

In 2005 I ran with my wife Joann, for exercise for the very first time. I thought we were going to run fast. Her



**José & Joann Chicago Marathon 2014**

pace was slow to me, I felt like I was speed walking, not running or jogging at all! I had to keep myself from running ahead of her, because I couldn't keep jogging so

slow. However, she made a comment that grabbed my attention; "I run slower so I can go further for longer." I used to be a speed runner, for about a mile or 2 max. It took me a while to adapt to running at a slower pace, but I have seen the benefits because I do run for longer periods and further. For the past 3 years, we have consistently been running or jogging to stay healthy 3 times a week.

Parallel to running, in ministry, at times I have wanted to run faster rather than to stay exactly where God seems to be leading. God is also showing me to stay at His pace so I can run further and longer. Galatians 5:25 says **"...we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit"**. For example, I have wanted to run ahead to start an orphanage here in Querétaro, México. It has been over 19 years since I felt burdened to care for fatherless children in México! I am trusting God's perfect pace and timing to begin. As of the writing of this letter, the Mexican government has approved the orphanage name—**Hesed Nueva Vida**. Now we are waiting to sign the constitution document to receive approval from the JAPEQ (Junta de Asistencia Privada de Querétaro) to officially "birth" **Hesed Nueva Vida**.

***Please join us in prayer for this approval to happen in God's perfect timing.***

**Hesed Nueva Vida leaders**



While waiting for God's timing for the orphanage, we have had the privilege to pastor one of the New Life Community Church congregations here in Querétaro, México for almost 4 years. Leading the church in the San José el Alto neighborhood has been great preparation to lead an orphanage. This training ground has enabled us to lead; the church, the leadership team, learn to deal with conflict, and criticism and see the weight and great responsibility that goes with leading a church. We are learning how to exercise authority in godly ways. These opportunities to lead have helped Joann and I grow stronger as we learn to work together. Pastoring the church is teaching us to now deal with many things we will face in the future as directors of the orphanage. This training enables us to keep running further and longer once we begin the orphanage or in any area the Lord leads in the future.

Different from shepherding a church in which we visit our church members, as directors of an orphanage we plan to directly be available for the kids. We won't say goodbye each night or go home to our own home. The responsibility for an orphanage will be a different expanded responsibility entrusted to us—with spiritual, physical, and emotional needs. The thought of all this responsibility in leading an orphanage recently overwhelmed me. I felt like I was NOT going to be able to keep leading the church and the future orphanage. I felt like I was drowning. The criticism towards me as a leader and all the responsibilities that go along with being a pastor was too much for me to manage.



## Lord, your will...

As I was battling with these feelings, God divinely brought two pastors to speak into my life. Thank you, Pastor Dwayne Eslick for a timely edifying conversation! I was also impacted by a pastor's sermon on the Lord's prayer. Jesus taught us to pray, **"Your kingdom come, and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."** Matthew 6:10. According to the preacher; God wants His kingdom to come in our lives and around us. We can choose to be part of His will—obey Him or not. Part of God's will is for people to have lives released from Satan's grip of

darkness to be transformed into God's children living in the kingdom of light. **Do I want God's kingdom to reign in me, around me, through me?** With or without me, God will still advance His kingdom. The preacher said, if needed, God could even move me out of the way to advance His kingdom. I remembered how God worked a miracle and brought me from Satan's darkness into God's kingdom of light and adopted me as His son. Just like many times in the past, I decided to continue to allow God to drive my life. I laid down my own will. I handed the Lord the keys to my life and emotions. Then He could control me, rather than allowing the intoxication from this sinful world to control me. **Lord, may your will be done, not mine.** After this, I felt a huge weight lifted off my shoulders. I was able to move forward with what God is calling us to do as a family and church.

## Praise the Lord for answers to prayer for much needed support to help shepherd church members!



**Eduardo & Perla & the Carrillos**

First, amazingly, God brought **Eduardo and Perla** back to Nueva Vida Iglesia (New Life Community Church) in San José el

Alto. This couple has a heart to help married couples at the church. The timing is perfect because we hope to start a marriage Bible study group. This is a huge need as there are many dysfunctional families.

Second, God connected me with **Miguel**, to equip church members to be free from addiction to drugs and alcohol. These addictions are rampant strongholds in



**Miguel teaching at Iglesia Nueva Vida**

our community that are destroying many young and old people. **Miguel** is an older brother in the Lord, who has 20 years of freedom from addiction.

Years in which he has shared God's word in rehabilitation centers. And now he is also sharing with our church too.

Also, Pastor Luis (who leads New Life Community Church Corregidora, Querétaro) connected us with, Natalia, a professional Christian addictions counselor who certifies others to be counselors for addicts. **Linda**, who is one of our church members, is already inspired and hoping to become a certified addictions counselor.



**Linda teaching family members of addicts at Iglesia Nueva Vida**

Through all this, we see God's pace, preparation, and provision in how HE is guiding us to run further and longer to advance the Lord's kingdom. Joann jokes that we run like old turtles! No matter how we run, we hope to give **God the Glory and the Honor** because it is **HE** who prepares us, speaks to us and connects us with people, to advance **HIS kingdom** and do **HIS will**. Lord willing, we hope to say what the Apostle Paul said at the end of running his race of life. He said, **"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."** 2 Timothy 4:7

Your missionaries, running like turtles, serving with



Querétaro, México  
*José & Joann Carrillo*

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*José, Giovanni, Louisa, Joann & Hanna Carrillo  
Easter 2023*