

# Making Hispanic Ministry The Priority!



## Greetings from CHM Director David Byrne

I recently returned from a whirlwind schedule of conferences on both sides of the continent and I praise God for those who are involved in Hispanic Ministries and for those who are dreaming about being involved. In North Carolina Yearly Meeting serious consideration is being given to how they can cooperate with ministries already in place and begin new works in their area. It was a joy to join them in their conference to "Simply Catch the Vision" for missions. It was inspiring to hear the many different directions that the Lord is leading this group and to see that Hispanic ministry is a priority for them.

On the other side of the continent at the North American Hispanic Friends Conference that was held at the Yorba Linda Friends Church in Southern California, Spanish speaking Friends addressed how they can best speak to the needs of an increasingly resistant and immoral society. The Alianza Ministerial de Amigos en Norte America (AMANA) sponsors the conference each year.

In both cases, obedient Christians are recognizing that their calling is to reach out as missionaries to cross cultural barriers in order to see God work through them. I remember "way back when" as my wife and I were being commissioned as church-planting missionaries to Mexico City, how one young pastor prayed that there would be thousands of Mexicans who would be gathered around that great throne praising God as a result of our ministry. That was a stunning and inspiring thought.

We don't often see how the results will be achieved or sometimes even what the results are from our service, but I am convinced that God takes our weak efforts to bless the world as we give ourselves to Him and to others. We can reach the world, but it must be our priority. We can find success in missions both far and near. Missions is not just to be done at a distance or just by an elite few. It is your calling and mine to take the good news to the world and to make disciples. Come and join! Get involved! See how God can use your weakness for His glory.



When the Ministerial Alliance of Friends - North America (AMANA) met in October there was some major reorganization that took place. A new leadership team was named including Pastor Jorge Noreña from Yorba Linda, Pastor Arnoldo Garcia from Pomona, and Amilcar Sosa from Bell. Pray that God will use these key leaders to bring better communication between the Hispanic churches and their leadership and to help them to grow in unity and strength.

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## Boot Camp Training for Church Planting



Church-planting leaders and support teams made a recent trip to San Diego for an intensive "Boot Camp" experience in Spanish. The Ramos family (Isaí, Sucely and Stephanie - on the right) from Oklahoma City joined with Luis Gavin (center) from Arizona and Cathy Martinez and Martha Rodriguez (on either side of Luis) from Kansas. The group got an intensive look at how to start a new church. Rounding out the team are Pastor Chris Stanfield (Church-planting coach) and me.

We had fun dressing Pastor Isaí Ramos up as a Spanish conquistador at the maritime museum at Point Loma in San Diego. Our prayer is that he will be able to move ahead for

God's kingdom, well-equipped to build up Christ's church!

This type of church-planting training is available for those who are called and assessed to be qualified as church planters or who are part of a church-planting team. They are available in English and Spanish on a regular basis. If you feel leading toward this type of ministry contact your church's leadership.

## News and Prayer:

Pray for the Instituto ALMA leadership training program as it continues to prepare leaders in their service to Christ's body around the world.

Pray fervently for the immigration situation in the United States. This has been a political football that deeply affects the Hispanic churches in this country. Currently, it doesn't look like anything will be done this year, but God is able! See our online Spring CHM Newsletter for details about this issue and its impact.

Praise God for answer to prayer for the church in Logansport, IN just outside of Marion. Pastor Uziel Isaias Gutierrez reports that they have purchased and remodeled a building with the help of the Maple Run Friends Church and are seeing new growth in the group.

Pray for the Byrne Family (See back for details).