

# Martha

A Missionary Remembers His Wife  
Author: Buddy Johnson

Presented by: Lydia Dunlap

# Salvation and Childhood

Martha Lee Lucas was born on June 20, 1945. When she was 9, she was saved at Hemphill Street Baptist Church. After that Martha grew very close to her pastor, Bro. Gaylan Henry. The teaching she received from her family and church would be the molding of Martha's life. She was also a very dedicated student in high school.



First Grade

# College



Martha attended Jacksonville College as in Jacksonville, TX in 1963. It was a junior college supported by the BMA. This is where she met Buddy Johnson. He pestered her into dating him and she did not encourage this relationship.

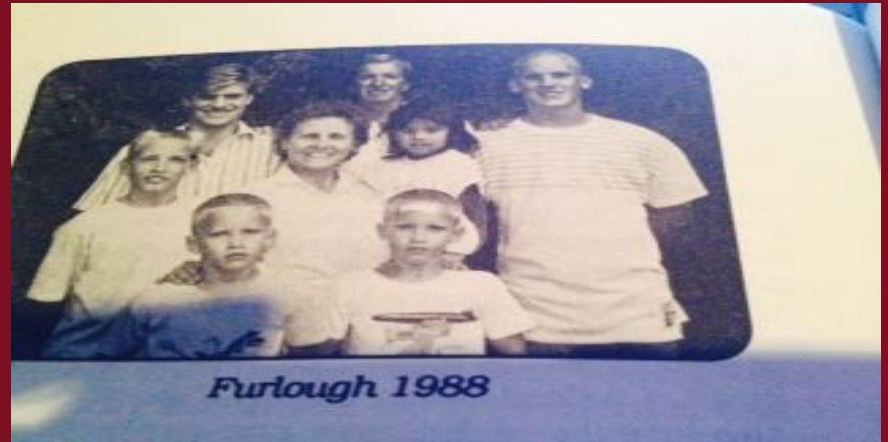
# Marriage



They married September 12, 1964 although Martha had sworn she would never marry a preacher. After hearing Buddy's first sermon, she told him "It's alright, you'll never preach enough to make a difference anyway."

# Children (in order from birth)

- Grady
- Scott
- Eric
- Jonathan-a Twin
- Benjamin-a Twin
- Sara-adopted



# Sara



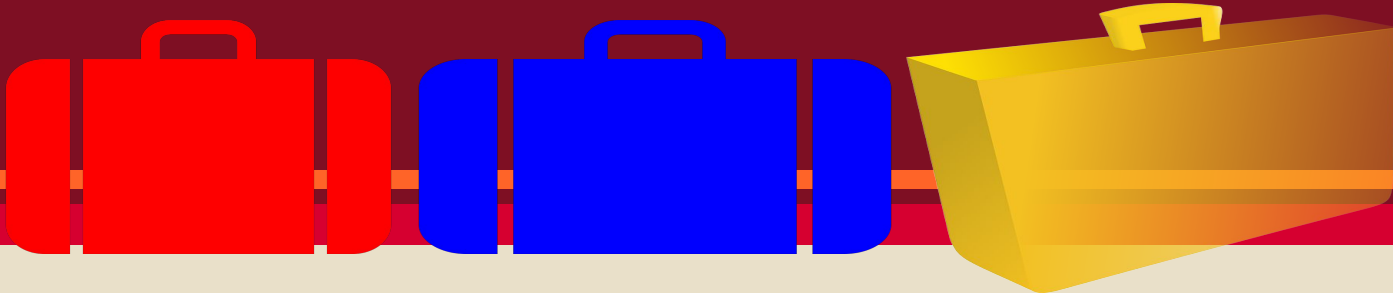
In March 1985, Sara was a twin, born to a large family that would only keep her brother. The father asked the Johnsons to take the little girl because she was expected to die. She weighed 2 pounds and 6 ounces when she was born. They named her Sara Xochitl (Aztec) which means “Princess Flower.” For 6 years Martha shared God’s principles with her little girl, Sara.

# I Want You I Want You

Buddy was called by God when he was at the back of the building with his son Scott. God said “Buddy, I want you to go to Mexico and do the work I will show you to do.” After hearing this, Martha said “If you’re certain in your heart that this is what God wants for you, then I am certainly willing to go and, as always, to help you do the work of God”. And they began preparing...

# Preparing for Mexico

Martha enhanced her studies. She finished college on a Friday and was packed for Mexico that Monday. She had been elected as a missionary of the BMAA. After that, Martha had a greater desire to teach.





# Beginning Mexico

They got to Mexico in August 1973. They stayed with Bro. John Ladd and his wife for 6 weeks. Since Buddy studied Spanish in college, he was able to preach a sermon in Spanish on his third week of being there.



