

XXIV ANNIVERSARY OF HOUSES OF LIGHT: ABOUT US

January 27-28, 2024 • Pastor Netz Gómez

Psal. 16:6

"The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance."

I. A LITTLE OF OUR HISTORY

- A. After having served at the Apoyo e Integración para La Familia church in Mexico City for 22 years; In 1998 God placed a burden on our hearts when we heard the song *"Light a Light"* to go to a place of darkness and shine in the darkness with the light of the gospel. Two months later, God opened a door for us to move to Los Angeles and after praying and consulting with our pastor and leadership; The whole church sent us to start a church in this region.
- B. We had no idea how it was going to happen, so we came trusting in God. When we arrived here, the first time we attended a service in the city of Sylmar, God gave us a prophetic word through Phoebe Farías in which he told us: **'You are a key piece for the salvation of California.'** It made it difficult to believe that something like this was really from God, however He had a plan that was going to be fulfilled.
- C. After a year and a half, waiting to adapt to this country, the Lord sent a pastor who prophesied to me and said: **'The Lord says: either you start or I will look for someone else.'** With that 'little push' we organized our first marriage seminar and in the year 2,000 by the grace of God we started a small Bible study group in the living room of our house.
- D. **Nothing about the process was easy but we can affirm with complete certainty that God's grace, provision, protection and direction have been very evident during all these years.** A very palpable example of this was what happened in 2005; After a 40-day partial fast while working as an art director at a company in the city of Calabasas, God miraculously opened the door to start the Good News for the Family radio program through which countless families have heard the gospel and They have experienced restoration.
- E. **Another event that significantly marked our church was the opening of the House of Prayer.** From the first day the church was installed in its first location in the city of Reseda we already had prayer meetings in the mornings, until in 2009, with a hunger to learn more about prayer, I reconnected with Benji Núñez and we began to learn more deeply about prayer and the end times.
- F. **Over the years we have learned, mainly from the Bible but also from various ministries, how to develop an effective discipleship process that has allowed us to maintain solid growth.** The Inner Healing Retreats, Affirming Your Steps, Discipleship School as well as the Friendship Groups have been key for each member to mature in Christ.
- G. Also with the purpose of serving the community both inside and outside the church, support ministries such as the **House of Restoration (CR)** and the **Food Bank** were opened; Later, the **Family Counseling Center (CAF)** was inaugurated as well as a Campus of the **World Mission University** to train professionals in the areas of ministry and social work. Additionally, more than a year ago we started **Marketplace Ministry** which is aimed at supporting business men and women so

that their companies prosper with the mentality of the Kingdom of God. In this last year we have also started **housesoflight.network** whose goal is to support pastors by providing them with resources and support for the growth of their churches.

- H. Something that is also worth mentioning is that during these 24 years we have received precious prophetic words from recognized national and international leaders, which confirm what God is doing in Houses of Light and also shape us to fulfill what God has put in place. ahead of us hereafter.

II. OUR DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

Eph. 4:12-13 "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood,[e] to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

- A. Since God's desire is for us all to reach the stature of the fullness of Christ, our discipleship process includes:
1. Reach everyone around us with the gospel through various evangelism events and a dedicated ministry to evangelize on the streets week by week.
 2. Once people accept Christ as Lord and Savior, they are invited to attend an **Inner Healing Retreat** to experience healing and freedom and connect with leadership and others.
 3. Returning from their Retreat, each person continues their growth process by taking the **Affirming Your Steps** course; From there it is encouraged to continue growing in the **School of Discipleship** that includes fundamental aspects regarding our relationship with God, with others and our call as a church.
 4. Those who require even more support to improve their marital or family relationship are referred to the **Family Counseling Center (CAF)** or, if necessary, if they struggle with addictions or character problems, they are recommended to go through the **House of Restoration (CR)** program for a recovery process. long term support.
 5. This entire process occurs while each person is part of a **Friendship Group** in which they are cared for and discipled individually, always promoting a life of prayer and intimacy with Jesus..

