



February 2019

# HOUSE OF FAITH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

"Taking JESUS to neighborhood children, youth & families since 1994"

## "Mama... Jesus"

By Kevin Reynolds,  
Executive Director

We lost a dear brother this past weekend; more than a brother actually, **Vince Rivera, age 23**, was one of our sons.

Rachel Beaver recalled the first time she met Vince at age 3, 20 years ago. His mother, Delia, pregnant with his younger brother Aaron, was pushing Vince in a stroller as they approached the House of Faith backyard club in Bradford Park. The older boys wanted to attend after hearing about it from friends at school, so Delia came to check it out.

The ripple effect from what began with that **"divine appointment"** continues to impact many lives in this community and beyond, as the trajectory of the entire family changed that day and each, in turn, came to know Jesus.

Delia Rivera now operates as an **anchor of faith**; not only for her boys, but also for the vast network of many friends, and their large extended family. Also, in addition to serving on our Board of Directors, Delia has a powerful prayer ministry and is a part of much Kingdom work going on in San Angelo.

I called Delia as I began this article in order to verify a few details to share with you. My prayer is that this story gives you hope, even as it has for all of us here at House of Faith.

Vince's smile was electric and he was loved by all who knew him. Space does not permit me to list all of the things Vince loved, but what is certain is that he loved Jesus.

Let me paint a picture of Vince's last moments, surrounded by his mother and family, and the brief interaction with his "mama" just before he entered into LIFE and heard Jesus say, *"Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your master"* (Matt. 25).

Vince's battle with a very aggressive cancer began before Christmas, and his brothers and mother would alternate spending many hours with him praying and reading Scripture.

Late this past Saturday afternoon, Delia was sitting where she always was, close to Vince's side and Vince was looking at her. He suddenly turned his head slightly,

seeing something just beyond her and said, **"Jesus."** Vince turned back to his mother and said, **"Mama... Jesus, Jesus, Jesus."** Delia clearly saw wonder and amazement in his eyes and answered him, **"Yes Mijo (son), Jesus. Hold on to his hand."** And then he was gone.

*When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 1 Corinthians 15:54 ESV*

Isn't that just like the Lord? Ever so near to this precious daughter of His, who had tirelessly led her boys toward Jesus all these many years, to grant her one last honor - that of gently leading Vince literally into the hand of his Savior for all of eternity.

Vince, and his entire family's journey of faith, began in that park 20 years ago, and his journey from this life to the next serves as a powerful reminder of what life is all about. Simply put... **Jesus**.

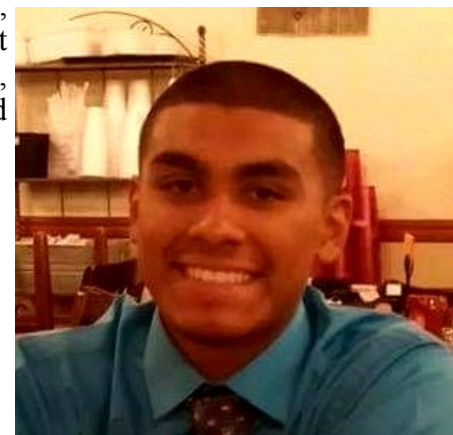
We never tire of saying it - we are **so very grateful for your help**. Your prayers and support are what makes it possible to *"Take JESUS to neighborhood children, youth and families"*, and we will continue to be there for moms like Delia, pushing strollers that carry kids like Vince, as long as the Lord directs.

In Him and for them,

Kevin Reynolds  
Executive Director



Delia Rivera and 4 of her 5 boys at Family Camp some years ago; (L-R) Jerry, Vince, Aaron, Delia, Abell (not pictured - Kris)



**Vince Morales Rivera**

September 28, 1995 - February 16, 2019



Priscilla Ramos & Luciano Chavez attended House of Faith as children; pictured here with former volunteer Linda Bender & Executive Director Kevin Reynolds.

On February 7, we hosted an alumni dinner inviting former House of Faith students and volunteers to come share their stories of years past as we celebrate 25 years of "Taking JESUS to neighborhood children, youth and families"!



A group of select House of Faith high school students and staff were honored to serve again at the National Prayer Breakfast on February 7. One of our students was also asked to read the New Testament Scripture for the program. The group is pictured here with this year's speaker, former Navy SEAL Chad Williams.



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