



David & Beth Lott



MARCH 2017

ORGANIZATION OF ABUNDANT LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH



Hope deferred maketh the heart sick...

- Proverbs 13:6a

Many have read of **Abundant Life Baptist Church** in our reports, when in reality it has been a mission church. We have had the “hope” of organizing the church “deferred” for many years because of the lack of strong leadership.

On two occasions early on, we thought we had a man that would become the pastor; one man moved to the States, and another man was disqualified due to family issues.

A third man became very faithful and preached for a number of years as the leader, but his wife never really had a heart for the ministry, something that affected both of them in their spiritual lives.

That is the general picture, without boring you with all the details. The mission just didn’t have the leadership that it needed, so we have been holding off on organizing the mission into an autonomous church.

But when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

- Proverbs 13:6b

A few years back, God began showing me that He had another man for the work, instead of the one that had been the leader for so many years. After much prayer, counsel, fasting and seeking God’s will through His Word, it became clear to me that **Bro. Jorge Rosales** was that man.



Almost fifteen years ago, I had the privilege of leading Bro. Jorge to the Lord, while I was still working directly with Abundant Life. According the testimony of his family, Jorge had been a heavy drinker and had a very filthy vocabulary, but God changed all of that! Amen! Unfortunately, within the month, Jorge left for California to work and was gone for almost three years!

G U A T E M A L A

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Even before Jorge got saved, his wife, **Mayte**, had come to church and trusted Christ as her Savior. She, her mother, and Mayte's three small boys became faithful in the church and began to get involved. However, Mayte decided to go to the States with Jorge and leave their boys with "Grandma." In spite of their parents extended absence, grandma kept the boys in church, and all three eventually made professions of faith in the Lord Jesus.

Shortly after Jorge returned to Guatemala, I had the privilege of baptizing him and began to disciple him on a weekly basis. He began to grow in the Lord and told me, *"One day I can see myself up front there, preaching the Word of God, as the pastor of this church... One day!"*



After the parents return and with time, the entire family became actively involved in the ministry: teaching Sunday School, working with the youth, leading singing, etc. During a trip to a Bible conference in Honduras, Jorge surrendered to preach. He still had a lot of growing to do, but God was actively working in his heart and life. Now his three kids have also surrendered to preach and have almost completed their studies in the Bible Institute.



After it became apparent that the other brother was not the man God had for the church, I talked to both men and we began working towards a transition. Over a year ago, I began working with Bro. Jorge in a sort of "advanced discipleship" in preparation for him being ordained as pastor of the church.

At the end of February, our pastor, **Bro. Michael Lewis**; his wife, **Cindy**; and his father, **Bro. Mike Lewis**, came down for the organization of Abundant Life, as well as for the ordination of Bro. Jorge Rosales as the new pastor of the newly organized church.

On Sunday, February 26th, Abundant Life Baptist Church was organized into an autonomous, independent Baptist church.



A total of **thirty-two (32) charter members** signed the church covenant, with a few more that were not in attendance due to illness. We praise the Lord for this "hope" and "desire" that has finally become a reality, both for our ministry as well as for the members of Abundant Life Baptist Church!

After a wonderful lunch to celebrate this historic event (If it's Baptist, there has to be food!), another service was held in the afternoon to ordain Bro. Jorge as the new pastor of the church. Although we had eight ordained preachers participate in the ordination council the week before, several were unable to attend the actual ordination service due to commitments in their own churches that Sunday.



We praise the Lord for the wonderful testimony of now Pastor Jorge Rosales and his family! We look forward with joy and anticipation to see the great things that God will do in and through Bro. Jorge as the newly ordained pastor of this newly organized church.

Rejoice with us for the great things that God has done in Guatemala!