III. WHAT DISTINGUISHES HOUSES OF LIGHT

1 Cor. 15:10a "But by the grace of God I am [we are] what I am [we are], and his grace to me [us] was not without effect..." (NVI)

- A. Over the years, only by the grace of God and for His glory, several aspects have defined the character of our church:
1. **We are a church founded on the Holy Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16)**. Each teaching is deeply rooted in the Bible as our highest source of authority.
 2. **We are a Jesus-centered church that welcomes His presence and makes loving Him our highest priority (Matt. 22:37-38)**. We understand that not only as individuals but as a church we are the temple in which God lives and reigns

(Eph. 2:22) and that Jesus called loving God with all our being "*the first and greatest commandment.*"

3. **We are a House of Prayer.** Jesus stated that His desire is for His church to be a house of prayer (Matt. 21:13). Our prayer room is a place of encounter with Jesus that nourishes every aspect of church life so that God's plan is fulfilled in the nations and Israel (Is. 62:6-7).
4. **We are a church that has a focus on the Great Commission to reach everyone with the gospel message (Matt. 28:18-20).** We know that going and making disciples of all nations is the desire of God's heart and that is why we emphasize and support personal evangelism and the missionary movement in different nations.
5. **We are a church that loves and supports the restoration of families (Luke 4:18).** This has been part of our DNA from the beginning and the Holy Spirit has poured out special grace to care for and counsel families and we have seen thousands of them be healed and renewed.
6. **We are a church that welcomes and embraces all who arrive regardless of their social or economic background.** We understand that the second commandment, which is to love our neighbors, is similar in importance to the first (Matt. 22:39).
7. **We are a family that likes to serve and continue learning:** Our entire community is made up of joyful servants who help in everything as is the heart of Jesus and always want to continue learning (Matt. 20:28).
8. **We are a multicultural and multigenerational group:** We feel privileged to welcome people from different nations and socio-economic and racial backgrounds with open arms (Col. 3:10).
9. **We are not a denominational church but we have communion with various evangelical denominations.** We believe in the movement of the Holy Spirit according to what is expressed in the New Testament and more specifically in **1 Cor. 12 and 14** with the various manifestations of the gifts of the Holy Spirit including the gift of prophecy and speaking in tongues. We respect those who differ on this point and we do not promote division or isolation. On the contrary, our heart is to unite with the Body of Christ everywhere to see that God's purposes are carried out on earth before the return of Jesus Christ..

IV. INVITATION

- A. Something that we can notice when observing the history of our church is that God had planned a story that we were completely unaware of and to which he invited and continues to invite us to participate. Many of us, when we said yes, didn't know what was going to happen but we knew we could trust in his immense love and grace.
- B. **This anniversary is simply a celebration for Jesus to thank Him because He has faithfully arrived these 24 years to our church;** during services, ministries, events. He has been here and that is why we have seen the fruits of his precious presence in the midst of our fragility and brokenness. We are sure that if it were not for the fact that He has been supporting everything, this church would no longer exist,

however it is very evident that He has built his house and the gates of hell have not prevailed against it.

- C. **If what has happened is beautiful, how much more will what is coming be if we are faithful to Him and continue answering Yes to His call.** We invite you to continue your growth process together with your family within the church and also to serve; We know that God has put gifts and talents in all of his sons and daughters to build his church and you are a very important part; get active today.

1 Cor. 12:7 "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

Efe. 4:16 "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- A. Share with the members of your Friendship Group what God has done in your life and family through the ministries of Houses of Light
- B. Talk with your brothers and sisters how you are using your gifts to contribute to the building of the church and if you are not already doing so, share how you would like to serve in the church.
- C. Take some time to thank God for what He has done at Houses of Light and to pray for what He has for us in the future including a bigger facility..

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Inner Healing Retreat for Women: February 9 and 10. Men's Retreat: February 23 and 24. Please register at the bookstore or at housesoflight.org
2. Romantic Gala Dinner for Couples: Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. It will be an event for couples to fuel their romance with a candlelight dinner, live music, souvenir photos and precious ministry time. It will be an unforgettable night for both of us. Space is limited, you can register at housesoflight.org or purchase your ticket at the bookstore.
3. You can still sign up for the Affirming Your Steps course and the School of Discipleship! Take advantage of this opportunity, register today at the table outside or at housesoflight.org • First Level: Spanish and English separately. • Second Level: Spanish and English together. • Third Level: Bilingual