

# MY Journey

SERVING IN BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

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## Ministry Spotlight

It is through these periodic updates that I oftentimes write about the building projects we have undertaken and successfully completed. I've written of changed lives, both Mexican and American, through this ministry. As sustainable and significant as that is, it is the building of relationships that keeps me passionate about what Walk the Talk Missions is doing.

In this issue I would like to highlight Ricardo and Rosa Gutierrez, the pastors of one of the small communities in which we serve. I have been privileged to have known this couple for over 6 years, working alongside them, in wonderment over their profound commitment to the Durango community. Their humble beginnings would belie what they've been able to accomplish in the 8 years they've served there.

Their ministry together began just after they met and married 12 years ago. They felt a calling to be pastors, especially to the children and youth. They also felt an urge to become marriage counselors. After a considerable amount of prayer to confirm this calling and to be shown a place in which to serve, God brought them to El Durango, where they currently live and serve. At that time there were only 12 houses in the entire community. No electricity. No running water. No schools. Just the surrounding farm fields; the very reason families were there- for the work.

Ricardo and Rosa have watched their community grow twenty-fold since and have remained very active in getting close to the families as a result. It has allowed them to see the necessities of daily life and they have been instrumental in bringing about the fulfillment of some of those needs. But their main focus has always been working with the children.

Soon after arriving in Durango, God put it on someone's heart (their words) to help build them a temple and kindergarten. It is there that Rosa continues to care for the youngest of these children to this day. The older kids are

in school from 8am to 3pm but since most of the parents work very long days- 5am to 6 or 7pm- many of these children must fend for themselves, often exposed to all kinds of abuse: physical, verbal and sexual.

After returning from the farm fields each day, Ricardo, along with Rosa spend time tutoring the school-age children in math and science at *El Faro*, the just-built community center. It is through this connection that they have been able to counsel and encourage these kids to continue in their education. In fact, this group of kids consistently show better grades than their peers and parents have reported that their behavior at home is vastly improved. The time spent with these kids also allows them to consistently share Christ. The kids are shown movies with a positive message, taught bible stories and are helped to memorize bible verses. They've even been instrumental in sharing the Word of God through the distribution of flyers at a local hospital.

The Gutierrez's continue to work with the adults as well, especially as marriage mentors. They firmly believe that healthy, happy marriages raise happy and healthy children. They are also tutoring adults so that they may have better jobs. Some of them don't know how to read and write.

Their prayer is that through their efforts that these families will come to know Christ, that the children will value their education, denounce the culture of gangs, drugs and alcohol, and grow up to be leaders in the church who are prepared academically and spiritually. Having both come from Sinaloa, the home of the largest drug-trafficking, money-laundering and organized crime syndicate in the Western Hemisphere, they know what they are up against.

### Current needs:

- They would like to establish a breakfast program for the kids as many go to school hungry. Everything is in place except the funding for the food.
- A vehicle that could transport the junior high kids to school. The school is 3 km from Durango along a road full of people with bad intentions.

If you are interested in investing in the ministry to these children, let me know as I can personally get those resources into the appropriate hands.

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I would like to invite you  
to be a part of  
My Journey...



- Prayerfully consider investing some of your resources into the work of Walk the Talk Missions. Your partnership will allow us to dramatically increase the number of lives we can impact for Christ in our world.
- Understanding fully that many of you may not be in a position to support me monetarily, I also covet your prayer support for this ministry.

**Your tax-deductible donation  
can now be made online  
through:**

<https://hccpeople.infellowship.com>

Sign-in or create account. In the GIVE TO menu, click on Missions/Outreach Support. In the sub-fund menu, click on Walk the Talk Missions.



Pastors Ricardo and Rosa

Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself. -Luke 10:27

## Changing Lives, 1 Home at a Time

I was fortunate to be in Ensenada the same time as a good friend who invited me out to build with his team. As it turned out, 1 of the 2 builds was in Durango for a family I've known for 2 years!

This team also built another home for a family of 9. Seven of them slept in a small tent. The other 2 in the car out back. Very indicative of the poverty we encounter every day.



"Missionary zeal does not grow out of intellectual beliefs, nor out of theological arguments, but out of love" – **Roland Allen**

## A Place To Call Their Own

We've recently began a partnership with Roberto Niño, an influential pastor in the city of Ensenada and surrounding communities. The Lodge, as depicted below is a dormitory project begun over 7 years ago. It's purpose is to house missionaries as they serve in the Ensenada area.

It is nearing completion but could use our help in finishing it out. I spent a week on electrical, plumbing and drywall. I am hoping to put together a team to finish the work. If you are available in August or September, I could use some tapers, a tile layer, a plumber, a stucco person and some good, all-around handymen/handywomen. If interested, give me a call!



## A New Project: El Zorrillo Soup Kitchen

Located a mere 5 miles south of Durango is the much larger Colonia of El Zorrillo. Meaning *The Skunk* in Spanish, the locals prefer to call their home *Buena Vista*, which means Good View. Not sure how it got its official moniker but it's on all the highway signs!

Perhaps it's the continued marginalization of this community that reflects how the government feels about the poor. It's anyone's guess.

Pastor Jaime Padilla is 1 of 2 pastors we work with there and it has been his dream for some time to build a soup kitchen for his community that will reflect the love of Christ. Currently, they are serving 50-60 kids one meal once per week. They are doing it from a makeshift area adjacent to the small church he pastors there on Sundays.

*Pastor Jaime*



Like most pastors, Jaime is bi-vocational; he just happens to work for YWAM as well. He had a hand in building Phase 1 of *El Faro* in Durango! Our hope is to partner with him to make this dream a reality. Stay tuned for updates of this most worthwhile project.

### Upcoming Outreach

- ◆ Aug/Sep 2015—  
Ensenada dormitory renovation
- ◆ Oct 2015—Ensenada  
Soup Kitchen build
- ◆ Nov 2015—  
Ensenada House build

Thank-you for taking the time to read this update!

In His Almighty Grip,