



OUR STORY!

The story of the call and vision of the Pastors-Founders of Eternal Rock Church

Year 1984

In 1984, Pastor Juan Velázquez and his wife Sary Luz Donato, accepting a call from God, they decided to move to the State of Florida, because of the work and grace of the Spirit, with the purpose of planting a church or churches. Though they were associate pastors at La Roca Church in Ceiba, Puerto Rico, and after having participated in the foundation and organization of said ministry together with Rev. Victor Rivera, after about six (6) years of working together, they accepted the challenge of the call that God had made to them. Having prayed and fasted and being blessed by the church and its pastor, they were sent to the state of Florida for the purpose already indicated. Having already been ordained by God and recognized as ordained ministers of the Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church, Inc. with offices in Dunn, NC, they settled in the small town of Interlachen, in the North Central part of Florida, where they planted and established the church, La Roca Christian Ministry, Inc. It was in Interlachen and serving as pastors in that small town, that after 8 years in the ministry, God granted them children. First with a wonderful firstborn named Ivan, whose name means "the grace or favor of God," and then once again God surprised them with the arrival of a wonderful and beautiful princess of God whom they named Melissa, whose name means "Sweetness or Honeybee" or "the one who seeks." Glory to God for the gift of life, after about 16 years without children, having God healed Pastor John! The Lord blessed them with God's inheritance. Already with them lived the adoptive brother of Pastor Sary, Todd, whom everyone knew him as "Güigüi" (wui-wui), who has been and is a blessing from God in their lives and one of the musicians of the ministry Percussion playing with the congas.

Year 1996

After twelve (12) years of shepherding in Interlachen, God called them to work in Missions with the Pentecostal Baptist Church in the role of Coordinator of Hispanic Missions in the United States and as liaison of the Hispanic Missions in the mission fields of Central and South America, a function he performed for the Glory of God, for almost 9 years. From January 1, 1996 to December 2004, Pastor Juan Velázquez and his wife were in that capacity, having contributed to the formation and establishment of new Hispanic missions for the Ministerial Organization that he represents and with whom both hold credentials as ordained ministers, since 1979. All work done, although it has not been on large scales, was done for the glory and honor of God.

It is on November 5, 1996, and in obedience to the call of God, that Pastor Juan moved with his family to the picturesque city of Brandon, one of the suburbs of the Tampa area. From There, he acted as Coordinator for Hispanic Ministries in the United States and with the purpose of establishing Hispanic work in that area. Efforts had already begun to build this work, since on July 7, 1996, a group of brothers decided to support Pastor Juan Velázquez with the new church. And although the new work began to grow, there was a setback point, where Pastor Velázquez and his wife understood that events beyond their control (such as family transfers to other cities, death of members, etc.) was not the time of God to continue that work. By word confirmed by God, they both entered a ministerial sabbatical for a period of time. But Pastor Juan continued to serve as Field Coordinator. For a season he and his family decided to participate in an independent local ministry, but with the proper authorization of their leaders and bishop, and with the clear intention that their participation in that ministry would be only for one season, and from there to continue their work in missions.

When the indicated time arrived, and for reasons, other circumstances and situations that were contrary to the Word of God in the independent ministry where they worshiped, that the Velázquez family, following the direction of the Holy Spirit, departed from that ministry. With this movement, they decided only to devote themselves to prayer and fasting in their own home as family. It is then, that God began to deal intimately with Pastor Velazquez and his wife Sary, about starting the process of planting a new church in the Brandon area. After about a year of prayer, they finally decided to accept the call of God to plant and establish the new church, along with several brethren who felt the need to be under the care of Pastors Juan and Sary. That is how God began the new work Iglesia Eterna Roca, with Pastors Velázquez.

Year 2002

It was the day of April 18, 2002, when the new ministry is established by the grace of God, the ministry that is known as: ETERNAL ROCK CHURCH, Inc., being the title of the ministry and as recorded with the state government of the State of Florida: Eternal Rock Church International, Inc., a non-profit ministry dedicated to the preaching and teaching of the Gospel of Christ. Both Pastors Velázquez, his wife and their children work together in a family ministry, with God being the center of the family, as well as the pastoral ministry they exercise in preaching, teaching, praising and worshiping God.

God understands and knows, that in their hearts, there is the task of following the Vision of Christ, fulfilling the Mission of Christ and obeying the Commission or mandate of Christ as set forth in Matthew 28: 18-20 and Acts 1:8;

Matthew 28:18-20:

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen!

Acts 1:8:

”But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”