

Making Hispanic Ministry The Priority!



Greetings from CHM Director David Byrne
"...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you..." John 17:21

During the first immigration rally in Houston, I didn't know what I was getting into when I took my signboard and went to join the people behind the labels. I just felt I needed to stand with those who, for many different reasons, have come to this country for hope and are increasingly finding rejection and anger.

The sign I planned to carry was going to say, "Respect the Law, Expect Just Law," but the tone of the massive rally leaned more toward calling people to become politically active and to make a statement to this country that the Hispanic people, both legal and not, contribute significantly to this country's well-being. The situation of Spanish-speaking immigrants in the United States is currently a flaming political issue that is polarizing our society, and is it any wonder?

When it comes right down to it, people tend not to trust others who hold different values, who do things differently, and who speak differently than they do. If the American church is truly interested in being a church that reflects the love of Christ for everyone, it must have the structures in place to allow all of its members to participate and it must demonstrate that it values the heritage and life of all.

The Coalition for Hispanic Ministries is just one tool to help God's church show that it is serious in its efforts to reach out to every part of our multicultural society.

Something Old, Something New



When the old League City Friends Church building became available for new ministry at the end of last year, we knew

that it would be a challenge to recondition the facilities and launch the bilingual/multicultural ministries that God has given us a vision for. Thousands of dollars and hours have now been invested in the effort and we are just beginning.

Even before we started, there has already been a change in pastoral leadership. One pastoral family was unable to come and join us in mid-June as we had planned. Currently, we are expecting to involve a team in ministry that can include ministry interns as well as experienced pastoral leadership. Our vision is to include ministries as diverse as Spanish and English worship, Christian leadership training, a coffee shop, sharing facilities with other churches, historical presentations, and an emphasis on home churches in a ministry center context.

We are trusting in the one who makes "all things new" to impact the League City community and to change lives.

Instituto ALMA



Making Disciples— Preparing Ministers

Instituto ALMA continues to serve the Hispanic church with new cell groups established and leaders trained. Currently, our need is to develop new classes and to mobilize our distribution network to make the classes available to more church leaders.

CHM Board:

William Roeh
 Michal Alexander
 Craig Davis
 Jacob Estrada
 Paul Feaster

Dora Gutierrez Kerr
 Thomas Hoke
 Dr. Chuck Mylander
 Dr. Karl Newman
 Scott Randall
 Dr. Jack Rea



Spiritual Retreat



In a remote area just outside of Aguascalientes, Mexican Friends Pastors and leaders came together to seek God.

Ministry is often full of busy activity as we seek to care for people's needs and make

disciples. It can be so busy, in fact, that we can easily lose track of the voice of the Master whom we seek to serve.



In this beautiful location in central México, **Dr. Joe Roher** led leaders through a variety of spiritual disciplines in a first-of-its-kind retreat sponsored by EFM and CHM.

EFM's director, Chuck Mylander, also led part of the retreat on prayer as Friends leaders spread throughout this key city to pray God's blessing and protection on this place where a new mission team hopes to plant multiple churches.

It was a great time together that culminated in a foot-washing ceremony where these ministers illustrated their love and commitment to serve each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.



News and Prayer:

- ☞ - Pray for **the new ministries** CHM is launching in South Houston and League City Texas (see above). Pray for the ongoing renovation of the facilities and for the leadership for ministries that are multi-faceted, multi-cultural, and empowered by God.
- ☞ - **Unity** in the body of Christ is a constant struggle since Paul's day. Pray that Hispanic Churches, their members, and their leaders will let Jesus reign—not personal ambitions or jealousies.
- ☞ - Pray for Hispanic Ministry groups at Yearly Meeting sessions and for the 10th North American Hispanic Friends Conference (**Philadelphia**, Oct. 5-8). The thrust will be on evangelism with nightly evangelistic campaigns.
- ☞ - Pray for teams going out to help Hispanic ministries this summer - like East Richland Friends' visit to Texas in mid-August.