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Hispanic Church Plant of Second Presbyterian Church

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● A New Pastor - Following the resignation of the Pastor Green as the founding pastor, Pastor Manuel “Chucho” Glory, one of the pastors of Shalom Church in Merida, Mexico, accepted a call to serve as the next Senior Pastor of Esperanza. After obtaining the required visa, he began that role in January, 2015.

More on Iglesia Esperanza, please contact Eddie Foster at eddie.foster@2pc.org or Pastor Manuel Morales at (901) 643-4792, www.esperanzamemphis.org.

● Developing the Church - Rev Green’s passion for people in need was instrumental in the drawing the initial group of worshippers and developing an identity in the neighborhood. By the Fall of February 2012 attendance at Sunday worship services was averaging between 40 to 50 people weekly. We currently have an attendance of approximately 90 adults and children.
For over six years, our Family of Churches has been connecting with the Latino population in a neighborhood called Huntington Green by partnering with a local ministry that provides programs for children, such as tutoring, Bible studies, youth group, summer soccer camp, etc. But all along we continued to pray for the right church planter to extend our ministry to that of church planting. Two years ago, our Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Mike Moses, was moderator for the General Assembly of the EPC. As part of his duties he visited the General Assembly of the IPNM (The National Presbyterian Church of Mexico) along with other EPC leaders (including John Bueno). This turned into an opportunity to meet Victor and Rosmi Leal in the IPNM seminary, leading to God’s call on their lives to move to Charlotte and plant the next Lake Forest Church.

For now, Victor and Rosmi are working to form the church by meeting families, earning their trust, fellowshipping with them, hosting meals and various other activities. A new community center was just built in this neighborhood, and Victor is serving as its scheduling director, even as Rosmi is leading a Bible study for women weekly. This community center is the best potential location to start worship services in the future. We ended the year with Thanksgiving and Christmas activities including posadas and it was an incredible success. We had close to 100 people in attendance. We are beginning to let the community know us better and it will be the beginning of some home groups on a regular basis.

More information on The Lake Forest Family of Churches, please contact Rev. Dr. Mike Moses at pastormike@lakeforest.org or Hispanic Pastor Victor Leal at vleal@lakeforest.org.

EPC Hispanic Church – Nación Santa
Hainesville, Florida
I have just learned that this is a brand new EPC Hispanic church in Hainesville, Florida. Please look them up at nacionsantaflorida.com to get more information.

Colombia

I recently returned from a trip to Colombia and had the opportunity to reflect on all that God has done in Colombia through my life and perhaps in all those God has touched through my ministry. Back in 1998, I married Gina at the 1st Presbyterian Church (the Mother Church for Presbyterians in South America). Pastor German conducted my wedding and we became best friends. For the next few years he and I worked throughout the country in the Presbyterian Church in Colombia. This was when the guerilla activity was at its worst. For the next few years I developed my property to minister to the pastors that were in places we could not enter due to the guerilla threat. Unfortunately, my wife Gina was held hostage at the property and for that reason we had to leave Colombia.

I always hoped to return to do ministry in Colombia, but my wife never wanted to go back. After 20 years, the Lord has fulfilled my dream. I had been trying to sell this property and was unable to do so. The Lord still had plans for it! Pastor German, still pastor at the Mother Church in Bogota, had developed an incredible ministry to the poorest of the poor with the hope to not only impact the parents but to change the next generation.

We have decided that we want to build a children’s camp that will minister to these children for years to come. Pastor German and the church have given me a percentage of what the land is worth for my personal use that will be beneficial to my family. The Lord knew all along what this land would be used for. Pastor German and I are excited to develop this land and see how God uses it for His glory.
**Great Plains Presbytery Hispanic Church Plant at Avery**
Bellevue, Nebraska

This ministry can only be possible as the local church is open to the possibility of cross-cultural ministries and it also opens a wide door for our denomination to the 60 million Hispanic people where only 5% are being ministered to. We praise the Lord for what He has done and thank Him for doors opened for cross-cultural ministry. Please continue to pray for these new church plants and for potential opportunities in other areas.

I want to take this opportunity to recap another year, sharing God’s faithfulness and celebrating the lives that have been changed through many avenues of ministry. We began 2018 by taking in 17 new members for the Hispanic church plant at Avery Presbyterian Church. It brings joy to my heart to see the Kingdom of God growing!

**THE HARVEST**

I have been working with Pastor Abiud and his family throughout the year to establish our ministry in the local community. We praise the Lord for the many friends we have met and for the new relationships that we have been able to start. Our ministry events have been designed to connect with the local community, and have included providing music lessons, teaching English as a second language, fellowship dinners, and various children’s activities such as Kids Club and Vacation Bible School.

**END OF YEAR 2018**

Our year-end special was our very anticipated annual Christmas Dinner, held on December 14 at Avery Presbyterian Church with over 200 people in attendance.

We had a Christmas service on December 23 with 12 people dedicating their lives to the Lord. What an incredible way to finish this year! Praise God!
We have been ministering to an average of 40-50 people on a regular basis and were excited to end the year with a new member’s class where we took in 15 new members! Our goal is to work to build this ministry with a solid membership of at least 50 people in 2019. But, as many of the Hispanic people in the area are a part of a transient community, we are ministering to many who may become involved in the church, but who eventually move on to others areas. Please pray with us as we seek to establish a strong congregation and train leaders who will be a part of this ministry.

Pastor Abiud is very gifted in teaching, and has been providing leadership for the following classes:

1. Christianity 101
2. Discipleship
3. Membership
4. Leadership Training

**2018 HIGHLIGHTS**

**WINTER 2018**
We held a marriage conference with six couples attending and we ended the conference by sharing a meal together. From this event, we added a family to our ministry. During the winter, Pastor Abiud and his family also began teaching music classes to children; this was done at no cost to their families. They have been teaching violin, guitar and piano, and it has been an incredible success in reaching out to our community.

**SPRING 2018**
We celebrated children’s ministry with a day camp which was very successful. This event helped our Hispanic families engage in family activities and build relationships with our team and 30 children attend. We also held a Mother’s Day event with 14 attending the banquet designed for them. It was a wonderful time of food and fellowship!

**SUMMER 2018**
We held a Vacation Bible School at a trailer park near Avery Presbyterian Church. Approximately 60 children attended and we began to build many relationships that continue to be fruitful. Through this event, two new families were added to our ministry.

Camping is a must in the summer, so we held a camping event at Fremont Lakes. We have done this for the past two years and it is an experience of a lifetime for these children. The opportunity to go camping and boating is a highlight that brought many families closer together.

In preparation for the first day of school, we packed 90 backpacks with school supplies and all of these were given to children in need! We had a total of 120 people including children and adults attend this event and it was a huge success. We also held a family picnic with the Hispanic congregation and Avery Presbyterian Church. We had a great attendance and wonderful fellowship between these two groups.
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PRAYER Requests

- Pray for the challenges that my family is being faced; children and finances.
- Pray for the development of the property in Colombia for Children’s Ministry.
- Water projects – to raise funding.
- Continue development of Latin Ministry in the EPC.

We’re very grateful to First Presbyterian Church San Mateo, for their willingness to help us print our newsletter!