

### ***The Gonzales Family***



This is a picture of the Gonzales family. From left to right is Benjamin (father) Rasalba (mother), Lapita (daughter), Juan Carlos (son), and Candy (younger daughter) standing in front of her father. They live in the village of Cheke' in Sonora, Mexico where they were residing when we began raising up a church fellowship several years ago.

During these years, the entire Gonzales family has come to know a personal saving grace in Christ. The mother, Rasalba, was the first to receive the Lord in her heart during our initial evangelical crusade in the village area. Soon after she was baptised in water and was the first village believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Since that time, she has become an exceptional prayer warrior and a leader in the church intercessory prayer fellowship. Her husband, Benjamin, accepted the Lord into his heart shortly after Rasalba, being freed from a past of alcoholic addiction. I will never forget the privilege of water baptizing this precious brother. I have never experienced in my nearly sixty yrs. in the Lord a more spiritually dramatic occasion. This precious brother was so sincerely anxious from his heart to declare his decision for 'Christ' that when it was his turn to be baptised, he literally jumped into the baptismal tank and was headed down into the water. We were barely able to hold him to acknowledge his testimony as a believer before letting him plunge into the water to bear witness of his 'Faith'. What a precious moment it was when he arose from the water with tears flowing in expression of joy and thankfulness confirming his new life in the 'Spirit of Christ'. Oh! That we might witness more genuine conversions of the heart that I saw in this brother on that day! Soon after this baptismal event, brother Benjamin became a faithful member of the village fellowship serving as a church deacon helping those in need and supervising the maintenance and care of the church facilities and property. The older daughter, Lapita, participated in our children's and teen ministries in her younger years, and now as a faithful believer at age seventeen, serves as a children's Bible class leader and assists Pastor Maria Porchas in assembly gatherings and some administrative tasks. Her brother, Juan Carlos, also participated in children's ministries as a young boy and later received the Lord in his mid-teens in a powerful move of the Holy Spirit upon his life. After his water baptism, he immediately began a more intense study of God's Word under Pastor Maria's instruction. Since that time, he has helped in the leadership of children and teen ministries, and at the age of twenty-one, is now assisting Pastor Maria in the leadership and instruction of Sunday and mid-week church assemblies. One could say that he is a young man in training demonstrating the spiritual calling of a pastor whose heart is open to the empowering of the 'Holy Spirit'. The younger daughter, Candy, loves Jesus and participates in children's ministries. Her story is yet to be told.

The Gonzales family is a wonderful example of how God in His faithfulness has reached out in 'His Love' with the saving, transforming life of Christ for a neglected and forgotten people. There are many villages like Cheke' in the regional areas of Sonora, Mx. which need to be 'Evangelized with the Gospel'. **James 2:5 "Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who Love Him."** May the Lord's Will be Done! We appreciate your partnership and help.

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