

April 2011

Dear Missions Partner,

We appreciate your continued prayer and partnership in supporting the gospel outreach of Bayou Drive Baptist Church through the ministries of Sal Garcia, Lohen Gonzalez, and Ron Papa. We are a blessed people for having such faithful men as a missions arm of this church.

If you support Sal Garcia and our ministry to Spanish-speaking America, you should have received a personal letter from him explaining his current health condition and recent change in ministry. He has left the San Luis Valley in Colorado to return to Belen, New Mexico where he still owns a home that he purchased while working in his previous field of service. I am writing to clarify his direction of ministry and our involvement in these recent decisions as his home church.

Bro. Sal is suffering with an intense case of shingles that has crippled, in his opinion, his effectiveness in Colorado. We have been praying with him regularly about his very painful condition. Not only has his physical health been a problem, but as you know from reading his letters, the intensely immigrant area has made the establishment of a stable Spanish work very difficult. We rejoice that many have heard the gospel, but few stay long enough to maintain a consistent Spanish church presence.

I believe that the stress of this type of ministry has intensified the physical complications that Bro. Sal is laboring under. So we have agreed that it is in the best interest of the ministry for him to work on recovery. Such a recovery will allow him to continue in a transient area like Alamosa or to move with the needed effort and energy in another direction. Regardless, Bro. Sal has expressed his desire to continue working with the Spanish-speaking in our country.

Several of his supporters have called with questions about his next move. In short, we don't have any answers. Whether his healing and recovery takes several weeks or several months, we believe the Lord will be answering those questions for Bro. Sal as he heals. As his sending church, we are committed to him and his ministry with a long-term objective of supporting his kind of ministry. We have also committed together to keep you, his supporting churches, well informed along this journey as we labor to make every missions dollar most effective in what God's people sacrificed to accomplish. For now, he will be living in Belen, NM where he owns a home, active in a local church, on the missions staff of Bayou Drive Baptist Church, and working to minimize stress to aid in recovery. Knowing that a preacher wants to preach, we would encourage you to use him as the Lord opens those opportunities.

Please keep Mrs. Pat in prayer as well. She is in desperate need of surgery and we will be trying to help her in these days as well. She continues to be Bro. Sal's primary support and partner in ministry and has proven herself faithful to God over their 14 years out of our church.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact me at the church at the number above. Thank you for your faithfulness during this difficult transition.

Because of Him,



Shawn Nichols
Pastor