

# Grant Reporting for Pacific Mission Action Council

Date: April 2008

Grant Recipient: First Immanuel, San Jose

It is not easy to determine the limits of every area of work when we are working in different ministries as it is my case in which I share my labor time as the minister of the congregation of Hispanic speech in First Immanuel San José, California, C-N-H Hispanic Mission Developer, and as Regional Coordinator of the program of Theological Education by extension of the Center for Hispanic Studies of Concordia Seminary St. Luis Mo.

Nevertheless, I am going to describe what from January 2008 has happened in these three areas. Next is a brief description of the progress of my management during the first 3 months of the year 2008.

## **Definition of work:**

My definition of work is that, as minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ my priorities develop primarily in the proclamation of salvation for God's grace by the faith in Christ alone. I am sure that the faith cannot be demonstrated if it is not by means of a believers' community, for what my challenge is to planting communities of faith. These communities must develop by means of cultivate and nourishment of his members, which does by means of the intentional activity of evangelization and education. My approach is the development of lay local leadership, but this does not prevent that also from working at level of region.

## **First Immanuel Hispanic Ministry pastor:**

we are in the second year of work to direct our Hispanic speaking congregation to a more active participation and to developing a proper identity without stopping being a part of a congregation that it has decided to be "One church serving in two languages" in downtown San Jose and his surroundings.

We are provided with a Hispanic Council Group formed by seven members whose intention is to work to raise and to strengthen the leadership in the congregation of Hispanic speech which, in turn he could collaborate and be employed at team with the leadership of English speech at the intention of serving together to the community.

The Hispanic leadership is in waiting of the decision that the Anglo-Saxon leadership takes after the process of "Congregational Revitalization" for, if it is their intention, we will begin to work together in a better and more effective way.

With regard to the attendance to worship services in Spanish, this has increased in 30 % in the last year, at present we have attendance from 60 to 65 persons. Our membership in the Hispanic congregation is: 120 active persons. In what it goes of the year we have received five new confirmed members.

## **Regional coordinator of the Center for Hispanic Studies:**

To the moment we are at team working with several congregations that have taken the decision to establish a Hispanic Ministry in their church as it is already been known St.

Paul in Mountain View, St. Paul in Tracy, St. Andrews and Trinity in Stockton which are provided with a Hispanic worker working under the coordination of the English speaking pastors of these congregations. Deacons José Cervantes, Félix Rentería and Martín Ureña have begun their process of vicariage which will last approximately one year and a half from this spring.

They keep on doing their trips of studies to the seminary in St. Luis every 6 weeks and I keep on meeting them and their respective local supervisors in monthly visits and by means of the phone, E-mail, etc.

We have very good relation of work with pastors Don Schneider, Aaron Smith, Gary Mohr, Vicar Aaron Putnam, dce Kayla Preto, pastors Terry Chang, Tim Beck, Calvin Waetzig, Dan Duel, Pon Chanthaphon, who somehow are connected with Hispanic ministries in the bay area. Also there is a good communication with the directorate of the missionary society "AIMS", in the south of district in the area of Bakersfield where it is working as missionary the worker Daniel Vázquez. In that area we are also in a good relationship with Anglo pastors as Daniel Conrad and Herbert Burch.

In what it corresponds at the congregational level of Theological Education by Extension, (TEE), at present there is given a course in which there is a whole of 10 students. We already start having classes in Tracy and Stockton, which, being provided with San Jose now represents three different centers of training in our district.

To the moment we are in the initial steps for a new center of study in Mt. Zion in Richmond with the collaboration of Pastor Tim Beck who will guide a student.

Also we are collaborating in instructs a student who is present at the church Grace/Bethel in San Francisco.

#### **Hispanic mission Developer in the C-N-H District:**

At level of district we keep in contact with different leaders in congregations of English speech that are interested in initiating Hispanic Ministries as part of their missionary vision. To the date I have had meetings with pastors and committees in Holy Cross Atwater and St. Paul in Merced. In Merced we will have a meeting soon in May with a group of members of the Hispanic Task Force.

The Hispanic Task Force is a group that meets 4 times in the year and up to last year just to be a place to share, to pray and to cheer up those who are working in Hispanic Ministries at the district. Nowadays we are promoting that this group is considered to be a "Council of Hispanic Ministries of the District C-N-H" for which it has proposed to establish three levels of participation:

The first level is the one in which all the leaders are included clergymen or laymen who somehow are involved in Hispanic Ministries in the district.

The second level that is a more limited group and that is suggested as "Planning Committee" which should planning the agenda for the meetings, treating of that these contain educational and informative elements and of support that they are helpful to the workers and to the District.

The third group formed by the coordinator of the Hispanic Task Force, three persons more and the District Ethnic Ministries Counselor. This will be a "Vision group" which will work at the possibility of future Hispanic Ministries at the district.

So far for the time being, I hope that this could serve like report to the honorable C-N-H Pacific Mission Action Council.

San Jose, California, On April 24, 2008.

Rev. Gabriel E. Vallejo