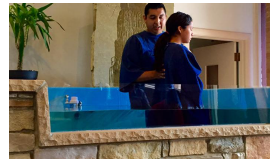


Summer Newsletter

THE GOMEZ FAMILY



WE KEEP ON GROWING
KEEPING THE MAIN THING, THE MAIN THING.

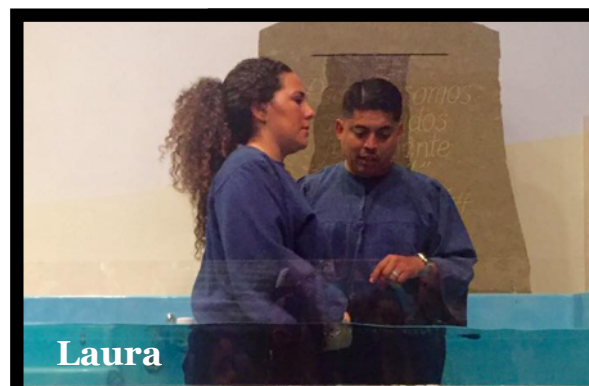


MATADOR @ CHICAGO
WE HAD A GREAT TIME WITH MIKE AND GUY FROM OUR SPONSORING CONGREGATION!



YOUTH GROUP
TEACHING AND EQUIPPING THE YOUTH TO HAVE A MISSIONARY MINDSET!
#GODSMISSION

NEWSLETTER



Laura



Nico



Noelia

Growing the body

These are our four new brothers and sisters in Christ (Laura, Nico, Noelia and Emanuel). Please join us in prayer, as we help and teach them to be strong and faithful disciples.

Please remember that this is the reason we are partnering together. Our mission is to grow the Kingdom and make them true disciples.



Emanuel

Making Disciples

Since there has been a large amount of new converts in the last 4 months, we have decided to do a class for all the new converts every Sunday. Every Sunday after Service, we have a class with all our new converts (12), then we have a fellowship meal together after the class. This has been great to see them fellowship and also grow spiritually. These classes will continue until the end of the year.

Youth Group

We are also taking the Youth Ministry responsibilities in Elgin. We are very excited about working with them again, and are looking forward to teach, and developing different areas in their lives.

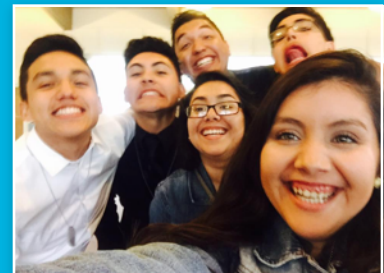
We want to work on:

- Develop strong Christian men and women.
- Teach and Equip them to share the gospel with their friends (A big goal for us =)
- Motivate and equip for them to encourage and bring in others that are "cold spiritually"
- We want to equip them and empower them to take part of different ministries, or even create their own.

There is so much work and opportunity when working with the teens. We are also going to bring in two other families to get integrated in this ministry, and help us.



Youth Rally 2016



We really had a great youth Rally this summer. I was proud to see that a majority of the work was done by the teens themselves.

VBS

We had a great VBS this summer. Our VBS is from Monday-Friday from 7:30am- 3:30pm in July. I enjoyed teaching, and spending time with the kids. But it was a great opportunity for us as a congregation to work together and reach out to friends and family

- **It was a great time to meet new families from our community and make new contacts.**
- We have had 3 of the families continue visit us after our vbs.



Teaching & Preaching

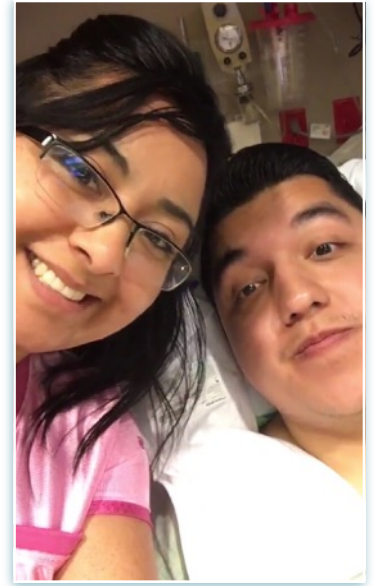
It always brings joy to our heart to see the people we minister grow in many different areas. We continue to work in Elgin and Chicago. I love to work in an area where they are eager to learn and grow, you can see it in their eyes when you teach. We have added a class after 1st service for new converts, it has been great for them.

