



Fernando

Fernando is the main teaching pastor and co-translator with Dale

Fernando and his wife Virginia were some of the first to gladly believe the Gospel. Not long afterward they began leading the men and women of the church. In 2003 Fernando, along with 3 others were ordained as pastors. Since then, he has consistently worked with Dale to develop discipleship materials and translate the Scriptures for the Tarahumara. Pray for their partnership in this most important endeavor.



Cabóraci church life

The church began in 1995. Since then the congregation has grown in numbers, outgrowing the original building. It has also grown in its evangelistic outreach. Men and women have taken the Word to 4 other locations where there are now believers meeting among themselves. This church is growing despite family persecution and pressures from tribal leaders.



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Translating the New Testament for the Tarahumara in Northern Mexico



The Cabóráchi church

The Tarahumara people number about 110,000 and live scattered in the high Sierra of Chihuahua, just some 500 miles south of the U.S. border. Their first contact with Western Civilization was in the mid-1600's as the Catholic Church tried to convert them to Christianity. As a result, their religious practices today reflect a mixture of both the Catholic and ancient Aztec belief systems. They live in scattered and isolated family groups and approach outsiders with suspicion. Their political structure helps keep outsiders from infringing into their lands, and their religious shamans maintain a strong spiritual hold over their hearts and souls. Though the Gospel has been taught among them for years,

its impact has been minimal. However, recently more missionaries have arrived who have been committed to learn the language, resulting in more churches being planted.

The Cabóráchi believers form the most vibrant Church in the region. Their testimony is impacting neighboring valleys as families share the gospel with relatives.

Tony and Lauren Finch with Ethnos 360 joined us in 1988 and continue to this day offering support and helping disciple the church leaders in Cabóráchi. It is with them that we partner when we go down to Mexico to work on translation. Pray for their continued health and encouragement

Q&A

Q. When did you begin your work with the Tarahumara?

A. We arrived in Mexico in 1981 and began working with the Tarahumara in Cabóráchi in 1985.

Q. When did you start teaching about Jesus?

A. We began to teach in 1992 after spending the first 7 years in formal culture and language study so we could speak to them as messengers who they knew and could trust. It wasn't until 1995 that the church was born.

Q. What are the pressing needs of the Tarahumara church today?

A. There are many baby Christians. Scripture translation and literacy, in their language, are among their greatest needs. Many suffer rejection from their families because of their faith in Jesus.