

Making Hispanic Ministry The Priority!



Greetings from CHM Director David Byrne

This has been an unusual year of travel as North American Hispanic Ministry has taken me to remote parts of the world to forward the cause of building Christ's Church. Part of our mission is to work together with other Christians so that we can respond to God's voice as one people, in spite of our cultural and linguistic differences. In Mexico City during our August conference of the North American Ministerial Alliance of Friends Pastors, our Mexican hosts arranged for an uplifting time of celebration for the growth in the Mexican Church and for our unity across borders and affiliations. Please pray with me for the increasing awareness in the Hispanic Churches of North America that its outreach is the world and that its partner is the entire Body of Christ. Pray too, that your place in that Body will continually reflect your Lord's desire to heal, to save, and to rescue that which is lost.



With my Friend, Pastor Sergio Ayala, Celebrating Mexican Gold.



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AMANA Conference



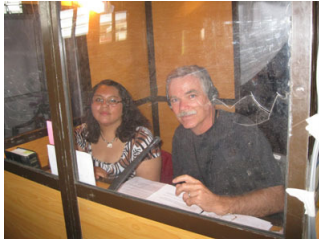
The North American Hispanic Friends Conference this year in Mexico City was only the second conference we've held inside of Mexico. The workshops, services and

other presentations were challenging and inspirational as we considered the theme of "Christian Holiness." It was an added bonus to be able to celebrate Mexico's Olympic gold medal in soccer with tens of thousands of Mexicans at the Angel of Independence as part of our "field trip."

Pastor Ernesto Ramirez and his wife, Elizabeth coordinated details on the local level superbly along with their leadership team and Pastor Angel Diaz the executive-secretary of AMANA (Alianza Ministerial Amigos de Norte America) assured the quality of the presentations.

Hispanic Ministry in Africa

It was a privilege to participate and to serve as a translator/interpreter in the FWCC World Conference of Friends in Kenya during April. For a couple of weeks I worked with an accomplished group of language specialists to make sure the conference could be accessed by all who attended. In particular,



Listening in

I was encouraged by the many representatives of "mission fields" who now have strong National Church Organizations or Yearly Meetings like Rwanda, Burundi, Bolivia, Peru, Central America, etc. Some wondered where the Evangelical Friends were who sent the Gospel to their country. Their concern points to the need for evangelical fellowship among Christ-centered Friends from around the world.

Sharing in fellowship on a personal level between those of us who are Friends of Jesus can inspire and instruct us all and we need venues for North American Church members to commune with Christians from other languages and cultures. It is not enough to have an organizational affiliation or for our leaders to have occasional contact. When believers come together to celebrate our common Lord and faith, we grow. I pray that those of us who call Jesus "Lord" and "Friend" will find ways to gather His body together for edification.

Hermógenes Méndez— "Thank you, Lord for his life."

Hermogenes Mendez, a faithful pastor of Evangelical Friends Church's Hispanic ministry in Baltimore, Maryland, ended his earthly journey in June, 2012 after suffering a massive stroke in May.

Hermogenes began his walk with Jesus in Guatemala in 1982 at the age of 36. The Lord saved this world-class soccer player from a tough life of hearty drinking, and he became a committed witness to Christ's redemptive work. The following year he began a fruitful partnership with Alan Amavisca in church planting, beginning with a fellowship made up of 80% new believers.

Hermogenes and his wife, Berta then immigrated to the US and planted a Hispanic church in Baltimore. He became a pioneer net-



worker with EFC-ER and John Ryser, which opened the door to productive ministry with several more Hispanic churches. He served Jesus and EFC-ER faithfully in leadership for more than 19 years.

He is remembered by the Baltimore congregation as:

- One who had a solution for everything
- A man who lived his life by faith
- A man of prayer
- One who loved the work of ministry
- A man always ready to help

Like Abel from the hall of faith chapter in Hebrews, "though he is dead, he still speaks" (Hebrews 11:4). We thank God for Hermogenes' legacy!

From EFC-ER Superintendent Chris Jackson

Please pray for Berta, their 3 children and the Baltimore Church.

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