

Hispanic Task force,
September 8, 2006

The meeting opened at the C-N-H Ministry Center in Livermore at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Enrique Vallejo presiding.

Rev. Vallejo led a devotion based on John 6: 60-69. Several members reflected on this passage. We are called by God the Father to ministry. Many acknowledge Jesus for his miracles and signs, but refuse to acknowledge Him as God. Many fall away who has come down from heaven Many do not accept

Six members of the Task Force had signaled their inability to attend the meeting and were acknowledged by Rev. Vallejo.

San Francisco: (Kathie Badertscher). Grace and Bethel conducted Vacation Bible School (VBS) in three languages this past summer, 5 Wednesday evenings in a row. Pastor Chan led in Chinese, a lay person in Spanish. Grace/Bethel want to expand the program. They recently acquired a member who has a masters degree in ESL and is willing to give ESL lessons. However, the group that expressed interest in ESL dispersed before the program could be started. As pastor Luis Alvarado demonstrated during his ministry in the area, the Hispanic community continues to be very itinerant, and difficult to reach. Pastor Chan wants to meet with E. Vallejo to work up a plan to break into the community. They have really broken into the Chinese community, but they're still struggling with the Hispanics. For example, approximately 170 people visit their food pantry weekly, and 100 stay to hear the gospel. Of these, the number of Hispanics remains low. They plan to use a Halloween event to attract new people..

Circuit 9: (Dave Pauling, Rev. Herb Burch)The Central Coast Lutheran Mission Society (CCLMS) was formed by the seven congregations of Circuit 9 to do outreach to other cultural groups. As the called missionary to the society, Pastor Burch works with the entire circuit to do outreach. This summer, we had VBS in six different locations centered around Hispanic populations. Pastor Burch worked with members of the local congregations to organize the VBS programs and members conducted them in English, as children who attend the local schools generally speak English. These included Lompoc, Santa Maria, Arroyo Grande, and Paso Robles.

A follow up weekly Bible School program continues at the Good Samaritan homeless shelter in Santa Maria as a result of the summer program.

Pastor Burch accompanied members of three congregations in the circuit on a mission trip to Tijuana Mexico in conjunction with Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry. There they built two houses and conducted a VBS for the children in the neighborhood of the construction.

Pastor Burch also returned to Guatemala to encourage his prior congregation in Guatemala City. The pastor they called a little over a year ago from Brazil resigned his position, and they do not have the resources to call another pastor immediately, as this had been quite costly to bring a pastor and his wife from Brazil.

Bakersfield/Terrabella (Acts in Mission Society[AIMS]) Pastor Dan Conrad has agreed to supervise TEE for six persons in his area through the Hispanic Ministry Center . Danny Vasquez is working out of St. John and Lutheran Church of Prayer in Bakersfield, and Taft. However, these churches are not located in the areas where the Hispanic population lives, and they need to find venues closer to their ministry. They also are looking to make AIMS self-sufficient over the long term. They have not written a five year plan or set a time for self sufficiency, but look forward to such a time. Currently 25% of all offerings are going to AIMS.

Rev. Carl Bliese has been taking Spanish lessons and will begin Spanish services in Delano later this month.

Pastor Conrad expressed concern that Danny Vasquez works too hard and does not want him to burn out by overdoing it.

Napa (Luis Alvarado): They continue the process of building the congregation. They have Sunday school at 10:00 a.m., worship at 11:00 a.m., and fellowship practically every Sunday, which is very important...Fellowship has helped them build community in the church. They also have Bible studies on Mondays and Wednesdays. Two Sundays ago they had 13 baptisms. He remarked that new missions attract people from other churches, and their motives are sometimes questionable. He would rather not encourage them unless they insist, but would rather build on the Rock, not on robbing people from other flocks.

They have begun to organize every ministry within the church. They need much prayer. They want to build a church that resembles what Jesus taught. This church reflects what the Lord is doing.

BR asked about music. Luis is using contemporary music. People can clap, sing, etc. We must educate them in addition to evangelizing.

Stockton(Rev. Sid Sandate, Pr. Martin Ureña) Rev. Sandate reported on the Second National Hispanic Convention in Irving, TX. The convention was well organized and orchestrated. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Irving, under the leadership of Pastor Robert Gonzalez did a great job hosting the convention. LCMS President Gerald Kieschnick has established a committee to examine Hispanic ministry in the LCMS. Dr. Robert Scuderi gave an excellent presentation on *Ablaze!* and objectives for outreach in North America. Rev. Angel Perez was elected as the president of the next National Hispanic Convention. Rev. Sandate and Rev. Vallejo gave thanks to the Southern MAC and C-N-H District for their support which enabled the district to send more representatives. The C-N-H was well represented at the convention.

