

FOUNDATION FOR HIS MINISTRY

Transforming communities starting with kids

THE LORD HAS ANOINTED ME:

PABLO MENDEZ RIOS

OAXACA PRISON MINISTRY

Enrique Perez served with FFHM for many years, bringing the gospel to prisons in Oaxaca. In July 2019, he got sick, and I was asked to take over this area of outreach. This is how I began visiting the prisons. At the time, I was serving in a women's prison, two prisons for men, and a psychiatric ward in another prison.

In the beginning, I met leaders who were already sharing the gospel within the prisons. I supported them by teaching them more about the Bible and giving out Bibles and discipleship materials to the inmates. I continued visiting the prisons and sharing the good news of salvation. In my visits to the psychiatric annex, I met the Director; a Christian named Evelia. She made it very easy for me to share the gospel and carry out activities with the prisoners. This is a very special place for me that God has put on my heart. When I am there, we share time in conversation, play sports, pray together, drink soda, or eat candy — all to show them the love of God.

Due to the pandemic, in March 2020, the government suspended all visits to the prison — from religious groups to families of prisoners.

During this time, we supported them through phone calls, sending Bibles and books, and occasionally sending essential food items or personal hygiene items. This was a hard time for them, and we knew that we needed to continue praying for them.

In the middle of 2021, the government completely closed several prisons in Oaxaca, including one I used to visit. They moved everyone to a new medium-security prison. So, I began to write letters asking for permission to go into this prison and share the gospel.

There were many setbacks. I often went, hoping for a positive answer, but continued to be denied permission. However, one day, I received a call from the Director I knew from before, the Christian named Evelia. She called to inform me that she

continue to next page



[Pictured here]: Hermano Enrique Perez went to be with the Lord in February 2022. He served faithfully for many years, leading the prison ministry in Oaxaca.







would no longer be the Director of the psychiatric annex because she had accepted the role of Assistant Director at the new medium-security prison. This news was God's answer, allowing me to enter this prison. On January 19, 2022, I entered the prison. I began sharing the good news with men hoping to overcome the strongholds of addiction. I have been privileged to do this every Wednesday moving forward.

I thank FFHM for making this prison outreach ministry possible in Oaxaca. We can take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the prisoners so they can find salvation for themselves and share the good news with their families. In this time, God has placed Isaiah 61:1 on my heart, "The Spirit of the Lord God is on me because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to the prisoners."

With gratitude for the opportunity to serve in this area, your brother in Christ,

Pablo Mendez Rios



THE BEST THING IN MY LIFE:

ALFONSO ARANDA

SUPERVISOR. RAFA'S HOUSE



Rafa's House was started for men coming out of rehab centers, prisons, or who have been deported from the US. In many cases, people do not have a place to live when re-entering society. And our purpose is this – when the men leave those places, they will have a place where they can establish their lives. The point of Rafa's House is for them to be reintegrated into society and have a new way of living in the outside world. Because when someone leaves a rehab center or even a prison, it is very easy to slip into their past life. And their past is filled with friends and places where they drink and do drugs.

We want to receive men at Rafa's House, providing them with food, shelter, and friendship with other men who know what it is to suffer on the streets. In this way, they become brothers through sharing and studying in the Word. We provide a stable environment where they can work and begin to save their money to have a different life, equipped with the Word of God in their lives. And we have seen this happen. Some men have left Rafa's House and been reestablished in their home

continue to next page

and with their families. That is what we are here to do - to help men find purpose and restoration in their lives.

My dream is that Rafa's House would be complete – that it would always be full of men. When we say the place is full, we are talking about transforming communities. We are helping to change society. Before, people brought harm, but now they walk in the paths of the Lord and aren't doing the same things as before. Before, they were destroying families, but today, they are recuperating families. I want to finish construction so that the place would have space for 16 to 20 men. Which means we would have two stories. This is my desire – that the place grows so it can help this world change.

Rafa's House has made me grow. It made me mature. I see the hearts and the needs of these men. I see the fragility of being a human being the same as me. And I see the shame brought into their lives because of sin. And this all moves me. Why? Because they are people

who are suffering. They are people I can identify with as I have also suffered. I was also rejected. Because I also had a dream. Because I also wanted to be someone in this life. And to see them come this way – destroyed by life or because they didn't have opportunities. That moves me. I want to help them. That is why I ask God to make me wiser to be better with them. And God has helped me little by little. God has been good, and finding God was the best thing in my life. I know it will be the same for them.

The theme of Rafa's House is "give in grace what you have received in grace." What we have received in grace, we are giving to others. This encourages us because we know that we are fulfilling our purpose of helping others. Jesus came to serve, and we try to do the same that He did. We have seen that the people accept Him, and He changes them. This fills me with satisfaction because, in a way, we are following in the steps of the Lord through Rafa's House.



PLAN A TRIP:

God is doing so many incredible things through His Ministry and we want you to experience it! After a long time without visitors, we have been so blessed by their return to each of our missions.

For years, visitors have been such an encouragement to the children and staff at the missions. Through their work, encouragement, and engagement with the youth, there is a vibrance that each group brings. Whether it is your first time or 100th, we would love to share this experience with you.

To inquire about available dates and schedule your visit go to: www.ffhm.org/plan-a-trip



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