

connect

BCP
A PUBLICATION OF
BAPTIST CHURCH PLANTERS

Meeting America's
Greatest Need

FALL 2005

by Dr. David C. Little

This is an exciting edition of *Connect*. We are happy to introduce two new missionary couples as recent graduates of our summer missionary class. You will want to read about them (see page 3) and invite them to your churches and homes.



We are also thrilled to **introduce our new Hispanic Ministry**, its director, publication, website, and purpose. This announcement is the result of much prayer. Very little is being done by Baptist churches in the Hispanic communities of the USA. We have very few Hispanics being trained for ministry in our present Bible colleges. With thirty-five million Hispanics living in this country, the need is immediate and great.

We are in our fifteenth year anniversary campaign, raising funds for our building addition. We need \$25,000 to finalize the campaign. Praise the Lord!

David Whitcher Appointed Coordinator of Hispanic Ministries

At the annual meeting of the BCP Council, David Whitcher was appointed Coordinator of Hispanic Ministries. David was raised in Mexico City. His wife, Melissa, was raised in Brazil. Coming from missionary families serving in Central and South America enables David and Melissa to understand both the work and the culture of Hispanics. David is a graduate of Faith Baptist Bible College and attended the Seminary. With missionary and pastoral experience, the Whitchers will be a blessing as they serve churches. Their sending church, Maranatha Baptist Church of Grimes, Iowa, enthusiastically supports and encourages the Whitchers in this ministry.



David & Melissa Whitcher

David's primary responsibilities are as follows:

- Encourage and give direction to BCP Hispanic missionaries and Hispanic church plants.
- Aid established churches in developing a strategy to reach Hispanics in their communities.
- Arrange for Bible School courses to be taught in Spanish by qualified educators and duplicate courses electronically for Hispanic churches to use in preparing Hispanic men and women for ministry.
- Prepare the quarterly publication, *El Ministerio*.
- Manage the web page- www.ReachingHispanics.org

David is a qualified expositor of the Word and will be a blessing wherever he serves and teaches the Word of God. David and Melissa are presently on deputation, raising their support. Contact them by email: david@whitchers.com or by calling 515-720-4274 (cell).

Using Spanish in Your Local Church

If you are seeking for a way to prepare your church for future ministry, learn Spanish. How? Why not use the Sunday School opening, evening service or some other venue to learn key Spanish words. This will prepare the church to minister to Hispanics in your locality, and prepare the church for Hispanic visitors. It will also create an excitement for the church in "preparing to be missionaries to their Hispanic community." Another idea- design your whole mission conference on the theme, "Ministering to Hispanics." During the conference, learn Spanish words. Visit www.reachinghispanics.org for the information needed to get started.

Díos te bendiga (God bless)



What's in Your Backyard?

by David Whitcher

How can churches win the Hispanics that are living within reach of their ministry? How does a pastor begin to lead his church to meet the spiritual needs of those who are from a different country and who speak a different language?

There are currently over 35 million Hispanics living in the United States. Latinos make up more than 13% of our total population and were declared the largest minority in the census of 2000.

The U.S. Hispanic community contains such a wide variety of cultures, worldviews, dialects, economic statuses, and legal statuses that it makes it impossible to reach them by a fixed standard or methodology. Thus, even the most well-meaning church leaders are quickly overwhelmed and discouraged when it comes to getting the gospel out to their Hispanic neighborhoods.

The following paragraphs contain similarities found in churches with effective Spanish ministries.

Every Church with an Effective Spanish Ministry Has Done Away with the Hindrance of Resentment

It is important to recognize that Hispanic's greatest need is Christ. This is a granted, is it not? Unfortunately, this truth is sometimes difficult to accept because of political and social concerns about the American Hispanic community. Immigration is a difficult issue because 1/3 of all Hispanic immigrants in the U.S. are here without proper documentation. I

have found that this resentment is the number one unspoken hindrance to churches being motivated to personally reach Hispanics.

Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well illustrates this truth. The Samaritan woman was one who was despised by the Jewish nation. The Samaritans were those who intermarried with Gentiles and were considered the mixed-breed or mutts of the time. This woman was one that others avoided. Even the disciples wanted to stay away from Samaria as a whole. But what did Jesus do? He did not avoid her; neither did he allow the social issues to hinder the relationship or become even a topic of conversation. Instead, Christ immediately offered her living water.