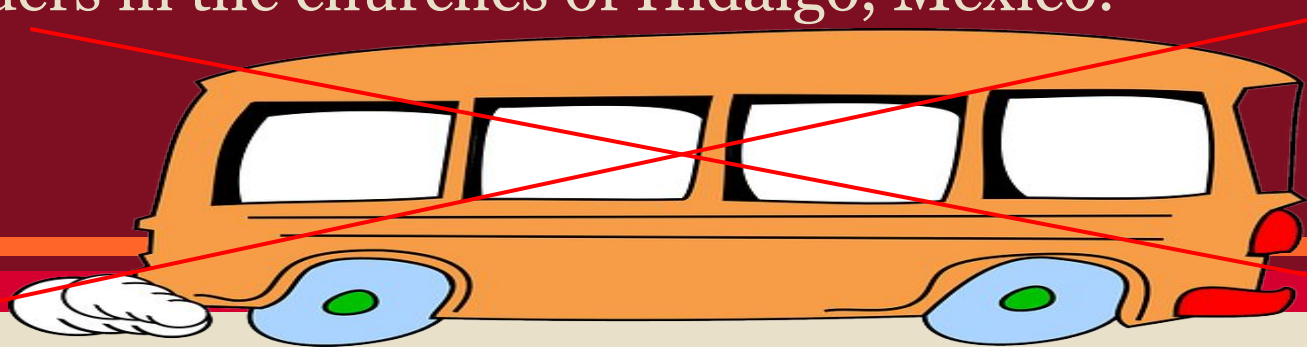
# The Culture Of Hidalgo, Mexico

Martha went to the market everyday, and she cooked everything from scratch. There was no running water. Very few spoke English. The Roman Catholic Church was a strong force among the people. There were no Bibles there, not even one believer. Alcoholism was very evident.



# Mission Progress

The 14 children grew to 80 kids... They enjoyed singing songs, and learning scriptures. They met in the living room of the Johnson's home. Martha began a busless bus ministry. They would invite children on Saturday to Sunday School. They would meet on Sunday morning and pray and then round up all the children for Sunday School. Many of these children are now leaders in the churches of Hidalgo, Mexico.



# Martha, The Author

Martha had a strong desire to share her burden for the Mexican people. The blank, loveless, hopeless look in the eyes of the children inspired her to share their stories. She wrote two books: Pablo and Rosas. These men were leaders in the Aztec Indian work. She hoped the books would show the grace of God.

# First Church



April 7, 1981 First Baptist Church of Huejutla was organized. It would be the mother church to many churches and missions. In 1992 at the time of the writing of this book, 21 such churches existed and over 4,000 souls had been saved. Martha had a burden to teach the women of the church their ministry in the church.

# Martha's School

Classes started September 1990 for fourth grade. The accreditation process was long and hard. The bilingual elementary school was named Colegio Lincoln after Abraham Lincoln. Martha worked tirelessly with teaching, administrating, and promoting the school.



# Martha's Death

# 1991

September 7, 1991 Martha went to be with the Lord. On August 17, 1991, she had a horrible headache and was rushed to the hospital. It was a cerebral hemorrhage and had detailed surgery on September 5, 1991. Buddy said, “even from her hospital bed she was smiling and encouraging everyone else.”

# A Burden Into A Blessing

By Grady Johnson

It all started in about 1982 when Martha and Buddy Johnson's first child graduated junior high and left Huejutla, Mexico, where his parents served as BMA missionaries, to continue his high school education. Mrs. Johnson realized just how underprepared he was to meet the challenges that he would face in high school. Years later, as her other children also had to leave to attend school, she became convinced that the educational beginning they had received was not sufficient. All of them struggled with classes in the United States and in Mexico. Increasingly, Martha became A Burden Into a Blessing burdened by the fact that the children of the town where God had called her to minister had no real opportunity of a quality education. As she prayed, God gave her the alternative. It became clear that the best way was to begin an elementary school of her own, a school where children could learn in a Christian environment and could excel academically and spiritually. In the late 1980's, Martha began reaching out to educational officials to seek accreditation for her growing dream. By July 1990, she was able to begin classes for her "Lincoln School" in the living room of her home in Huejutla. Thrilled by God's blessings during the school year, she traveled to the United States to visit supporting churches and share news of God's blessings with Christian friends. During this furlough, Martha suffered a vascular accident to the brain and passed away Sept. 7, 1991. In the years that followed, Martha's husband, Buddy promoted having the school named after his wife, the school's founder. He continued Martha's work until 1999 when I assumed the administration. God has blessed our BMA work through the school ministry. It has allowed us to gain influence and favor in the eyes of many at all levels of government and many families have been reached with Christ's love through the Martha Johnson School. The school now has 131 students and has been named "Best School in the Region" and has received many other academic, sports and community service award.

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