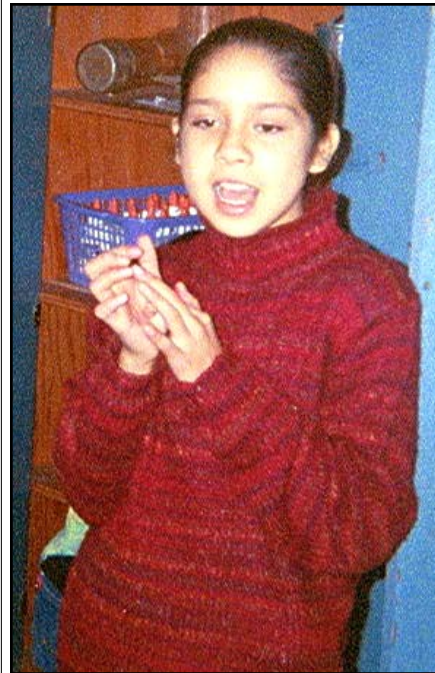




Central Texas
Conference Hispanic
Ministry

Practical Steps for
Hispanic Ministries
in a Non-Hispanic



Church Growth and Development
Central Texas Conference



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List of “Do’s” and “Don’ts” for Hispanic Ministry

“Do...”

1. Have a vision..
2. Love, welcome and befriend Hispanic/Latinos.
3. Be fully committed.
4. Use/employ everyone with a passion for this ministry, whether they **speak English or not**.
5. Train and educate your church about the realities of Hispanic/ Latino life situations.
6. Provide an open, welcoming environment.
7. Connect ministry to points of need.
8. Anticipate obstacles—try to identify and plan around.
9. Let Hispanic/Latino community say what its own needs are.
10. Use the gifts you have and build around those.
11. Seek ministries that empower, rather than foster dependency.
12. Understand that there is a lot of diversity among Hispanic/ Latino cultures.
13. Be patient and persistent.
14. Network/ cooperate with other churches and the connection.
15. Insure that Hispanics have a voice in the power structures/ ministries.
16. LIVE out the motto: “Our hearts, our minds and doors are always open”.
17. Think “**community of faith**” rather than

“Don’t...”

1. Start without a vision and plan.
2. Expect quick results.
3. Assume that all Hispanic/ Latinos are Catholic or that all who call themselves such are practicing.
4. Decide for Hispanic/Latinos what their needs are.
5. Assume that all Hispanic/ Latinos are culturally the same.
6. Assume that Hispanic Ministry is what someone else does (it requires cooperation, exchange, & working together).
7. Focus on the negative.
8. GIVE-UP.
9. Separate spiritual/ social needs
10. Hire a person to do the ministry then isolate the person.
11. Expect all Hispanics/ Latinos will be assimilated into Anglo congregations (some may/ some may not).
12. “Nitpick” about “ministry marks”.

Theological Foundation
John 4: 7

Jesus said, "Give me a drink!". Such a simple request that made a world of difference for the Samaritan woman some 2000 years ago.



Yet, as simple as it was, it was the beginning of a new life for her, through the relationship formed with Jesus Christ that day.

So, what is so important about the request?

Quite simply, it is not the request itself, but the intentionality of the ensuing dialogue with the woman. It is through this conversation that *Christ listens to her story*. Albeit, Christ already knew her life and did not need to ask about it or even for the cup of water. However, He wanted to develop a relationship with her and thus needed to first bond with her.

Hispanic Ministry is all about relationships and thus, as Christ did, opportunities must be made in order for ministry to begin. Opportunities to listen to their stories, which most are more than willing to share. Christ did not have to ask for a drink of water, He chose to, in order to give the Samaritan woman life-giving water.

If one is going to be in ministry with Hispanics, it is going to have to be an intentional/ deliberate act. Don't be hesitant about asking for assistance. For most this is a new area of ministry, yet it's a ministry with great potential as the fields are ripe for the harvest in the Central Texas Conference. See statistics >

Surveying the Community

As you begin the vision process for your church's involvement in Hispanic Ministry, it is critical that a survey of the community take place (hand-out). This can be done in a team effort by a group of people who are enthusiastic about this ministry. This process is also very helpful in avoiding the "Don'ts" for Hispanic Ministry and accomplishing the "Do's". Please remember this is time and effort well spent.

Enlisting and Training Leadership

This by and large will be your arduous task, but not an impossible one. Many times people within the church have skills that can aid in Hispanic Ministry. However, unless people are approached and asked they will not volunteer.

For instance, someone may return from a mission trip to Mexico, South or Central America and may be eager to work within the Hispanic context, but finds no avenues within the church by which to do so. Or there may be someone in the church with Spanish language skills that would be willing to offer them.



Lay missionary Fernando Sanchez

Maybe there is a retired teacher willing to either teach English as a Second Language or help organize a tutoring program.

And don't forget that our conference has

talented people working in this area willing to train you and your laity in Hispanic Ministry via the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry.

What is the purpose of the Plan you may be asking? Well here it is:

The fundamental purpose of the Lay Missioner and Pastor- Mentors (National Plan Training Program) is to form Lay Missioners and Pastor-Mentors so that they may become agents of change within church and society who operate from the demands of the Gospel. In the process the Program seeks to:

- * Broaden the human missional vision of the church and
- * Broaden the knowledge and pastoral skills of lay missioners and pastors.

The annual conference is actively building a cadre of leaders so be sure to contact your District Hispanic Ministry Committee Chairperson or me regarding training opportunities. **Modules I & II Sept. 30th- Oct. 2nd Glen Lake Camp.**

Types of Ministries: Outreach/ Spiritual

Within our conference many churches are having wonderful blessings in the following areas:

- English as a Second Language
- Tutoring Programs
- Food Pantries
- Thrift Shop/ Clothing Closets

Others have gone beyond outreach ministries and into spiritual development type ministries such as :

- Bible Study,
- Prayer groups
- Worship service

Resources available to you:

You, your members, your church building and your Conference Office of Hispanic Ministries.

Largest barriers working against you: FEAR (Apprehension), PROCRASTINATION, AND PRIDE.

It is all a matter of what you and your church are willing to offer in reaching out to your community and the Hispanic population that resides within its outreach area.

Statistical Information

- Presently 38+ million Hispanic in U.S.
- 522,428-Reside w/i our conference- approx. 60% are 2nd generation
- Average age of Hispanics is 26 yrs.
- Annual Income 50% < \$30,000
23% > \$30,000 to \$70,000

- English dominant by generation
1st Foreign born 4%
2nd Native born 46%
- Less than 50% graduate from HS in TX

Latino Religious Life

- Over 60%- religion is very important
- 16% are Protestant
- Protestant affiliation by generation
1st -18%
3rd- 33%