

On the Road with the Lee's

☺ **Passion** ☺ **Power** ☺ **Peace**



CHRISTIAN REFORMED
WORLD
MISSIONS

As the Resurrection Day is coming soon we want to express a Blessed Resurrection Day to your church. We would like to share a moving story of a man named "Armando Francisco" that will give a meaning of why we celebrate the Resurrection Day.

"Risen from Death to Life"



My name is Armando Franco. I was born on November 12, 1976 in Mexico City, Mexico. I am now thirty two years old.

I was born in a humble family, and my father was always traveling. Since he was never home I was very close to my mother. However, in 1985, there was an earthquake, which destroyed large areas of Mexico City. After the earthquake, my younger brother (five years old), and I were trapped between concrete and earth for several hours. I did not know then when I was nine years old trapped in the aftermath of the earthquake that the hand of God was with me at that moment.

When I was sixteen I began to experiment with drugs for curiosity and loneliness. I began with solvents, sniffing paints, or chemicals. As a young man, I had dreams of becoming a Civil Engineer. The drugs slowly destroyed my dreams. Also at the age of sixteen, I had a bad motorcycle accident. My skull was cracked, and my leg and hand was crushed. The doctors were surprised that I could walk and even more surprised that I did not have any breathing problems. Nonetheless, I continued experimenting with drugs and found myself hooked on cocaine and other synthetic drugs.

When I came to Tijuana at twenty years old I started to use Crystal Meth. When I started with Crystal Meth it consumed my life, I lost my dear mother, and the family—wife and child—that God had given me. I was sleeping in the streets and eating out of trash cans. I was despised by society and even by my own family because my addicted and my hardened heart could not leave the drugs.

I heard the gospel ten years ago, but I did not turn my life over to God until I arrived at the "**Forjando Nuevos Destinos**" (**Creating a New Destiny**) **Christian Drug & Alcohol Rehab center** on May 28, 2007. Before this, I had been in **twenty two other rehab centers in Tijuana.**

However, this time my life took a drastic turn. "**It was the Word of God that set me free from drug addiction that none of the other rehab centers had provided.**" I became a child of God, and God has provided me new Christian families like Director Carlos's family and Missionary James' family. Here I began to learn that God loves me, and He has a plan for me. I am studying and learning from the Word of God that my life has a purpose. I

have completely given my life over to the Lord. God has opened doors to preach the gospel and coordinate a drama and worship dancing team to perform at different churches. Even more, one of my biggest dreams is coming true because I am studying in the Reformed Bible Institute to prepare me to testify the Word of God in Tijuana and also other parts of Mexico.



(A picture of a graduation at the rehab center in December 2008)

Now, I am working as one of the leaders at the Rehab Center assisting with administration duties.



I give thanks to Jesus Christ for looking upon me in love and changing my life. God bless you abundantly and richly. Thank you for your prayers.

Thank you for your faithful prayers, encouragements, and financial supports.