



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus!

This year has been another time of great blessing - and of many surprises as we have worked to extend Hispanic Ministry, and I am so thankful for how God is moving through and among Friends in Jesus' name. I rejoice in God's grace and provision.

In particular, I am thankful for the leaders in the Hispanic churches who are working to unite and equip the Spanish-speaking churches that are a part of Friends. As the director of the Coalition for Hispanic Ministries my task has, for the most part, not been to carry out ministry among the Spanish-speaking people of North America, but to help "develop and promote ministries." In that sense I have largely been involved in helping Hispanic leaders reach their potential and to step aside as soon as I am able in order to see God working in His people. This year has been something of an exception, but more on that later!

It is a dangerous thing to start to mention some of the people that I am particularly rejoicing over this year in regard to Hispanic Ministry, since so many are contributing so much to the growth and vitality of the Spanish-speaking churches, but I am particularly rejoicing in those people who are so capably carrying on the ministries and vision of that God has given to CHM. It excites me as I see ministry developing in a number of areas that the Lord is using to release me from areas of ministry.



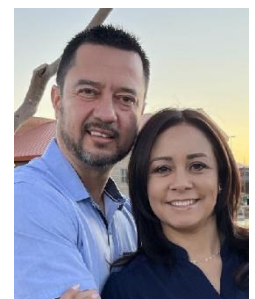
For instance, what a joy it is to have **Omar and Arlene Castillo** ministering as a part of our CHM board. As pastors of the EFC-ER Church in Chicago, they bring a connectedness to the local Hispanic pastors who are at the center of CHM's calling to support those who are working in the local church ministries. They help our board keep our focus on the needs of those churches.

Also from Eastern Region (EFC-ER), I rejoice that the Multiplication team has invited **Pastor Samuel Navarro** from the Philadelphia Church to join their team and to serve as the new Coordinator for Hispanic Ministries. I still plan to attend the great summer sessions we have as a couple of hundred representatives from the Spanish-speaking churches gather in those conferences and celebrations, but Pastor Samuel can more effectively provide local vision, coordination, and support than I was able to provide. Thank you, Lord!



Pastor Sergio Ayala from the Nueva Rosita Church in Northern Mexico (Coahuila State) has been president of the AMANA conference (Alianza Ministerial Amigos de Norte América – a ministerial alliance of Friends Spanish-speaking churches) for the last 5-6 years and though he has so many "irons in the fire" with his own church and cooperative outreach ministries in Northern Mexico, Pastor Sergio has been faithful and creative in promoting unity and vision among Friends across North America even throughout a pandemic! The next conference, Lord willing, will be hosted right there in Nueva Rosita and he also hopes to include EFC Latin American Pastors from across South and Central America as well. What an exciting time that will be! Maybe you can join us October 10-13th 2024.

Another couple that has a breadth of experience in ministry that ranges from missions to church planting to pastoral ministry and to administration is **Edwin and Maria Giron**. Even as they are launching a local church in Las Vegas, they are hard at work to call Friends to missions globally and to involve many Hispanic leaders and churches in the task of starting new works around the world. Their work is a model of the maturing ministries among Hispanic Friends that looks beyond just "holding on" to an immigrant congregation. Their



work gathers together Christians from Latin America to see the impact on the world that the Spanish-speaking churches can have. No longer do those churches simply receive the blessing of the Gospel from other sending communities, they are the instigators for dynamic outreach.

These, and so many others, are the reason for my rejoicing as they fulfil their calling in Christ Jesus. I feel that my role with CHM has always been something along the lines of John the Baptist in that his purpose, and mine, is to make the way for the King and then to get out of the way. I see King Jesus reigning increasingly in the non-Anglo churches, and it is encouraging to see God's hand on all of our EFC churches as well!

Earlier I mentioned that 2023 was exceptional in my own ministry role. On Mother's Day I stepped into an interim pastoral role in North Houston where Arnoldo García had begun a Spanish-speaking church ministry in 2019 in the days just before COVID. Arnoldo ultimately stepped aside from pastoring that group and we had a send-off for him at the end of September where we were able to celebrate how God had used him when he moved to the Houston area from his ministry in California. It seems that God had his hand on all who were involved.

It was interesting for me to step back into pastoral ministry and I thank God for the privilege. So many prayers were answered in that time and it is amazing to see how God used this time for the church to have a deeper understanding of God's work in them and how those members could work together. The church received a new pastor in mid-December which will free me again to travel and to be more accessible to leaders across the country, but the whole experience renewed my appreciation for those who are daily overseeing the discipleship and spiritual growth of believers in a local congregation.



I ask for your prayers particularly now for **Pastor Rodolfo and Mildred Morales** and for their ongoing pastoral ministry in North Houston along with their family. May the Lord protect them in His grace and power.

As I close this update I would like to mention a couple of milestones related to CHM and its ministries. The North American Hispanic Friends Conference (AMANA) that we celebrated in October was a real time of victory and marked its 27th straight year since beginning in 1997. The meetings were

held in Pomona, California in a Hispanic Friends Church that is taking an increasing role in coordinated outreach with other churches nationally and internationally. We are thankful to **pastor Estuardo Nufio** and the capable leaders of that church who received well over 200 registered participants. We were thankful to be able to share with the conference participants our recently completed translation of Walter Williams' book, "The Rich Heritage of Quakerism" in Spanish. Our thanks to Barclay Press for making that text available to us in English. Our hope is that they will be able to produce a printed copy in Spanish in the coming years.



Estuardo Nufio and David Byrne

Another milestone for 2024 is that CHM will celebrate its 30th anniversary since a diverse group of Friends leaders from around the country formed CHM as Joyce and I were moving out from our service as EFM church-planting missionaries in Mexico. The vision was to carry on a similar ministry within the United States as we did in Mexico and it has been amazing how God has blessed! Thank you for your partnership in making Hispanic Ministry the Priority.

Your Servant in Christ,
David C. Byrne, D.Min.
Director: CHM