



Like half of the children and adolescents in Latin America, Jonathan was born into poverty. He was raised by a single mother (his father abandoned them) in a lean-to made of cardboard in a squatter's camp until Pinochet's soldiers destroyed the camp. He and his mother then moved "up" to a slum. At 25, Jonathan is a prototype for what we long to see happen in the lives of the youth of the region. He has finished an A.A. degree in accounting and is studying literature, but more importantly, he has broken out of the mentality and cycle of poverty but is still willing to serve others with his considerable gifts and talents while developing himself professionally. To an American this might sound ordinary, but in our experience in Latin America each one of the following elements—breaking out of poverty, serving Kingdom ends, and developing as a respected professional—is notable. Finding all three in the same person is truly rare.



In a culture where "servant" is an occupation, the one thing lower than being a servant is being one who doesn't even get paid. Somehow Jonathan has developed a work ethic that transcends this cultural stigma. During the two national youth ministry conventions we've been a part of in Chile, Jonathan has been always present, always serving. He arrives early and stays late. While other "leaders" his age are sitting around in smart clothing overseeing the few details related to their official role, Jonathan is helping out whoever and however he can. Throughout the year he serves in his local church as coordinator of the worship team and as youth pastor, and he supports youth ministry in general as an

author, editor, and mentor for two youth-ministry-related Web sites.

We haven't isolated the factors necessary to reproduce Jonathan's experience in the youth of the region, but his life instructs teenagers better than our analysis would. "I always explain to kids the important difference between contentment and conformity," Jonathan told us. "I always want to be content with what God gives me, but not settle for conforming to the way things are."

Jonathan is one of the leaders we invest in, and in turn he mentors youth and youth leaders around his city. Please pray that the youth ministry institutes we are helping start would effectively prepare young leaders like Jonathan to disciple others in love and truth and that it would change their cities, countries, and cultures for Christ.

Tim & Annette

Since late '94 we've mailed monthly letters out to over 400 friends and family who at some point said, "Sign me up." But 13 years later we have no clue if you actually want to keep receiving them. In an attempt to be good stewards of the resources we've been entrusted with, we've come up with the following three options: **A)** If you want to stop receiving our letters, do nothing. **B)** If you prefer to receive our updates in your e-mail, simply go to our Web page, www.4loves.com/mexitext, and enter your e-mail address where it says "Subscribe Me!." **C)** If you want to keep receiving the *paper version* of our monthly prayer letters let us know by postal mail, e-mail (below right), or phone (407-443-0116). Thank you for your help with this.