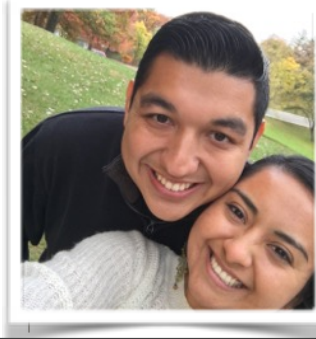


Winter Newsletter

THE GOMEZ FAMILY



VIDEO LINK IN EMAIL...

Check your email for the link!

I hope that you enjoy the video that we made for y'all. Please know that this is only for our supporting congregations and our supporters & Partners. We would ask you not to share our Videos updates on social media. The reason being is that we will be sharing personal struggles and information with you. Especially since we want to make this a regular way of communicating.

NEWSLETTER



Share the love & share what you know...

Wherever we go and whatever we do, we are always sharing God's love and His wisdom. These have been a couple of great months that have gone by! A lot of new faces, and a lot to be done. It seems that there are always new opportunities around the corner. There has been a lot of self-evaluation from the members, and from the leadership. It is scary sometimes to look at our flaws and our weaknesses, but it is always an opportunity to grow. As we look to next year, there are a lot of things we want to accomplish, and change. But we ask for you to pray with us, and for us, so that God can be glorified in what we do for His Kingdom.

We were also blessed to spend a weekend in New Mexico to give a Gospel meeting and talk about what it takes to be a great Church! Talking about the importance of church growth is exciting, and fulfilling. We got to meet a lot of great people, and it was a blessing for us. God has been so great with us, and we are blessed to partner with you to do His work! We love y'all very much, and we hope that this newsletter highlights part of what we are doing on a daily basis!

Praying for the Lost...

We need to ask for you to pray for these people and families. While we know that it's important for us to pray for everyone that we are working with. Sometimes we need to pray for some a little more. That is why some of the names on our list are underlined and with red letters. The devil is always working, and sometimes situations in life want to pull people away from God. Many of the people that we are working with are going through a rough time for different reasons. Please take time to pray for all of the people in this list especially those in red.

Please pray for the people who we are studying/working with...

New:

- **Alejandro & Nicolasa** (Nicolasa fighting cancer)
- Larry Gonzalez
- **Crystal** (pre-marital problems)
- Norma

Continuing:

- Maria & Stephany
- **Pedro Rodriguez** (Please pray for Pedro as he deals with strong family problems. He is super motivated about learning more about God and becoming a Disciple. Please pray that others don't negatively distract his path to seek God)
- **Andres-** Please pray for Andres and his battle towards defeating some addictions.
- Joel & Vero and their son Joey
- Gabriel & Domi and their 5 year old son
- **Ruben Rodas** (Serious Family problems, having a hard time accepting his son was baptized and is changing his life. As you know Edwin was baptized a couple of months ago. Ever since then it has been tearing the family apart, when it all seemed things were going in a good direction. Please pray for Edwin so this does not weaken his faith. Please pray for God to give us wisdom. & **Jessie Calderon**
- Eduardo Estrada
- Emmanuel Barboza
- Victor Shulo
- Rogelio & Ana Barboza and their 2 kids
- Miguel & Diana and their 2 kids
- Trino & Nicole and their baby
- Jose and Juanita and their 2 kids
- Jose-luis and Trinidad Barboza
- **Hernesto and Ana Barboza and their 3 kids** (Ana lost a brother this past Friday, this has been hard for her since it was unexpected.)

Lost Contact:

- Sandra (We were studying with Sandra and then she went with her family to Mexico, and we have not heard from her in a couple of months).
- Roberto (Went to Guatemala)



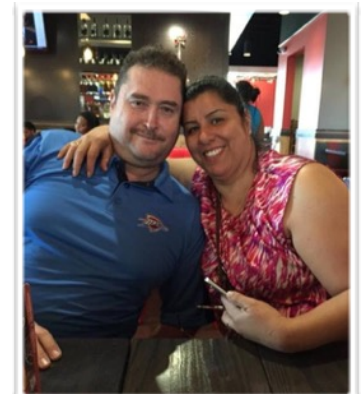
Looking ahead 2016...



