



“JESUS GAVE ME BACK MY DADDY”

Osiel Avendano was a young boy who lost his father to alcoholism. Oh the father, Oseas, was still alive. In fact he still lived at home. But he was so consumed by his addiction to alcohol he was completely incapable of being a husband, father, protector or provider. As a result Osiel, his mother and his sisters lived in poverty so extreme that *even the poorest people of rural Mexico considered them poor.*



OSIEL AVENDANO

Osiel’s grandfather was a good godly man who loved the Lord and pointed Osiel to Jesus at a young age. So Osiel grew-up knowing that Jesus saves sinners and in HIM found hope for his father. After his grandfather passed away Osiel’s father moved the family to the other side of town, to purposely separate Osiel from his Christian friends and church family. In the years that followed Osiel longed to be part of a church and he prayed that Jesus would soon save his father.

In 2004 a young seminary student named Isaac Guzman, from the G.H. Lacy seminary in Oaxaca, Mexico, started a church close to Osiel’s home and Osiel quickly became a regular attendee. Pastor Guzman was overwhelmed with compassion and love for the boy – and he was grieved by the tragic circumstances in Osiel’s home. So Pastor Guzman and the members of the new church began pouring-out the love of Christ upon the entire family, especially towards Oseas, the father.

The church helped repair and furnish the small rundown shack the family called home. They provided food and clothing. They offered consolation and compassion. But more than that, **they loved them in the Name of Jesus and shared the Good News of the Gospel with Oseas at every opportunity.**

It took almost two years but one day the Holy Spirit broke through Oseas’ alcohol clouded mind, convicted him deep in his heart, and Oseas came to Jesus for the forgiveness of his sins. The transformation in him was abrupt and startling. He was immediately delivered from his alcoholism; he quickly became the husband and father his family needed; and, Oseas became a bold witness for Christ.



OSIEL AND PASTOR ISAAC GUZMAN

over please...



THE AVENDANO “HOME” AND OSIEL’S 3-YEAR-OLD SISTER IN THEIR KITCHEN

Today there's a new church in Osiel's neighborhood. It's a house church that meets in his home – and his father Oseas is the most faithful member. Pastor Guzman comes on Sundays to preach but all throughout the week Oseas himself preaches and evangelizes in the streets. And, perhaps most touching of all, Osiel has his father back. The relationship between father and son has been restored. Osiel expressed it best when he said **“JESUS GAVE ME BACK MY DADDY.”**

That touching story is a wonderful reminder of what Jesus did for us. He makes it possible for us to be restored in our relationship with the Father. In the story above it was the father who had strayed. In our case we are the ones who have wandered away. In both cases it's the love and sacrifice of Jesus that makes the restoration possible.

At Christmas we celebrate the fact that God sent His only Son to earth to bring us back into a right relationship with Him. It's through faith in Christ that our relationship with our Heavenly Father is restored. That's what happened to Oseas Avendano and it's also a story we see repeated over and over in many areas where CERT serves. Lost sinners rescued from the depravity of their sins and restored to a full, rich relationship with their Heavenly Father. That's what Christmas is all about.

It is you, our faithful partners, who continue to make it possible for CERT teams to go to places like Oaxaca, Mexico, so we can partner with servants like Isaac Guzman, and be part of wonderful salvation stories like Oseas Avendano. To God be the Glory!



OSIEL AND HIS DADDY



THE “NEW” HOUSE CHURCH



A FAMILY RESTORED . . . BY THE FATHER