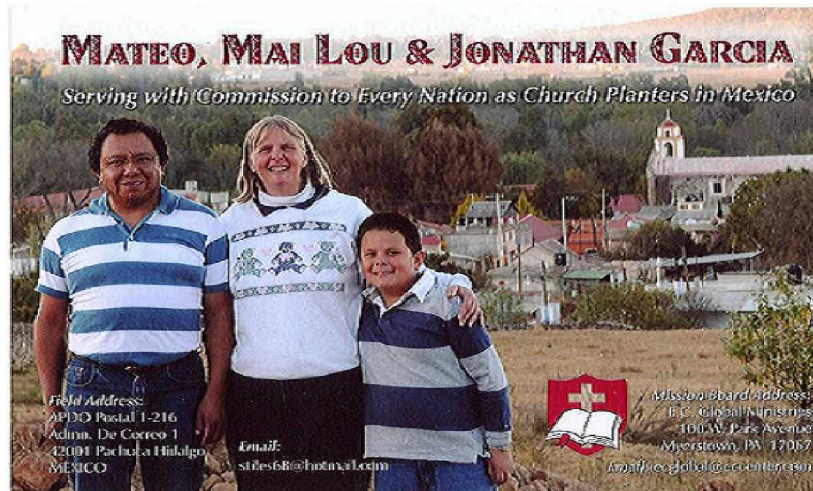




# GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION

of the Evangelical Congregational Church

Empowering National Churches • Facilitating Mission Workers • Ministering to the Marginalized



## THE GARCIA FAMILY BIOGRAPHY

Mateo was born in Mexico City September 19, 1968. He was born into a Christian family. But he went wayward into drugs and alcohol, in his youth he finally came to the end of himself and gave his heart to the Lord on May 17, 1994. At this time he was completely delivered from his drug and alcohol addiction. He was baptized on June 17, 1994. He studied at Instituto Betania (Bethany Institute), in Matehuala, San Luis Potosi for 3 years, graduating in June of 1997. During his final year at Betania he began dating Mai Lou.

Mai Lou was born in York, Pennsylvania, November 10, 1959. She was born into a church going family but did not learn about salvation through faith in Christ until fifth grade at her home church through the ministry of vacation Bible School. (Both Mateo and Mai Lou are members of St. David's E.C. Church, Weigelstown, PA) In sixth grade she gave her heart to the Lord praying to receive Christ as her Savior with her music teacher. After her graduation from high school in 1977 she studied at Bethany College of Missions. Graduating in 1981, she worked for some time in Puerto Rico. In 1990 she moved from Puerto Rico to Mexico where she worked at Instituto Betania (Bethany Institute) teaching Bible Classes. During this time she met Mateo. In 1997 she resigned as a missionary with Bethany Fellowship Missions and began working full time with the E.C. Church. As of March 2009, the Garcia family has joined Commission to Every Nation, the E.C. Church and Comisión to Every Nation will be partnering together with Mateo and Mai Lou to fulfill the great commission.

Mateo and Mai Lou were married on February 14, 1998 in Mexico. They make their home in Huasca de Ocampo, Hidalgo, Mexico.

Jonathan was born on September 15, 1999, Mexican Independence Day. He was born in Mexico City and is the citizen of two countries. As of August 2004 he began kindergarten and at this time is a fourth grader in Mexican public school. Jonathan loves life to the fullest.

Mexico, the country we serve in, is host to the largest city in the world. Daily men and women come to Mexico City hoping to improve their lifestyle. It is a land of contrasting scenery from majestic mountain ranges, to desert, to beautiful beaches. It is host to many different kinds of animals and beautiful fauna. Weather varies

from snow, in some parts, to below zero in the winter depending on the state. Following winter comes spring and summer. Many indigenous people groups continue to guard their traditional way of life and language. Mexicans from north to south living on ranches and raising livestock, to city dwellers, all bring variety to this great diverse nation.

Freedom of religion is the law, though the Catholic Church continues to have a major impact on all levels of society, particularly in politics and television. The Catholic influence can especially be noted in the daily worship of idols, as well as the worship of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Mexico's patron saint. She is honored on December 12 with many making pilgrimages to the Vascilica de Guadalupe, in Mexico City from all over the country. It is a major holiday and beats out Christmas.

We make our home in a small tourist town a half an hour from the very modern city of Pachuca de Soto, Hidalgo. The name of our town is Huasca de Ocampo, Hidalgo. We have lived her for the last 10 year, spending all of our married life here. At this time we are living in the house we built which isn't quite finished but is livable.

We have been partnering with the Comunidad Evangelical del Valle, A.R. for about the last four years. The director and our pastor's name is Aroldo Expinoza Rubio. We are very active in this ministry participating in events on a national level as well as here at home.

We have an established church here in Huasca. We meet two nights a week Tuesday's and Friday's. At this time we have approximately 13 people who attend the church but weekly attendance varies. We had been meeting in a building closer to Huasca but had to move because we could not continue to pay so much rent. This has caused a drop in attendance because of the distance, but we are meeting in one of the families homes. At this time we are looking into a piece of land or building to hold meetings in.

On Tuesday's Mai Lou visits two families in Totoapan, Hidalgo. This is about 20 minutes from Huasca. These families are new Christians they are growing in their faith. It has been exciting to see them grow in the Lord. We have been working here for about 4 years.

As of April 1999 both Mateo and Mai Lou have served on the board of El Retiro (The Retreat) , in Montemorelos, Nuevo Leon. El Retiro is a home for underprivileged children. They are given room and board as well as schooling. These children are not orphans, during vacations they return to their homes. It is the goal of El Retiro to give these children quality care and an opportunity to hear the gospel.

Mai Lou has various English classes with children in the community and is very well received in most homes. God has given her opportunities to share the gospel.

Recently Mateo started selling Cell Phones and air time. He also sells accessories. We trust the Lord to use this business as a means to further extend the kingdom, as well as a creative way to support different ministries

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