Ricardo & Atala Barrera

Elgin, IL

In the congregation in Elgin we want to focus this year on Growth. We will be focusing on 2 areas this year (1st-spiritual growth-to make Mature Disciples & 2nd- Growth in Numbers [evangelism]). We realized that in order to keep on growing we need to have “quality” members/disciples. There is a lot of work to be done in a lot of areas marriages/teens/discipleship/evangelism, etc. A lot of members & families need help to get to a mature level. It is important to have spiritual Adults in the congregation to guide and help the new borns in Christ.



Laurencio & Carmen Esparza

Chicago, IL- grand ave.

We have been doing a lot of evaluation and feeling the congregation out. They have been able to get to know us and we have been able to know them. A change that was made, is that now Wednesday services will be moved to Thursday services. This will allow us to be at Elgin on Wednesday, and be in Chicago on Thursday. We will focus on spiritual development & growth the first half of the year.

Aurora, IL

Aurora will have to be but on pause for now, we will continue working with Elgin & Chicago and evaluate when will be a proper time to start working with the Congregation in Aurora. The reason we are doing this is because a lot more is needed in the Congregation in Chicago.

Prayer Request:

We know that many of you are praying for us, and we are grateful for your prayers. There are many things that we are praying for and also going through. We would love if you could partner with us in prayer on these following things:

- Thanksgiving:
 - For the open hearts and willingness to grow and learn. It is truly a blessing
 - For our supporters and partners in our work! We can't do this without you! **I can't say it enough, we are truly blessed by you!**
- For the people we are studying with and building relationships with (see list above) Especially those that are going through a rough time **(Bold & red names)**.
- For Marriages of the congregation that we are counseling
- Pray for Unity in the congregation as we move forward.
- For God to continue to give us wisdom and patience as we work through some issues/problems that arise.
- For the new series we will start this year.
- For the Congregation in Grand Ave (Downtown Chicago), as we work with Laurencio and Edwin. For the leadership and unity as we move forward.
- For the Cano family as Elida goes through Cancer treatment.
- We would love to hear from you at any time! Call us, text us, or email us!
 - Ivan- (224) 622-7025 - preacherivan@gmail.com

What's coming up Next?

We know that many of you are praying for us, and we are grateful for your prayers. There are many things that we are praying for and also going through. We would love if you could partner with us in prayer on these following things:

- There are a lot of things that are going to be added in the next couple of weeks and months. Since there is a lot going on please pray that everything goes as God plans and that he keeps us safe.
- Develop 72 individual "evangelism plans" for the contacts we received so they can be reached out this fall & winter. **(this will actually start these months Jan & February)**.
- Developing Male Leadership in the Congregation in Chicago, leadership development is vital! We will start meeting once every two weeks. **(Starting January)**
- Continue to work with Marriage couples that are struggling, and also members that are struggling spiritually. Please keep them in your prayers.



The sisters spending time to have prayer.



Barbara hosting some of the young married Sisters to our home, for food & encouragement.



One of the great things about Chicago is that you can have the best of both worlds!



Helping coordinate how we as a church can help a sister who is going through Cancer treatments.



Bear waiting for squirrels or winter...



Bro. Amaya came from Mexico to give us a Seminar in November. It was a great blessing for many of the members!



Fellowshipping with the brothers in New Mexico after a Gospel Meeting



Giving the introduction to our new Sunday evening series "Congregational Growth"



Sunday Worship (Chicago)



Finding ways to meet new people. Dumpster diving anyone?



Barbara will be teaching the children's class for the whole year so that the sisters from Grand Ave can listen to the lesson. This is something that they are truly grateful for.



Having a delicious snack and shakes after Monday Service in Elgin.