



SEEDS ON OUR 15th YEAR SPROUTING FOR 2018

HAS THE CHURCH LOST THE ART OF REPRODUCING ? A SEEDLESS GENERATION ?

Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court." (Psa. 127: 3-5)

For the first time in my life, I saw on my phone a **You Tube** the simple process of how to reproduce any fruit or vegetable from its own seeds. I was **SHOCKED** at the simplicity to see extracting, watering, drying, nurturing in dirt, waiting patiently for growth in utter **amazement**.

God has always been into reproduction. Perhaps our reproduction process has unintentionally fallen on the shoulders of the pastor leaving **NO FRUIT** for the next generation.

ON OUR 15th YEAR

of Bridge The Gap Ministries *"Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to SOW..." (Psa. 126 : 5-6a)*

OUR INVESTMENT SEED IN 2002 HAS TAKEN ROOT !



I met Oscar Lopez in 2002 at the Comprehensive Correctional Complex Center (Diversion Center) with Chaplain Terry Buice where we were both volunteers.

From my first introduction to Oscar, I could sense he had already exercised leadership skills with people at his church and with inmates in our jail, as a volunteer. But the majority of his leadership skills in the prison system were an additional supplement to his construction career for all the years I have known him.

By virtue of the wide arena of the prison system itself, that incorporates thousands of inmates, our connections over the years have been sporadic. But we have spent some valuable moments together sharing his possibilities of full time prison ministry. His church has sensed the same parallel perspective. The biggest hurdle he faced was the barriers of funding his calling if he were to leave his construction career.

Yet, waiting on God's timing was removing those barriers with an ever growing conviction. **The reconstruction of people's eternal lives were by far more valuable than his job, making repairs and reconstruction of temporary homes.**

His faithfulness to the volunteer prison ministry opportunities has seasoned Oscar as preparation to take that step of faith into a fulltime position in prison ministry. We will keep you posted as God launches our new full time court hall chaplain.

OSCAR'S CALLING THROUGH A VISION

One morning while praying at the court house with Bro. David, the Lord gave me an amazing vision. I saw myself between enormous **bronze frame doors**. I was in between with my hands wide open holding back those enormous bronze frame doors. God told me, **"This is the main door of the city of Lawrenceville."** I knew right then that this was a great calling. So he told me, **"Stand up and move forward to perform my perfect will."**

That vision came to life this past month when I was at the lunch meeting of GGRA. That day I received a text from one of my co-workers and he asked me where was I. I sent him a picture of Governor Deal and he replied back, **"Are you holding the doors?"** and laughed.

That immediately reminded me about the vision that the Lord had given me. I replied, **"YES, I am holding the doors of hell so that the doors of heaven stay open."**

Not only that, but a week ago during our morning prayer at church, the Word was Isaiah 61:1-3. There he talks about the calling 17 years ago that he gave to me. In addition to that, the same day my pastor, Roque Barrios, preached about Isaiah 45:1-3. He specially focused on verse 2 where it says, **"I will break down gates of bronze."** and my pastor was not aware of my vision yet. A couple days later, I spoke to him about my vision and later he gave me Matthew 6:33.

PRAYER REQUEST: Our Gwinnett County court hall ministry for 15 years has a solid foundation of integrity. This is now preparing us for open doors into Metro Atlanta court houses. **"Nothing is too hard for God."** **1. Pray** God will call out fulltime chaplains for **Fulton, Cobb, DeKalb, Henry, Hall, Pauline, Rockdale** counties. He has established each county court house with **BRONZE DOORS** to proclaim the God's mercy in the midst of pending judgment. **2. Pray** for the letter I have addressed to **Vice President Pence** requesting a visit to introduce him to the court hall chaplaincy in urgent need across America.

THANK YOU, Bill Lehman, Dan Fuller, Elizabeth Jones, Bob Buckner, Jeannie Mullins, Sharon Johnson, John Thompson, Nick Manis, and Derek Manis for your great assistance serving our Lord in music, and those who supplied food at First Baptist Church Lilburn.

A MUSICALLY HARMONIOUS "RETURNING CITIZEN"

"So, Derek, what was racing through your mind to return back to the very building you spent many incarcerated months?"
"Truthfully, scared. I was facing the same guard that had been so difficult to deal with. But God gave me strength for I was now a free man in Christ to sing and testify of the greatness of a merciful God. I conquered my fears."

Derek Manis with his **"The Singing Cousins"** displayed the Grace of our Lord in beautiful country music harmony January 14 at our Bi-annual Diversion Center meal (work release).

GOOD/BAD news: The Diversion Center population now only fills half the bed capacity plus many inmates have to work on Sunday. **Please pray as we faithfully strengthen the disciples with those who are able to attend along with THESE PRECIOUS NAMES LISTED.**



PRAISE GOD FOR SALVATIONS

Joedy Douglas	Javon Celestan
Irene Handy	Matthew Sanders
Jesse Llenas	Robert Booker
Emanuel Santana	Brian Herbert
Ricardo Arredondo	Kelvin Zheng
Jessica Zheng	