

# Making Hispanic Ministry The Priority!



## Greetings from CHM Director David Byrne



**I Thes 5:18 “.. give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”**

Aren’t politics frustrating? There are issues that are very important to me and to the people I work with that never seem to get addressed. Since this past summer, one of the issues that I’ve felt compelled to speak out on is immigration reform. You may think that this is an issue that only affects “illegals” in the United States. The truth is that the immigration situation affects the entire Hispanic community, putting pressure on everyone. But politics will be politics.

Recently the “Dream Act” was proposed in Congress. It is a reasonable first step toward immigration sanity that seeks to provide a way for the *children* of “undocumented” immigrants who have completed high school to eventually apply for citizenship. Graduates who have been continuously in the country for the five years prior to graduation would be given a temporary visa for six years in order to complete either two years of college or military service and thereby earn an opportunity for citizenship. Many immigrant children, through no fault of their own, have grown up here and only know the United States as their home. Unfortunately, the “Dream Act” was packaged with a defense-funding bill that also included the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” repeal which quickly became the focus of debate and was defeated.

So let us “give thanks in all circumstances” and let the light of Christ fill our lives with His grace, but let’s not forget that Christ’s body is greater than our particular group or even than this great nation. May His Kingdom come and His will be done as we consider how to serve Him and how to call others to His salvation.

If you would like to consider the immigration issue further, follow the link in our online newsletter.

## CHM Board:

Thomas Hoke	Kay Griffin
Michal Alexander	Dora Gutierrez Kerr
Craig Davis	Dr. Chuck Mylander
Jacob Estrada	Dr. Karl Newman
Paul Feaster	Dr. Jack Rea
	William Roeh
	Mark Rubash



## Friends Gathered for the North American Hispanic Friends Conference at the Bell Friends Church

It is a privilege to see God’s hand at work and to see God’s people working together. The theme of the conference held at the Bell Friends Church in California was: “Unidad—Desafío de los Amigos” (That would be loosely translated, “Unity-The Calling/Challenge for Friends.” I say, ‘loosely translated’ because the one word “desafío” carries both the positive and negative sense of a challenge. It is both what is expected as our calling but it can also be a problem, and isn’t that the way it is with unity?)

But with people like associate pastor Susan Ramos (on right) with her contagious smile and with the rest of the pastoral staff at Bell Friends to receive us, it was not hard to feel unity and to feel welcomed.



Each evening of the conference we were encouraged to set aside differences in order to build up the church, and there are real differences between us. The Hispanic church is divided by very diverse cultural, national and historical differences that make for interesting gatherings, but the one who unites us is the living Christ who stands before us and says, “come.”

Two representatives from Honduras attended the meetings and suggested that Central America needs an organization like AMANA there. They suggested AMACA (sounds like Hammock in Spanish!) We praise God for the gift of unity He has given.

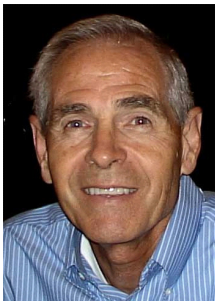


## Instituto ALMA News



Dr. Gene Pickard did another excellent job in October presenting a class on Hermeneutics for Spanish-speaking pastors and leaders. The class was presented just before our latest conference so that people traveling to LA could take advantage of both events.

The hermeneutics class is a part of the ongoing strengthening of the Biblical studies track in the Instituto ALMA and is a cooperative effort with the Southern California based IHPLA (Hispanic Institute for Friends Leaders). Our thanks to all those who participated.



## News and Prayer:

- ☞ Pray for two church-planting pastors who have recently had major health issues. **Felipe Vásquez** from northern Mexico was hospitalized in late August with a ruptured intestine (along with diabetes and leukemia). He remains hospitalized in Houston and is making slow improvement. **Tomás Martínez** from Emporia, Kansas was hospitalized in Wichita for heart problems. He had a catheterization and will return later for further treatment.
- ☞ Pray for the students using Instituto ALMA materials and for the hard work Jerry Clarkson is doing to produce new classes.
- ☞ Pray for our new class on the Old Testament, taught by Dr. Ron Stansell, that we plan to present in January in cooperation with the Northwest Hispanic churches.

Address: P.O. Box 1500, Friendswood, TX 77549 Tel.: (713)922-3113

Email: CHM@InstitutoALMA.org Web: [www.InstitutoALMA.org/CHM/](http://www.InstitutoALMA.org/CHM/)

Online Credit Card Donations through PayPal—Go to the bottom of our online newsletter, click the “Donate” button