

Newsletter

Spring 2016

**The GOMEZ
FAMILY**



DON'T STOP! POWER THROUGH!

GOD GIVES THE STRENGTH!

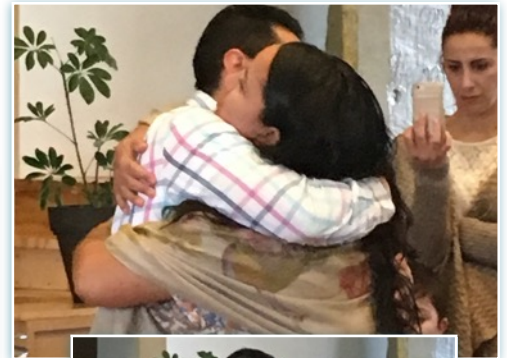
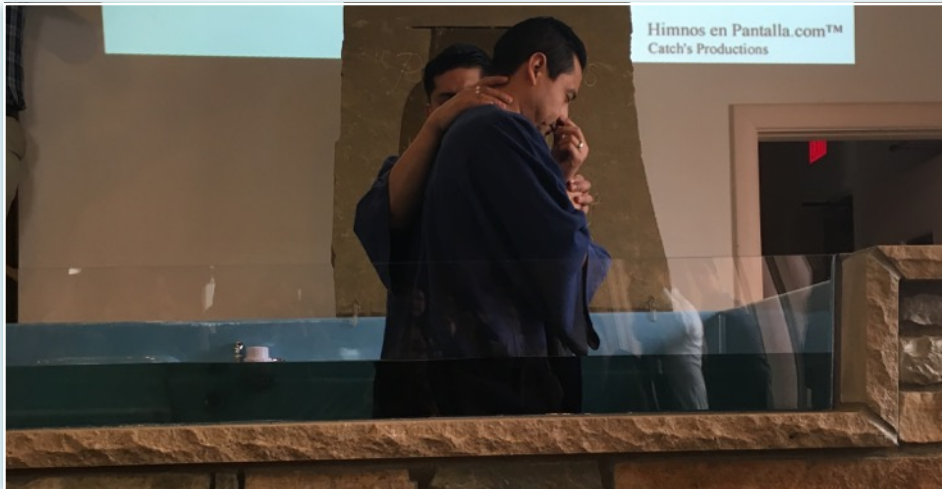
GOD HELPS US THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES!

These have been a rough couple of months! But no matter what, we don't quit and we don't stop! But even though we go through hard times, I look back and see all the great things that have happened these past months, and can only conclude that

GOD IS AT WORK!

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Family!



Here is your new brother Jimmy! It is our job to plant the seed and, God will give fruit at its right time. Jimmy has been someone that we have worked with for years! He is Barbara's brother, and it is a great blessing to see him accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

THE WEEK

I was asked "How do you split your time with the two congregations?". Great Question! Well, it can look different every week, but we are always teaching in Elgin on Wednesday, and in Chicago on Thursday. This is how it looked like last week, and what a typical week would look like.

SUNDAY	MONDAY & TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>AM-Chicago (Sermon & Bible Class) 10am</p> <p>PM- Bible Class Elgin @3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evangelistic Bible Studies - Follow up Bible Studies - Personal Studies - Counseling - Visiting 	<p>AM- Prep & Review for Following Week</p> <p>-----</p> <p>PM- Teach Youth Group/ Bible Class (Elgin) @7</p>	<p>AM- Prep & Review for Following Week</p> <p>-----</p> <p>PM-Teach Bible Class (Chicago/Grand Congregation) @7:30</p>	<p>FAMILY TIME</p>	<p>Evangelism Church Events Youth Events <i>(BOTH LOCATIONS)</i> (There is always something going on every Saturday)</p>

Men's Retreat

In the middle of January, we were able to take the men from the congregation in Elgin to Wisconsin, for a two day men's retreat. There were 16 of us that were able to go. It was a blessing to be able to teach, fellowship and grow closer together. Everyone enjoyed this retreat and we are planning to continue doing this twice or at least once a year. We hope to do this again in September or October. Spiritually minded & Spiritually strong men, are a blessing to their families and to the congregation.



Broken Clavicle

At the end of January, I had an accident and fell on my neck and shoulder and broke my clavicle. I had surgery on the 29th of January. This was frustrating because it sidelined me for a couple of weeks. After surgery, and getting rest, I was able to get back at doing what we love. Little by little I have been getting better and back to normal. I started physical therapy March 17th, and I have a review on my progress April 11th. I want to thank you for your prayers, and understanding during this time. I have been working hard to get back to 100%! On the positive side, it's been a great conversation starter when I get to meet new people.



Working with the lost...

It has been a blessing to be able to meet new people and build a relationship and trust. It fills my heart with joy to see the majority of people that we are working consistent in attending our services and fellowshiping with us, as we work with them. We have also started involving other families with working with our visitors and contacts. It's exciting to see other people starting to take interest and responsibility to make the lost their priority. We have visitors to our home every Sunday & through out the week.



