

## Alfonso's Story

Alfonso López Soto is the pastor of the Love and Faith Baptist Church in the Flor de Bastión community of Guayaquil, Ecuador. In this marginalized community, many women and children are abused and mistreated. When he began preaching, Pastor Alfonso López said he did not have a full understanding of the Gospel of Jesus. He said, "I spoke about Jesus a lot, but I was not taking any concrete steps to care for the needs of my community."



At that point, Pastor Alfonso López began participating in workshops, hosted by Paz y Esperanza Ecuador, on Holistic Mission, Child Abuse Prevention, and Prevention of Violence against Women. At these sessions, López came to understand that the Kingdom of God includes a commitment to caring for people in need. He added, "I began to implement the concepts we learned in order to create initiatives to act out Jesus' mission in our community."

In similar Paz y Esperanza training sessions, Pastor Alfonso López has shared from his experience in his community in two workshops on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse in the Church and in the Community. Also, he has participated in a Christian campaign in Ecuador to bring churches into the fight against poverty. Within his church, he started a basic discipleship course to challenge church members to reach out in love and compassion to those in the community.

Currently, Pastor Alfonso López is helping to coordinate a project, led by Paz y Esperanza, for the prevention of violence against women in Flor de Bastión. Community members recognize and are grateful for the work Alfonso and Love and Faith Church for women and children.