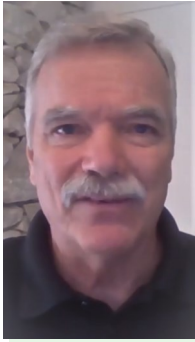


Making Hispanic Ministry The Priority!



From CHM Director David Byrne—

In the spring when I wrote the last regular CHM newsletter I labeled it the “Covid-19 Edition” thinking that it would be a one-off deal that would certainly be over as the disease waned and things went back to normal for people, the church and the world. Unfortunately, things do not seem quite normal yet and do not seem likely to return to normal right away.

And yet, the church continues to minister salvation and healing to a world that is in need of hope and life. After all, Christ did not call His people to a “normal” life or to comfortable times. The Hispanic church in North America has been affected by the divisiveness and uncertainty that has affected us all. I thank God for the resilient men and women who are leading these churches in these troubled times and for the Body of Christ that is not willing to let these co-laborers struggle alone.

Many of the Hispanic Churches are now meeting in person again while taking precautions against the spread of the virus. Meanwhile, these same churches have learned to take advantage of new ways to connect with and disciple their people and have stepped in to care for rising needs in their communities. There are many stories that I am hearing of heroic actions by God’s people. One church in Miami has mobilized to take supplies to immigrants in a nearby town. One pastor drove a church leader with Covid-19 to the hospital only to have him pass away in the hospital parking lot. In spite of personal danger, church leaders have lovingly cared for those who have been sick, isolated and disoriented.

Death, divisiveness and disaster have seemed to surround us, but “in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” (Rom. 8:37 NIV). Please join me in praying for those whom God has called to serve him in all of His churches across this continent and especially for the Spanish-speaking leaders who are sacrificially serving on this North American mission field. They are our partners so that we can fulfill our calling together.

Conferences:

One of the things that has changed this year is the way large gatherings of pastors and leaders are held. Yearly Meetings were moved to online “broadcasts” and Zoom meetings. Conferences have become “live-streamed” and “premiers.” Those who have conducted their ministry in familiar ways have been forced to learn

new skills or to recruit those who have those skills. At the same time, multi-lingual events have become more complex even as new possibilities for inclusion have opened up.

It has been important for denominational leaders to remember that translation (written) and interpretation (oral) between languages is not just a fun add-on to our associations of churches. As ethnic churches with predominantly non-English congregations have become official parts of the church associations, it becomes essential to ensure that each congregation can participate at equal levels as the English-speaking churches whether in Spanish, Nepalese, Congolese or whatever other language.

Technology is presenting more and more options. YouTube videos now come with automatically generated English captions that then allow for automatic translation to other languages, and it does a remarkably good job. Zoom allows for designating an interpreter and setting up a “room” where that interpreter’s voice is heard over the voice of the one speaking in the original language. These are options that have come to the forefront due to the movement toward online gatherings but they will help the church to be more conscious of the need for language accommodations and of the tools that can help with them.

Advances in AMANA:

The Ministerial Alliance of Amigos in North America also moved to an online format this year. Our original plan was to join up with the World Multiplication Conference that was going to be in



Haviland, Kansas at Barclay College. When those plans changed we set up to meet for 1 hour in the three Thursdays preceding the online Multiplication Conference in early November. The sessions had the feel of our regular sessions in these annual conferences that we have celebrated for over 23 years now. Adversity breeds innovation and God can receive the glory! A Facebook page is now in place (AMANA Alianza Ministerial Amigos de Norte América) that allows us to remain in contact.



Don't forget to Pray!

☞ Pastor Arnoldo García of the North Houston Church plant asks that we pray for the physical, emotional and spiritual health of that group. That sounds like a good guide for praying for all of our churches and their leadership.

☞ Pray for the needs of our brethren in Central America who withstood 2 major hurricanes recently
☞ Please continue praying for the ministries of CHM and for the **Byrne family**. To see our annual family update check our online newsletter at: CHMonline.org