

My Short Autobiography

My name is Jorge Iñiguez and I was born in Guadalajara Jalisco in 1968, but my parents moved to Tlaltenango, Zacatecas in 1969 and that is where I grew up. I am 34 years old and currently living in México City. I am married to my beautiful wife Irma and we have three excellent kids: Adriana 10, Jorge Adán 8 and José Noé 4.

Tlaltenango is a great small town in the south of Zacatecas, surrounded by 2 mountains; this small valley is where I spent my first 15 years of my life. I went to *La primaria "Benito Juárez"* and to *La secundaria "Cultura y Restauración."* Back then, I used to hang around with only a couple of friends, one of them is Efraín Covarrubias whom I leave in the Stockton CA area, and haven't spoken to in the last 8 years. In 6th grade, I used to make two *Tortas de Jamón* for my lunch, and I would sell one to Efraín. We would usually eat it before recess, and if he didn't give me any money, we would go out to get something to eat and he would pay. Also in the 6th grade, my brother Miguel and I got into a lot of trouble, because on a *Día de las Madres* school celebration, we didn't participate in the last minute because we were embarrassed of showing out to the public in a very short custom that felt like our underwear. My dad had to visit the school director and had a serious talk with us, because we almost didn't graduate.

Once in junior high, I became a very close friend of Eric Ramos, whom I still keep in touch more now that we moved to México City. We used to study together a lot and I also had a lot more friends whom many of them haven't seen them in very long time. Even though I go back to Tlaltenango three or four times per year, they don't live there anymore.

Once I graduated from junior high I moved by myself to Guadalajara to go to *La Prepa 6 en Miravalle*. This move was very hard for me, since I was only 15 years old and I was moving out from home for the first time. I moved in with relatives, but still it wasn't easy. My first 2 semesters in this high school went ok, but my grades suffered. In the 3rd semester, I got into the student body of the school that in those days was seen more like a political group. We lost elections, and even though I had "contacts" to help me make up for the classes I barely assisted to, I thought it wasn't right and, who I was going to affect the most was myself.

Therefore, in December of 1985, my very good friend Humberto and I made the decision to leave Guadalajara and give it a shot to the USA. It was one of those mild winter nights in Guadalajara when my friend Humberto and I were talking about our lives. We used to get together and he would play the guitar, and I would sing songs that we both like. That 23 of December he asked me: "Jorge, why don't we leave to the United States? And I answered, "*vamonos, let's see what the USA is all about*". That decision changed my life for ever. We arrived to the United States in 1986 by crossing the border in Tijuana. It was very difficult and for about a week my friend "Beto" and I had to live on bread, milk and Jalapeños. I remember the first day we arrived, he told me of a very famous saint there: *San Juan Soldado*. We went to see him and I promised him that if everything turned out ok, I was going to visit him back. Once we had connected with a reliable *Coyote* whom fed us and give us money for the bus, we crossed the border that same night. We arrived to the US via Pasadena where the Coyotes had their base. I have visited *San Juan Soldado* more than 10 times already. And have also brought my wife and kids many times to see him. I even took my mom once to see whom I also got extra

help from.

The day we arrived to Pasadena, we were fed donuts and milk, I am not sure if that's why I started loving donuts or I was just starving from walking all night. Few days later we arrived to Ukiah where Beto's brother had a job lined up for us. For about 2 years I struggle to survive. Eventually I got a full time job as a nurse assistant in a convalescent home and went to high school full time. There were weeks when I had to sleep in my old Ford Pinto wagon and later on a 1977 Honda civic.

In 1988 I was admitted to CSUS through CAMP. A year before during a school trip to CSUS, Alejandro López who was the CAMP outreach counselor was giving us a lecture on why we should go to college. He also said that anybody who wanted to go to college could do that. When I heard that, I said: "*Le puedo preguntar algo en español?*" (May I ask you something in Spanish?). He responded: "*Por supuesto que si!*" (Yes you may!). ¿ "*Cómo puedo ir a la Universidad si mis papás viven en México y yo tengo que trabajar para mantenerme? Me voy a poner bien flaco!*" Alejandro went on and explained to me that CAMP was here to help people like me get a college education, and that CAMP would be like a "*familia*" and that they would support me both emotionally and financially. With the help of CAMP, I was admitted to CSUS in 1988.

The years went by and I always remembered the words from Alejandro: "*Si se puede!*". Throughout those years, I kept coming back to CAMP, it was "*mi segunda casa*" and it was my duty to give back to CAMP what it gave me. I helped tutor the new students and made them feel at home. In addition, while in college I started working part time in the computer field. In 1994, I graduated from CSUS with a B.S. in Computer Science; and started to work fulltime for Intel Corporation in Folsom, CA. I actually started with Intel in 1990 and since then I have worked in different areas, from programmer to managing the call center for Latin America. In 1999, I learned of a position in *Intel Tecnología de México* that I qualified for. My wife and I had a good conversation and we decided that perhaps to help my kids improve their Spanish skills and give them the opportunity to truly become bicultural, we decided to move. In addition, I would fulfill a very long goal of mine of going back to México to work in my field.

I started working with Intel in Folsom CA, in 1990. And today 2004, I still work with Intel Corporation but in Mexico City. I have worked with Intel for the past 13+ years, 10 of them in Folsom, CA, and 3+ in Mexico. Currently I have a position as a Business Development Manager for Government and Energy Sectors for the Country of México, a position of great importance since I am a Technology Trusted Advisor for key México Government Accounts. Working in this high tech industry is an adrenaline ride with all the new products and technologies coming out daily. I have been able to survive in this industry for the past 14 years because the assurance I got from CAMP when I first started college and those words that kept coming back, "*Si se puede!*"