kitchen.

We believe that 2016 will be the year we can start using the camp facilities. Our most ambitious project that needs funding is for a swimming pool. It is very hot and humid, and a necessity for the campers to stay cool.

So far we have raised 35% of the costs and some have made a promise to help. We are confident that God will provide the needed funds to complete all the projects, with help from faithful supporters.

Sincerely,

Pastor Gama Canul and family.