

# Grant Reporting for Pacific Mission Action Council

Date: April 1, 2008

Grant Recipient: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hayward

## List goals for 2008 [your plans]:

1. That weekly ESL classes and home visits would continue throughout 2008
2. That weekly women's Bible study in Spanish would continue throughout 2008
3. That 2 home Bible studies would be started and offered in 2008
4. That our relationship building efforts and home Bible studies would result in 10 or more baptisms
5. That at least 10 people would complete first communion/confirmation class
6. That we would be asked to conduct at least one quinceañera event/service
7. That we would have the opportunity to conduct several special worship services (Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day)
8. That more opportunities for interaction/idea of partnership between the English and Spanish speaking groups will occur.

## Briefly share progress for reaching goals [progress]:

- Goal #1: ESL classes have continued although we took a break during Lent. We have also continued with home visits although because of vacation time and extra work load during February and March, we did not have as many home visits as we would have liked.
- Goal #2: Our weekly women's Bible study class in Spanish has been a source of joy and hope. Each week attendance has been around 6-10 people and several people have brought their friends along.
- Goal #3: We have not had much success in starting up home Bible studies. We did meet in the homes of two of our people one Friday night in January, February, and March for a Bible study on marriage.
- Goal #4: We have not had any baptisms since the three youngest daughters of one of our families were baptized last year. We do have a few families that are attending the activities off and on that have members of their family that are not baptized. We hope to continue to share with them the importance and gift of Holy Baptism.
- Goal #5: We presently have two young people in our youth confirmation class and two adults are studying individually with the vicar.
- Goal #6: We have had a few inquiries from people about the possibility of conducting a quinceañera service, but we do not have any planned for 2008 as of right now.
- Goal #7: We did have a Good Friday service in Spanish with about 20-25 people in attendance. On Easter morning, we had around 30 people come for Easter breakfast, an Easter egg hunt and a Spanish service. Our Hispanic group is planning to have a Pentecost service with Mother's Day event on May 11 with the English speaking and Eritrean groups at Good Shepherd.
- Goal #8: We have offered a cooking class for the English speaking members of Good Shepherd to learn recipes from the Hispanic ladies in our group. We also do have some interaction between the two groups at our monthly Family Fun Night.

## List obstacles that need to be overcome [problems]:

- **Scheduling:** So many of the people we are trying to reach have such different schedules. It is difficult to find a common time for even a small group to meet.
- **Work:** Those who have jobs are working so many hours. When they don't have to work, they want to spend time relaxing. There are also many people who are unemployed. Many of them want help finding a job more than they want to hear God's Word.
- **Priorities:** For many families, spending an entire day at a birthday party is a much higher priority than spending 30-60 minutes learning more about God's Word...whether at church or at home.
- **Balancing Work Load:** Vicar Aaron and DCE Kayla also have responsibilities in the English speaking congregations of Good Shepherd Lutheran and Grace Lutheran. Finding a proper and healthy balance between the Spanish speaking group and the two English speaking groups can be challenging at times.

- **Language Issues:** It is more difficult (but not impossible!) for adults from both language groups (English and Spanish) to develop friendships. Also, although many of our Hispanic adults only speak Spanish, many of their children feel much more comfortable in English. This becomes an issue especially when we worship together in Spanish and some of the children have more difficulty understanding.
- **Marital, family and societal brokenness because of sin:** Many of the people we meet are completely broken in sin (addictions, abuse, marital and family issues, legal issues, job issues, etc.). Much of our ministry takes place in informal settings (driving them to appointments, eating with them, counseling them) rather than in the more formal settings of Bible study and worship.

### How can the Pac MAC assist you?

- **Your prayers:** This is a spiritual battle.
- **Your patience and encouragement:** Hispanic ministry in the U.S. is so very difficult. Continue to remind us that all of these challenges are really opportunities for Christ's love to be known and experienced.
- **Your networking:** Urban ministry is such a difficult ministry. Our district needs to help us do a better job of forming congregational and/or circuit partnerships/networks to share our resources and work together to respond to the opportunities that our dear Lord puts before every day. We need to function as the body of Christ beyond just the congregational level.
- **Your finances continue to assist us.** Good Shepherd Lutheran is not a large congregation but has stepped out in faith to minister to those in this community who speak English and also Spanish. Your financial support will continue to allow us to work to raise up new and faithful servants within both the English and Spanish speaking communities.

*God's continued blessings and guidance as you serve His Church.*