



A.K.A.  
Vida Internacional



P.O. Box 3069  
Humble, TX 77347

Facebook  
**leencarol.short**

Telephone  
**(832) 644-6166**

Web Site  
**www.LSMI.org**

Email  
**DrLeeShort@gmail.com**

**Church Restart  
Hell Cannot Stand**



It began to spread like wildfire here in our west coast region of Mexico. We had only just begun to officially hold Sunday afternoon Church services at our Vida Community Center in Mezcales when Covid first broke out in 2020. The local government mandated the shut down of all schools and churches, followed-by quarantine stay-at-home orders. Essential workers were the only ones allowed to leave their homes. This new congregation never had the sufficient time to build relationships and gel in the community. The result was that this new church plant that met in the garden under the almond trees just fizzled out.

The good news is that Jesus is Lord and our God is in control. His perfect will ultimately will prevail. I went to minister at Pastor Alejandro and Raquel's church and noted that their congregation had dwindled down to just a handful of folks. I felt that they were eventually going to need to relocate and restart. Later, I went to visit their Thursday afternoon Children's program which is located in Jardines del Sol, near our Mezcales Vida Community Center. I was impressed as I witnessed the impact of their program and the strong relational bonds with the parents volunteering in the Children's program. I felt that they should relocate their weekend celebratory meeting to a location from which they could pastor these people. Several months later, Pastor Alejandro came to me and explained that their rent was raised beyond what they could afford. To make matters worse, two strip clubs moved in next door to them, one on each side of their tiny storefront location. They knew it was time to move.

Pastor Alejandro asked if I would consider allowing him to restart the weekend services at our Mezcales Center. I told him that I would be thrilled. I suggested that he host a breakfast for the mothers who volunteer in our Children's program in order to get to know them and discuss with them the vision and plans for this new church and ask for advice on meeting times. This way, he could gain their support in joining in the





Meeting with mothers for church restart.

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restart. They did as I wished and had a wonderful time of fellowship getting to know the moms They had the opportunity to share their vision for restarting church services and the moms gave their input. The moms felt that more of them could participate if the services were held on Saturday afternoon. Additionally, Pastor Alejandro had a "God idea" to rent a small bus and provide transportation the for the families from Jardines del Sol to attend services in the garden under the almond trees at our Mezcales location. We are now averaging 60 in attendance. Jesus said "I will build my church and the gates of Hell cannot stand against it!" Thank you for making this possible!

Together We are Vida Internacional,

*Ju & Carol*

**Prayer challenge:**

Matching funds up to \$16,000 toward NEW construction of Pastor Juan Barrera's Vida Church/Community Center in Puerto Vallarta. We are beginning to clean the lot and purchase the materials, Praise God!

# Church Restart

## Hell Cannot Stand

Mezcales, Mexico



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