Martin Ureña reported on the VBS in the Park in Stockton in conjunction with St. Andrews. They had excellent attendance (180-200). They baptized 3 children at Trinity about 3 weeks ago...10, 8, 5 years. He continues the VBS outreach with a Wednesday Bible school at Oak Park, half-way between the two congregations (Trinity and St. Andrews). Next month they will have a festival in the park involving the two congregations. They will also celebrate Mexican Independence day (16th of September) with an observance in the Park on September 17th. Pastor Burch suggested they include Independence Day for Central America (September 15th) in their celebration.

Tracy: (Felix Renteria)...So far so good. They organized a Soccer team. Kids are inviting other kids to the team...As a result two new families have joined the church. They are also working evangelism through family visits...One lady was so touched by the Bible study last week...she began to cry after hearing the gospel. (She was very Catholic and originally didn't want a Bible study.) They need air conditioning in the chapel where they are meeting. (Cathie Badertscher suggested a fund-raiser supported by Thrivent) The English speaking congregation still needs a pastor, and Felix looks forward to working with the English congregation...

They are putting four cells together to do Bible study in the homes. Their Sunday School now features young They have a remodeled facility but are church rich, money poor. Four classrooms will allow them to have more functions boys' and young women's Bible studies.

Gridley (Rev. B.R. Morales, Gary Pippit) They are working at getting things restarted. at night. Looking for funding so they can do things in the night. They are exploring doing a medical clinic. He senses they have a problem gaining the trust of new people, due to the atmosphere in the US and controversy over illegal immigrants.

Mr. Pippit reported their VBS had 20 percent churched, 80 percent unchurched, of which 75 percent were Hispanic. They invited the mothers who accompanied their kids to VBS to participate in Bible classes. They will have a rally for Sunday School (SS) to invite the kids to SS. Look toward reopening doors to new faces.

BR has difficulty visiting people in Gridley, as he lives in Sacramento, and Gridley lies 80 miles north.

Mountainview (Rev. Aaron Smith)...Hispanic ministry is doing well. Communication between the deacon(Jose Cervantes) and the pastor has improved the overall situation in this congregation. Their newsletter now features a portion in Spanish. The church calendar and schedule is partly in Spanish. They have set a direction for the Hispanic ministry. Their Adult Bible class for Spanish speaking people is changing to become a membership class. They anticipate doing a confirmation class in January 2007 with HS kids. Parental involvement remains a challenge. Many youth attend Sunday morning services, but parents are not attending. Any of these parents have a difficult time maintaining employment, and coming to church.

Transportation also presents a challenge, as church members are picking up the kids in their cars. It's difficult to get the youth there on-time because many times they have to wake them up. They are exploring getting a van.

Richmond(Rev.Tim Beck): He currently is working on building relationships. One woman who speaks Spanish has helped. They are offering seminars, for example how to do small business. They were ready to do ESL, but the people who were going to come moved.

San Jose(Rev. EnriqueVallejo): They continue to work to establish a sense of community...English and Spanish members will plan the mission together for the next year. They are starting a bi-lingual community also where households are divided with

one native Spanish speaker and one English speaker in the households. They look to build one community to reach the people in downtown San Jose.

Gonzalez(Pr. Luis Ortiz): Pastor Ortiz retired to Monterey two years ago from West Texas as a missionary at large, and is using his time for writing. He sees a lot of growth in Gonzalez, Soledad, and Greenfield, especially among Hispanics. He still has some ties to friends in Gonzalez. If the district would like to start new work there, he would be willing to help.

Mission counselor, North (Rev. Ted Hartman): District is exploring ways they can help with ministry and want to focus on specific areas to build deeper ties and relations, as opposed to skimming the surface. He met recently with B.R. Morales with regard to Gridley. It's important that we explore and implement ways to relate to the Hispanic community. We have a responsibility to individual people. We are a transformational force to deal with people one on one, not to be a political force.

Blowing in, blowing off, etc. Want to work with congregations that are willing to be a bit radical, and are willing to be missional.

BR Morales expressed his concern regarding differences between Seminary, DELTO, and Alternate routes education (elitism). Ted expressed how they are addressing this and are proposing a deacon's conference for next summer.

Reformation Offering: The C-N-H started the Reformation offering last year in English. They would like us to help in promoting this within our congregations. Those who would like to have materials in Spanish should contract Rev. Vallejo.

Mariachi San Pablo, the group from the Isleta Mission in El Paso, Texas that played at the 2d Hispanic Conference, is willing to do summer tours. We might explore bringing them to California for a concert tour.

Next meeting: 8 December 2006, 1000 hours, Ministry Center in Livermore.

Devotional to be led by Martin Ureña.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 with the Lord's Prayer in English and Spanish.