Every Church with an Effective Spanish Ministry Has Been Willing to Immerse in a Different Culture

Another important essential for reaching Latin Americans is understanding that ministering to them requires much more than functioning in a different language. It involves working with a culture that views the world completely different than we do. Reaching Hispanics involves being willing to learn, accept, and function in their unique culture.

Missionary Earl Dannenberg always talked about the importance of having an incarnational ministry as a missionary. By this, he meant being willing to immerse in a different culture and become like them in order to reach them; not taking on the negative or sinful aspects of any culture, but being willing to give up some luxuries to go out of our comfort zone to better reach people with the gospel.

Every Church with an Effective Spanish Ministry Has Loved People and Found a Way to Reach Them

When Jesus was asked, "What is the Greatest Commandment in the law?" He replied, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all they soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." Then our Savior continues, "And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:37-39). Those who have been effective in reaching Latinos share a passion. They are totally in love with God. They have cultivated their personal relationship with God in such a way that they love what God loves – people! No matter the difficulties, love finds a way to get the gospel to people.



CONCLUSION

Observation tells us that there are three types of churches in relation to potential Spanish ministries:

1) The church located in a predominately Hispanic community and who has the potential of developing a solid and thriving Spanish ministry.

2) The church located in an area where there is a small concentration of Hispanics. This church will probably only have a Spanish outreach without developing a solid ministry or a new indigenous church.

3) The church that is located in an area where there are no Hispanics but that has an interest in reaching them. This church has the potential of investing people and resources into other communities.

No matter which category your church falls into, God can use you to help reach the Latin American population. May God help us to accept that He has brought a mission field to our own country for us to reach. May God keep us from the resentment and stereotypes that would hinder us bringing Latinos the gospel of Christ. May God also give us the willingness to do away with our comfort zones and immerse ourselves in the foreign Latin-American culture. Finally, may we love Hispanics with Christ's love and find a way to reach them.



Hispanic Ministries

Bridges & Stumpfs Graduate from 2005 Candidate Class



Bob & Pam Bridge

13389 Rt. 39, Lot D · Chaffee, NY 14030 · (716) 496-5103

pbandpbridge@netzero.net

Sending Church: Central Baptist Church, Yorkshire, NY

Education: Carolina Bible College

Experience: Serving in their local church

Field: Springville, NY

Bob and Pam have moved to the Springville area and will be raising support.



Erik & Rebecca Stumpf

241 N. 3rd · Tecumseh, NE 68450 · (402) 335-4039

restumpf@alltel.net

Sending Church: Campus Baptist Church, Ames, IA

Education: Faith Baptist Bible College & Seminary

Experience: Serving in their local church

Field: Faith Baptist Church, Tecumseh, NE

Erik and Rebecca have taken over the work at Faith Baptist Church, Tecumseh, NE. They are raising partial support.



PO Box 836
 Elyria, OH 44036-0836
 Phone: 440-748-1677
 Fax: 440-748-1837
 Email: bcp@bcpusa.org
 Web site: bcpusa.org

NONPROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 ELYRIA, OHIO
 PERMIT NO. 377

**You can now
 order online at
www.bcpusa.org**

Help Us Stay Current
 If you are receiving
 duplicates of this newslet-
 ter, please let us know.
 Or if you wish to correct
 an address or discontinue
 receiving the newslet-
 ter, contact us at (440)
 748-1677 or e-mail at
bcp@bcpusa.org.

2005 Memorial Gifts
 Given in memory of Halie Butler by:

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Augsburger	Rev. & Mrs. Leslie Newell
Fern M. Brue	Mrs. Helen L. Prugh
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Brueggeman	Dawna Ray
Carol Eckey	Mr. & Mrs. Karl Schowengerdt
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Garland	Mr. & Mrs. Ryland Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Jensen	Mr. & Mrs. David Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Lumsden	Mr. & Mrs. Todd Trickle
Rev. H. E. Marcillott	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ullom
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur McFarland	Mr. & Mrs. Dan Vander Hart

First Baptist Church, Guthrie Center, IA
 Park Lane Baptist Church, Omaha, NE
 Willow Creek Baptist Church, West Des Moines, IA
 Family
 Anonymous cash gifts

Given in memory of Elvin Tryon by:
 Rev. & Mrs. Edwin Dean



Visit our web site
 weekly and get the
 prayer requests of our
 missionaries.

Check the itineraries of
 our Administrators, too, at
www.BCPUSA.org.

Baptist Church Planters is an independent Baptist mission agency serving
 Baptist missionaries who are sent out by independent Baptist churches.