

Roberto Martinez Rivera was born in a city called "Gomez Palacio" in the state of Durango, Mexico. When he was little his father took his mother and brothers to live in California (Wilmington) in the 1980s since he has relatives there. There God had mercy on his mother and saved her. Roberto states, "it may be said that I grew up in the gospel."

Some years later his family returned to Durango, and his mother took him and his brothers to church to attend the children's class, Bible school, and participate in small dramas, some special singing for Mother's Day, Christmas, Easter etc. He learned to play the drums at the age of 10 and played in the church services. Before he was 12 years old he played a little bit of bass, guitar and piano.

While his parents worked, he would get home from school at 1pm and would just drop off his backpack and spend the rest of the day on the street with his friends. When he reached the age of 12 his attitudes were changing to the point of challenging his parents' authority. He also started hanging out with young boys who had no respect for anyone.

When he was 14 years old his family went to live in the city of Tijuana B.C. Mexico. It was there where the sin that dwelled in him led him to live the street life "to the limit without contemplating the dangers" to which he was exposed. His mother never stopped praying for him, never stopped preaching the gospel to him and never stopped inviting him to church. Many times he accompanied her, and he could notice that when he listened to the preaching something happened inside him. He felt confronted, even the teachings and texts that he learned as a child constantly came to his mind.

Slowly he began to notice that he no longer took delight in the bad things that always brought him pleasure (drugs, cursing, fighting, etc.). His life was at that point, when in the middle of 2002 a regrettable situation happened that knocked him down and made him realize that he had offended the Holy God. He got on his knees and exclaimed: "Against you, only against you I have sinned!" There he cried out for mercy, for forgiveness, and God poured out His grace and mercy upon his life, forgave his sins, gave him new life and to this day Roberto says, "I serve Him with all my heart."

Later Roberto became a member of Ebenezer Church in Tijuana. There God gave him the opportunity to grow and learn alongside brothers like Fernando Rocha (now in Costa Rica) and Bruce Moscoso (pastor of Ebenezer Bible Church in Tijuana). Roberto has accepted the call to intern as a "pastor in training" at the church "Manantial de Agua Viva" in San Quintín, B.C. There he, his wife Iris Anahí Avila Ponce and two sons: Carlos Roberto Martinez Avila (6) and Caleb Emilio Martinez Avila (5) are serving the Lord since May of 2025.

I ask that you carry me in your prayers:

For my wife and my sons and daughters (I have 3 more daughters, their ages are: 14,22,28) 2.

For God to continue giving me wisdom, understanding and comprehension of his word while I prepare the bible studies.

3. That the church Manantial de Agua Viva may be of impact to the community as I preach the gospel.

4. For God to raise up faithful men in the church who have the spiritual ability to teach His word.

That there may be unity in the body of Christ, that husbands may love and treat their wives as fragile vessels, that wives may love and submit to their husbands, and that children may honor and submit to their parents.