

# MISSION NEWS

*Foundation for His Ministry - Transforming communities in Mexico starting with kids.*



## A Life Changed: Martina's story

My name is Martina Natividad Gomez Sanchez. I am 39 years old. I have been married for 19 years and I have an 18 year old son. I am a teacher in the mission school and love my time with the kids. I have had a good life. It may not have started as I planned it, but I was blessed to have grown up in the children's home in Baja. It changed my life.

I was six months old when my mother, who had been widowed, voluntarily interned me in this beautiful place. For many, growing up in a children's home could be something sad, but for me it was knowing love in all its expressions.

I have many good memories of my childhood in this place: the wonderful people who took care of me, the kids I grew up with, and afternoons playing hide and seek throughout the children's home. I remember bicycle trips to the river and camping on the beach. One activity that I loved to do was to bring the dinner scraps to feed the pigs or collecting eggs from the chickens. I also loved going to help serve food to people of the community and visiting the fields

and camps, helping poor migrant workers who lived in those camps.

It was through music classes offered at the children's home that I met the Bennings. The Bennings have known me since I was a baby. They have been visiting the children's home since the 1980s. After I met them it didn't take very long before they were my sponsors (or tios). As the years have passed, they have become something else. I am like their daughter and they are like my parents. They have had a great influence in my life; we have built a strong relationship.

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## A Life Changed: Martina's story

They helped me realize I could be anything I wanted to be. I have worked in many areas of the children's home, but education and educating has become my passion. I decided to take the next step and go back to school.

In 2018, I started studying at the university, in the Bachelors of Education program. I wanted to prepare myself to be able to teach the next generation. I am specializing in early education, helping little ones for their future.



At present, I am serving in the mission school, in the 5th grade. I am teaching mathematics, Spanish, science, geography, reading comprehension, and most importantly, teaching about Jesus. I will finish

university next year. It has not been easy to combine family, home, school, and university, but I know with God, everything is possible. I know that God has a plan for my life and this is where I believe He is leading me.

Education is vital for the children of this home and I am blessed to be a part of that.



I love working with the kids and I know these are important years in their development. That is why I chose to specialize in the younger students in my studies. I know what growing up in a children's home is like. I have the ability to mold their lives through learning, which I know to be life changing.

Growing up in a children's home is the best thing that could have happened to me. After the loss of my father and the absence of my mother, I was blessed with new, wonderful sponsors, whom I lovingly call my Sunshine and my Cheesecake. These are people who have impacted my life and have taught me by their example of love towards their neighbors and encouraged me to seek God every day.

The sponsors are people who improve the lives of the little ones who live in the children's homes. They are angels. Having someone who cares about you feels good. Receiving motivational letters and being visited by them makes a big difference in the lives of each child. If God puts it in your heart to sponsor a child, do it. Remember that you are a strong example in their life and they will never be the same. Neither will you.

**Martina Natividad Gomez Sanchez**  
*Baja Mission Teacher*

# Christian Renewal Center



Congratulations, Christian Renewal Center for 50 years of ministry to countless numbers of people seeking the Lord's restoration, His presence, His encouragement, His personal word. Well done! You are true partners of God in bringing renewal to His people.

Celebrating 50 years of God's provision and faithfulness, Allan (now deceased) and Eunice Hansen (pictured below) made an impact for Christ in the world and in our lives. In 1987, I was a speaker at Christian Renewal Center (CRC) which was founded and directed by Pastor Allan and Eunice. They knew God had given me a vision for FFHM in 1966 and when I was with them at CRC Allan asked me what part of the vision was yet to be fulfilled.

"*The Bible Institute*," I responded. Christian Renewal Center would make that happen.

Terry Yaraborough from CRC and Keith Durkin, on staff at our Baja Mission, volunteered to help raise funds for the Bible Institute by riding bikes from Silverton, Oregon, to Vicente Guerrero, Baja California, Mexico.

In 1988, we had our first class of students that met in the chapel at the mission in Baja. This class graduated in 1990. Meanwhile we fell air to Chiapayates, property down by the Santo Domingo river. In 1993, classrooms were built and dedicated there by the Lutheran Church in Silverton, Oregon.

Ten days after dedication day torrential rains fell, 17" in 24 hours. The river changed its course. The Bible Institute, a three-bedroom house, dorms, the kitchen, and dining room - everything that had been built was washed into the Pacific Ocean. The students from the Bible Institute who were living in the Baja Peninsula returned to their homes, however, five or six students remained. But that is another story.

**Charla Pereau**  
*Founder*



# FOUNDATION FOR HIS MINISTRY

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**September 2020**

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