

Elaine Willis

PANAMA

JANUARY 2023

JUANA ANTONIA GONZALEZ A. WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO MAKE A PROFESSION OF FAITH IN OUR WORK IN 1974 AT AGE 16. Today, she is a missionary in her own right in Chihuahua, Mexico, working with her daughter and son-in-law, Samuel Ruiz, with many years of experience there and is known as a



Ladies' Conference Speaker, but her main work is a children's feeding center, run by faith, where she has attended to more than 4,000 children over the last 12 or 13 years. She is a blessing.

I was able to visit her 93 year old father with my Pastor, Carlos Lara and his wife, Beatriz and daughter, Yaretzi. It was a blessed reunion.

This week is Youth Conference week at the Templo Bautista de Las Lomas. Many young people are involved. Pray for future missionaries, pastors and lay workers to come from this group as others have in years past. We graduated three more in December to make a total of 75 graduates of Chiriqui Baptist Theological Institute, most of which are continuing to serve the Lord and they, in turn, send us more students to train.

My health is good; my movements are stiff due to deterioration of the bone in my spinal column, but I can still function, praise the Lord!!! I still, after 48 years, play lead guitar on Sunday mornings, having surrendered my chair to the next generation in all the other services. That is good, but I miss doing it – it is my “folkloric” place to serve.

Bible institute will open again, for the 2023 year, in March and I am looking forward to teaching again this year the practical courses they allot to me. My deafness has been helped by our eldest son, Larry, who helped me by purchasing two good hearing aids last November. I am so grateful, still learning how to use the app on my phone to adjust them, but they help very much.

I “believe” in one page letters, but I wanted something different this month.

Also, I am trying to learn how to put pictures on my newsletters. I really need to do that.

Thank you for your love and prayers and for giving missionary support to me to keep me here and plugging away. I learned something from Dr. Ben Carson: He prayed, Lord, You be the neurosurgeon, I’ll be the hands. God has worked through him in wonderful ways, as many know and the movie “Gifted Hands” shows. I would like to also pray, Lord, You be the missionary, I will be your instrument. When someone was making too much of something I did, I reminded them, “Look, when there is a good soup, it is not the spoon that gets the glory!” I just want to be well-used “spoon” to serve up the Gospel. God bless each of us!!!

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