

Community Honors Pastor Killed After Being Shot in His Own Home

A San Diego County community is honoring the life of a local pastor who was shot and killed in his own home earlier this month.

Pastor Felipe Ascencio is being remembered as a godly father-figure, mentor, and friend by members of Templo Monte Horeb in Ramona, California.

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"He really found a bunch of value in me when nobody really did," Jesus Flores told KGTV. Flores grew up in the Templo Monte Horeb church.

Other church members shared how they too were impacted by the sudden death of Ascencio.



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"For a moment it was just something we couldn't believe," said Miguel Hernandez, a longtime churchgoer. "Even on Wednesday, we had church, and we were still thinking that he was going to walk in and say hello to everyone."

According to the San Diego County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded to calls about a shooting and found an individual with a gunshot wound.

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“Deputies requested paramedics, and they arrived soon after. Unfortunately, the individual succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene,” the Sheriff’s Office reported.

The Sheriff’s Homicide detectives are continuing an investigation into the incident after law enforcement officials were able to identify 22-year-old Joel Martin Dukes III as the suspect.

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“At this stage of the investigation, the motivation and circumstances of the crime are still under investigation,” the office noted.

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