SUNDAY	MONDAY & TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AM-Chicago or Elgin (Sermon) 10am ----- New Converts Class (After 1st Service) ----- PM- Adult Bible Class Elgin @3 ----- Sunday PM-Fellowship & Devotionals>	AM: - Visiting (visiting homes, phone calls, lunch with member) Prayer Group (Monday @6:30) PM: - Evangelistic Bible Studies - Personal Studies - Counseling	AM- Prep & Review for Following Week ----- PM- Teach Youth Group/ or Adult Class (Elgin) @7 ----- Marriage Counseling after church @ 8:30	AM- Prep & Review for Following Week - Ministry meetings - ----- PM-Teach Bible Class (Chicago/Grand Congregation) @7:30	AM- Prep for weekend ----- PM: FAMILY TIME ONCE A MONTH: MARRIAGE CLASSES WITH CHURCH FAMILIES.	Evangelism Church Events Youth Events (BOTH LOCATIONS) (There is always something going on every Saturday)



Surgery & Recovery

Thank you for all your prayers and concerns during the last 7 months. I had a second surgery on June 30th to remove the plate and screws from my clavicle and to also repair my torn labrum. After another 3 months of therapy i am doing 100%. I was released last week (September 15th). I still don't have all my strength, but that will come back little by little. It has been a challenge to deal with this shoulder for the last 7 months, but im glad that God has taken care of me during this time.



Matador, TX Visits Chicago

It was a blessing for my wife and I to have Mike Crowley and Guy Cambell from our sponsoring congregation visit us in July. They were able to see the area we work in, and talk about the work here in the Chicagoland area. We were able to talk and show them all the great things God is doing in this area, but also talk about the struggles and challenges we have as we work here. We would love to have you! Come and visit us!

- **We were able to show them our old building where the congregation started, and our new building.**
- We walked around the different areas in Chicago, and they were amazed at how big the hispanic community was in Chicago.
- Shared our vision for the both congregations, and the challenges we are currently facing.
- Able to enjoy eating tacos, Chicago Hot dogs, and the famous Chicago deep dish pizza.



Week Family Camp

Every year we have a camp in August (Sunday-Friday). We had about 160 people this year. This is one of my favorite times of the year. Our Family camp is open to all the families of our church, and any family that wants to listen to God's word for a week and spend time in a great uplifting spiritual environment. Many of the members take this opportunity to invite their family members. It is a great opportunity for them to see the Body of Christ for what its supposed to be. We also have other congregations from Mexico, Texas and other parts of the country come take part of this event.

Its always a great atmosphere, and everyone really comes out edified, uplifted, and encouraged. If you ever have a week free in August, come on over!



Outreach

All the glory is always to God, He is the main actor in all that we do. It is amazing to see when God opens doors, and sad when things don't go as planned. But it's not our human preparation that is the key to success, it's always God who is the key. We have to preach and teach, and do what God requires of us, He will do the rest.

- We have gone to Chicago many times with different members to show them the need, and help them have a heart for the lost. It has been great to see them get out of their comfort zone, and reach out to the lost.
- We will focus this next year on equipping the teens to be evangelistic. I truly believe that there is a great opportunity here! They have great potential.



Baby & Barb

We are blessed and excited that we have a baby on the way. Barb has been doing well during the pregnancy, and we can't wait for the baby to arrive. She hasn't had any cravings, but not to worry... I have enough cravings for the both of us! Double cheeseburger, large fries and a shake anyone? =)

Barbara continues to go to school, and she is close to finish. Please keep her and baby in your prayers.



Challenges in our Ministry...

There are many things that are going great in our ministry, many, many things. But there are also many things that we have confronted over the last 3 months that have been a great challenge. It all just seemed to come all at once. Sin is an awful thing to deal with, especially when you love the people you minister to, and you see them struggle and suffer because the consequences of sin. It's also hard to deal with members that have had a loss, or are being affected by afflictions and trials. It's also painful to see people turn their back on God, it breaks your heart to see people run towards their desires, and away from God. I would be lying if I said it doesn't hurt when people you trust and rely on, let you down. Thank you for those that are here to help me during times like these. I need to remember that God is still at work, and that God is with me during these times. This is not me venting, this is me sharing with you part of my struggles. I ask that you please pray for me and my family as we deal with different challenges and struggles.



Prayer Request:

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

- For these following people/families...
 - Edwin, Sergio & Adriana, Hernesto & Ana, Stacy Saenz, Esdras & Leti Claudio, Adrian & Elida, Perdo, Martha Martinez, Evy Martinez, Patty, Trino Barboza, Aurelio, Ester.
- Thanksgiving:
 - For the growth God is giving, and how he continues to open doors.
 - For Barb's pregnancy! We pray that all goes well! Expected due date: January 11th, 2017
 - For the people with open hearts God has placed on our path.
 - 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!**
- 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.



Thank you for supporting this work...

If you partnered with us 7 years ago or 1 year ago, we thank you from the bottom of our heart! Chicago sends you a warm hug and a big thank you! We are in this together, every day... until the end.

Thank you for making it possible for us to serve our God in this place.

Your Missionaries,
Ivan & Barbara Gomez