

Javier and Karla León

LEADERSHIP TRAINING, COACHING AND MENTORING, RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES IN LATIN AMERICA



Javier Leon, a native of Mexico City and his wife Karla, a native of Honduras, have been in ministry since 1989 after Javier graduated from Baxter Institute and Karla graduated from the University of Honduras. They have three adult children, Arodi, Suni, and Keila and a baby granddaughter Emi Salome.

Javier is the director of Avanza Líder, while Karla works as a massage therapist, but they share many opportunities to do ministry together. Javier works in Spanish and English-speaking countries in Latin America and the US. He has worked planting churches and developing leadership for more than 30 years. He is also a trainer for facilitation and conflict resolution. The Leon's were part of the church-planting team that established Siempre Familia in southeast Fort Worth.

Ministry Update

2022 was an amazing year for Avanza Líder. We were able to bless the leadership of 18 different congregations in Venezuela, Colombia, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico, and the United States.

- We have been working with two churches in Oaxaca, Mexico and in Masaya, Nicaragua, to establish their elderships.
- We have been helping churches to create processes to work on raising up a better leadership from within.
- We have trained people in Conflict Resolution for churches.
- We had a group of 16 preachers from Nicaragua at two different long-term classes.
- We facilitated an evaluation of 6 preachers in the north part of Mexico for the Salado Church of Christ Missions group.
- We produced three series of video lessons to be used by small groups in Latin America with great results.
- We started working with Hispanic churches in New Jersey and the Dallas area.
- We have been coaching several preachers from different countries.
- We continued the work with people in their 20's and 30's trying to challenge them to take their place in the Kingdom.

Some of our plans for 2023 are:

- Continue to work with the different churches that God has guided us to.
- To hold the Avanza Líder Conferences in USA and Mexico or Central America.
- Emphasis in the expansion of the 20/30 ministry in Central America.
- Certifications to young adults in Leadership, with the purpose they can help middle-school children with some training in leadership according to their age and needs.
- To create more video lessons for small groups. The goal is to create six series a year of 4 to 5 lessons each to provide churches with Bible lessons for 6 months.
- To help the two churches in Oaxaca, Mexico and Masaya, Nicaragua, to establish their elderships.

Good News Stories



One of the most beautiful moments this year happened during a trip to Oaxaca Mexico. Manuela Sanchez, an amazing missionary partner from Greeley, Colorado, had been asking to go with me on a mission trip for several years and finally it happened. My primary objective on that trip was to work with the three couples that in most probability will be the elders of that congregation. As soon as Manuela heard the purpose of the trip, she told me: I am going. I need to talk to the wives of those men!



Manuela is 88 years old; she has a beautiful heart and a beautiful intimacy with God., Her faith and bible knowledge is amazing. What she was able to accomplish I could never have done by myself. The way she interacted with them brought growth, grace, enthusiasm for the kingdom for those ladies and their husbands. That was GOOD NEWS! To see an elderly lady with that kind of faith and determination for the kingdom was a life changing moment for those ladies. She also had opportunity to minister to all the ladies from that church and other churches in the area.

GOOD NEWS stories come in very different ways!



Jesus David from Venezuela is thirty years old and just got married a few weeks ago. I have been working with him and other people from his congregation in Puerto La Cruz, for a couple years now. I have been investing many hours directly with Jesus David, and he is becoming an amazing young leader.

Recently we had a conversation and he told me with watery eyes, about his passion to do something for the youth of his country. He asked me, "Can I work with you at Avanza Líder? We need to keep doing what you do for other churches here!"

I asked him and Maria if they would like to be the first Avanza Líder Ambassadors for Venezuela and they said Yes!