

GAMBOA UNION CHURCH  
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JANUARY 2018 Ricardo was set free! After over 7 years he walked out the gate of the Renecer prison just three weeks before Christmas. He was so excited to return home, but he had just missed the bus from Gamboa to the city. It would be nearly two hours to catch another one. But then....he saw a car coming from Gamboa on its way to the city. Now that's where I came in...

I was a few minutes late for my trip to the city. I picked up an employee from the Hotel, named Julio, on his way to the city and he had missed the bus also. As I rounded the bend by the prison, I saw a really big guy at the bus stop. Many times I pick up someone because they are guards who are on leave for a few days and need a ride. But this time, I suddenly recognized him as one of the guys from my meetings. So I stopped and he was so glad to see me.

I had not seen him in a year because I have not been allowed to get into the prison as a pastor for my meetings. I wanted to ask him how all is going with the Christian guys and the leader. And then the big question, "Ricardo, are you still living for the Lord in there?" He assured me that things are still going well with the prison Christian leader even though no other pastors have been coming.

I asked him in what way his life has changed after being in the prison for these years. Then Julio got to hear all of his testimony. I have been giving my tracts to Julio for the past two years, and now he got to hear about a changed life.

As I dropped them off, they both went together on their way to the main bus terminal. Wow, how good it that God? What a set up! I was late to town, Julio missed the Gamboa bus and Ricardo also missed the bus after waiting 7 years...but all so we could talk about the love of God who changes people's lives for eternity!

But there is a little more of this story. Two weeks later I saw another new employee at the Gamboa Hotel. He stopped me. "Pastor Wilbur, remember me, Noel (that's his name!...I love this, just before Christmas I get to see a guy named "Noel"). I was at Renecer at your meetings. I was a prisoner for 6 years but have been set free for 2 years. I just got this job two weeks ago." He assured me that he was going to a nearby church and following the Lord. I asked if he remembered Ricardo, the big guy. Noel said "yes." "Well", I said, "Ricardo had just been set free two weeks ago. This is so encouraging to see what God is doing.

Thank you for all your prayer and support. Have a blessed and exciting New Year!  
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Sydney Corbett; 231 SE 45<sup>th</sup> Terrace; Ocala, FL 34471 Please include your e-mail for a receipt for 2017  
Pastor Bill Wilbur