



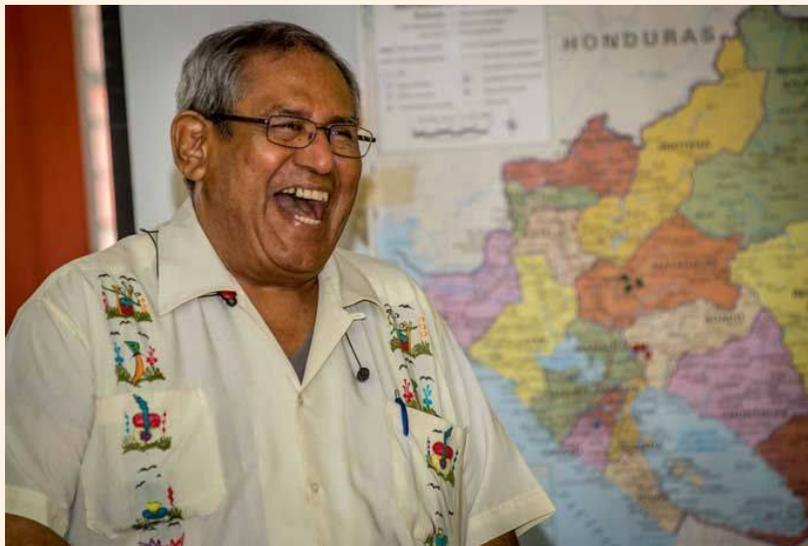
from Garth...

Gilberto Aguirre — El Profe

Our friend, partner and inspiration

On 18th June we received the desperately sad news that our good friend, partner and inspiration **Gilberto Aguirre (El Profe)**, had passed away. He had been rushed into hospital for emergency throat cancer surgery in the middle of May and unfortunately, complications arose after this.

Gilberto has now continued his journey into the arms of a loving God. He will always remain in our memories as a man who brought hope, who showed the loving gospel of justice and liberation in action and who brought fun and laughter into our lives.



Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Dámaris (Director of **CEPAD**), his children Gilberto Jnr, Carmen, Richard and Edgard, who are in the States, and all his friends — especially those at **CEPAD**. Sadly his children were unable to be with him during his illness.

At Amos we say, “Nicaragua is where we learn.” Gilberto was one of the key people who raised our understanding — alongside Rev Dr Gustavo Parajon (CEPAD’s Founder), and Dámaris Albuquerque, not only about CEPAD and Nicaragua, but also about living out the gospel in action.

With them we shared the art, poetry, music and politics of Nicaragua. Many will also have known Gilberto as a man of much wisdom and humour, and that’s always been good therapy! We valued Gilberto as a great friend of many years and we have had many adventures together.

Back in January 1993, my wife Gill, myself and Sue and Simon Plater (Chair and Trustee of Amos respectively), were doing the initial exploring of Nicaragua to consider Amos having a partnership with CEPAD. This was the first time that we met Gilberto.

At that time, CEPAD was working on the Atlantic coast to help communities that had been extensively damaged in a recent hurricane. Gustavo and Gilberto took us up ‘the hidden river’ (Rio Escondido) — an amazing journey from community to community in a motor boat. As we travelled, they were looking at laptops (donated by friends in the US) to keep communication open. That sounds very normal these days but it was revolutionary at that time — we were open mouthed.

That journey inspired my song *The Hidden River*, which always reminds me of Gilberto, and so we have put it [on youtube here](#) as a tribute to him and all our adventures together.



At Radio CEPAD with Gilberto and Damaris - and the cup of coffee!

In the early 90's Gilberto and Dámaris took us to the little town of La Concepcion. I sang and spoke at the Baptist Church. Gilberto then took us to a place where they had plans to build a school, because there were not enough schools in the area following the civil war. This became the La Concha Baptist (Avocado Tree) School which Amos has supported over the last 25 years. We have watched the school grow and develop and play a vital role in the development of La Concepcion.

Gilberto was a key player at my favourite radio station, Radio CEPAD. When Dámaris and Gilberto first asked me to be a guest on the programme, I said I would love to and they said, "Good, we'll be round at 6.30 in the morning to pick you up." — that's normally a difficult time for me! So we did a deal — they would be there at 6.30 but they would have a good cup of Nicaraguan coffee waiting for me!

Gilberto made Radio CEPAD prophetic, inspirational, and humorous, chatting about Nicaraguan and world issues, reflecting a gospel lifestyle of justice, dignity and hope.

Gilberto will always remain in our memories as a man who brought hope, who showed the loving gospel of justice and liberation in action, and who brought fun and laughter into our lives.**

Amos Trust have published this tribute to Gilberto on their website [here](#), along with comments from others of the Amos team, and some more background of Gilberto's life - and including the wonderful video of him telling the story of 'Mama Chicken and the Elephant'**

Amos will be holding an online memorial service - details will be posted on their website.

Prayer



Gilberto you have been our friend, our example, our inspiration.
We thank God for your life,
for all the wisdom you have imparted,
for all the laughter you have shared.
As you make your way home
we place you into the hands of the loving God you follow,
And we ask for God's blessing on you.

So give rest O Christ to your servant Gilberto –
as he comes home where sorrow and pain are no more
and where he will be in unity and love
and the blessing of God.

Giver of Life,
Bearer of Pain,
Maker of Love,
be with him and with us
now and always.
Thanks be to God.

"I believe you'll call my name,
I believe you'll call my name,
When I pass through the waters, you will be there -
I believe you'll call my name."

From *You'll Lead Me Home* - the song is [here](#) for prayer and meditation

G. H. Hewitt



**Gilberto Aguirre -
Presenté**

Gilberto & Garth walking by Lake Managua



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