



Generations Investing in Leadership

By José Ramirez

As I was growing up, learning was difficult for me, but near the end of my high school education, I felt the need to go to college. My parents suggested I pray and ask God for wisdom and intelligence and trust Him to provide. During a youth retreat, I had an extraordinary encounter with God. Jesus, in His great love, changed my way of thinking, and I prayed more deeply for wisdom and intelligence.

A short time later, my father, a pastor, received a phone call from a woman who had been one of the first Free Methodist missionaries to Paraguay. God had moved her to pray for me, and she sensed God leading her to invest in my university studies. How great is God's love for His children!

I dedicated myself to study accounting and finished university with the highest grades. The missionary woman who invested in my education attended my graduation. I asked how I could repay all she had done for me. Her response was as follows:

- Maintain a holy life before our Lord
- Help organize the administration and finances of the Free Methodist Church
- Help others who want to study but don't have financial resources

Since 2006 I have served the Free Methodist Church in Paraguay as conference treasurer, president of finance, trustee, pastor and more. In 2015 I was ordained and assigned as pastor of the Fernando de la More FM Church. My wife and I are implementing Community Church Planting (CCP) to empower leaders to open houses of peace. We desire to open houses of peace in universities throughout the country.

We began by opening our church as a home for students — particularly those from outside the city who needed a place to live. We are currently hosting Darío, a pastor's son. We are mentoring him, and he is serving with us. But our church's dream is much larger. We desire to house more students who want to study and serve the Lord but need a place to live. We are praying to expand our facilities to accommodate students who will, in turn, apply CCP principles on their university campuses.

I believe the Lord used a faithful servant to invest in my life so that I might invest in others for the glory of God. Join us in praying for the extension of God's kingdom in our community and universities throughout Paraguay.