

“SON, I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH!”

Alberto “Beto” Domingo, Panama

Resentment and hate had accumulated in my heart. The failure of my parents' marriage led to a difficult divorce that marked me from I was two years and up. My father was a person of a strong character who constantly fought with my mother because of my safekeeping. He registered me in a good school because he said he was going to invest in a good education so I could pay him back in the future. I understood that my father wanted me to be a good student and that is what I did.

From an early age, I was always distinguished by my good grades, special diplomas of excellence and good behavior. I was congratulated by my teacher in front of my classmates and she used me as an example. But, when I arrived to my house with my report card, my father looked for the notes that were not excellent and he told me that I was going to be a useless person since I did not do it perfectly. He said that I had to do things 110% perfect.

Thanks to the love that was given to me by my mother, encouraging and advising me, I graduated with honors and I decided to start working with my father in order to pay him back for the investment he made with me. We were successful in the sale of construction materials. Our business really grew. We started to have money, fame and fortune. But, even though I was a good son, good student and good retailer, my father continued saying that I was a mediocre and useless person. As a result I had a lot of resentment and I decided to face him. I even challenge him to fight.

I started to contradict all the orders that he gave in the company. It was hell. Things started to get complicated and the business started to have problems.

We tried to solve our problems with the best psychologists of our country; we even made a blood pact by signing a document in which we promised not to attack each other anymore, but it did not work out.



Richard Shakarian with Alberto and his wife in Panama.

At that moment, I was invited to go to a Fellowship meeting. At the beginning, I did not understand, but I liked the testimonies which started to fill a great void in my life. They told me that I had to forgive my father. It is very hard to forgive a person that has maltreated you for 33 years. But one day a member of the Fellowship asked me to kneel down and kiss my father's feet.

It was a very difficult moment, but I obeyed. When I stood after kissing his feet, my father started to cry. He hugged me and for the first time in 33 years, which was my age at that moment. He told me the words that I had been looking for since my childhood: "SON, I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH!"

We were hugging and kissing for several seconds and that was the beginning of my spiritual and economic restoration. God made us a gift of love and harmony. For almost two years I was reconciled with my father, developing a beautiful friendship until the day he died in August, 2003.

God helped me to solve a situation that I could not solve with my money, nor with my studies and intellect and either with psychological therapy. It was a situation that I could not solve with my own strength, but a situation in which God made a miracle.

Now I have everything I have always desired and I can proudly say that I belong to the "HAPPIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD!" ■