New ministry...

There is a new ministry that we started with the sisters to give a bake good every Sunday to the visitors with bible verse. We are doing this to thank the visitors for coming, and for more of our members to interact with our visitors. Usually the families stand by the door after service, and have a time to talk and interact with the visitors. Every two weeks we have a new family doing it.



Please pray...

For the people we work with

Opening our home...



Sarai and her children were living in her car and homeless shelters. We opened our home to help her find a job and an apartment for her and her children. They really touched our heart. Sarai was able to find a job and found a place to live after 3 days of staying with us. Please continue to pray for her and her children.

- **Sarai and her Children**
- **Sergio & Janet** and their children- a great new family that we have been working with!
- **Margarita-**
- **Angel**
- **Paloma**
- Trino- has gone through some hardships, we have been studying a lot, and it could be a door that opens up for the rest of the Barboza family to come to Christ
- Alejandro & Nicolasa (fighting cancer)
- Larry Gonzalez
- Maria & Stephany
- Pedro Rodriguez
- Joel & Vero and their son Joey
- Gabriel & Domi and their 5 year old son
- Ruben Rodas Jessie Calderon
- Emmanuel Barboza
- Rogelio & Ana Barboza and their 2 kids
- Miguel & Diana and their 2 kids
- Jose and Juanita and their 2 kids
- Jose-luis and Trinidad Barboza
- Hernesto and Ana Barboza and their 3 kids
- Crystal Velazquez

BOLD- New people

Kid's Day & #miniVBS

These have been a couple of great months that have gone by! We have met a lot of new people during Kids day. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we are always sharing God's love and trying to show others the path that leads to Him. We were able to make a lot of new contacts, and were able to spend the whole day talking with the parents, while the kids had their activities. There were a lot of families that our members invited that we had not met before.



Elgin Babies-Helping mothers in need in our area

We collected clothing, and baby items, to share with single mothers in our area. We also had an area where they could come and pray with us for any needs that they had. It was an awesome experience for many of the members, since it was the first time they did something like this. It fills my heart with joy to see the congregation focusing more on outreach with a purpose to bring others to Christ.



— Life Lesson —

As many of you know, my grandma passed away. The saddest thing about it, is that she never gave her life to God. She never accepted Jesus as Lord, she never was washed clean by the waters of baptism.

Even though my Grandma was one of the sweetest ladies you could have ever met. The sad reality is that without Christ there is no rest, without Christ there is no eternal life.

As I saw my grandma take her last breath, I realized that once its over... its over. There is nothing more that i could do.

It has made me more driven and more focused on the goal that God has given us... To show the lost the way and the truth. We only have one life!

If you have a loved one that has not given their life to God, make every effort to share with them the gospel. Because once they are gone, there is nothing more you can do.



God makes it grow!!

It has been a blessing to see what God is doing, at a greater blessing to be part of it! All we can do is plant and water, and God will take care of making it grow at his appointed time. Everything takes time! But God sees the work we are doing **together**, and knows what an important role you take in His plan!

“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.” 1 Cor 3:6



Grand-Winter 2015



Grand-Spring 2016

Car Accident & Re-injury (April 30th)

I was in a heavy car accident on April 30th. Since the seatbelt lays over the clavicle, it re-injured my shoulder and injury. Since there was a slight shift of the screws in my clavicle, and i have had ongoing pain for the las 2 weeks. The doctor is considering removing the screws and plate. Please pray so that everything continues to go well, and i continue to heal!



Upcoming (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 growth God is giving, and how he continues to open doors.
 - For Barb's pregnancy! We pray that all goes well!
 - 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! **We 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)
- For Marriages of the congregation that we are counseling. Strong Families will make a strong Congregation
- 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 Congregation in Grand Ave (Downtown Chicago), as we work with Laurencio and Edwin.
- We would love to hear from you at any time! Call us, text us, or email us!
 - Ivan- (224) 622-7025 - preacherman.ivan@gmail.com

What's coming up Next?

- Summer Evangelism rollout! This summer the major focus will continue to be Evangelism Outreach for Elgin.
- We are continuing to work on Spiritual Maturity in the congregation in Chicago. We feel the difference in the members, and in the direction of the congregation. We are moving forward and it is exciting!
- My wife finishes School the May 17th and begins summer School in June. We will be taking a week to refresh and recharge our batteries! We will be leaving for a week. We will only miss one Sunday. This is something that my wife and I truly need. We both are constantly working hard, and this will be a great time to dedicate quality time to each other. We have a busy summer ahead!
- We will begin our focus on developing Male Leadership in the Congregation in Chicago, leadership development is vital! We will start meeting once every two weeks. **We were going to begin in a couple months back, but due to my accident we will begin in June.**

We prayed & He answered
Baby Gomez
2016

Please pray so that Barb may have a healthy pregnancy!

