



Latinos United

Christian Ministries

newsletter

Fall 2011

INGLESIA CRISTIANA:

A model for outreach

Iglesia Cristiana, our church plant in South Omaha, is a model of cross-cultural outreach. Pastor Danny Zapata's congregation continues to thrive in spite of the demands of developing a ministry of this diversity. We have just completed a Vacation Bible School sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, Nebraska. This church partners with us by providing volunteers, curriculum for children and financial support for program supplies. These kinds of partnerships enable us to offer an outreach which would otherwise exceed our human resource and financial capabilities. Likewise, Dundee Presbyterian annually supports our Family Fiesta, a street festival open to the entire community. This family event is another model of an effective opportunity to build bridges within the community and to create relationships with neighbors who are searching for a church family.

PRAYER POINTS

I ask for your continued prayers as I begin a new journey in ministry working with National Outreach in the EPC. Although I rejoice at the opportunity to further God's kingdom through this ministry, it will require increased travel and time away from my family. Pray that God will continue to strengthen my marriage, and that He will enable Gina and I to provide our children with the love and direction they need to grow into strong disciples for Christ.

This new direction means our work is expanding to include strategic ministries throughout the nation, and this has brought additional financial challenges. Although my new position within the EPC offers new avenues in ministry, our expenses to carry out these efforts will grow even greater.

In this time of transition we have lost some of our local supporters, but we envision that the necessary resources will eventually be shared by others as we expand nationally. Until then I pray that the Lord will put it on your heart to partner with us financially to support this work. You have been a blessing to Latin's United for years and as we step forward with these new challenges, we need your support now more than ever! Thank you for making this ministry possible!



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John Bueno is officially installed as a National Outreach missionary for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church through Latin's United Cross Cultural Ministries. [p. 2](#)



May 25th marked the inauguration of a water treatment plant in the village of El Totumo attended by government officials, the local community, and representatives from Latin's United. [p. 3](#)



Teams minister through a health fair providing dental hygiene and minor medical assistance to a local school with over 120 children [p. 3](#)

training
consultation
outreach
strategy

New Directions

LATIN'S UNITED AND THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

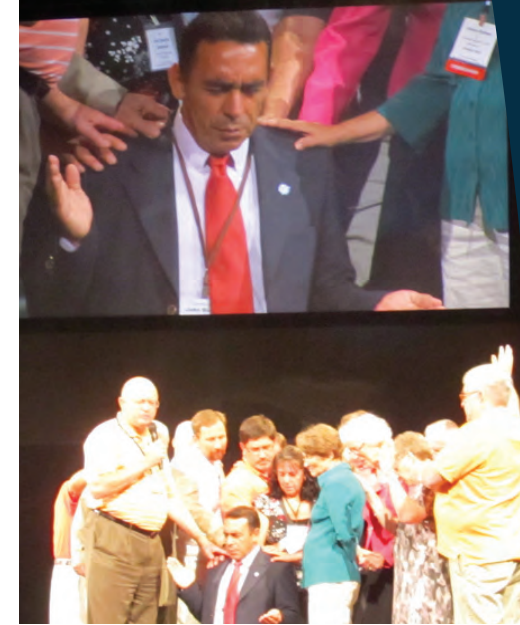
In October of 2009, John Bueno was received into The Presbytery of the West as a commissioned lay pastor for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). Then, towards the end of 2010, John submitted an application to become a National Missionary for Hispanic Outreach for the EPC; that request was finally realized June 24, 2011, at the EPC's General Assembly in Memphis, Tennessee where John was officially installed as the EPC's National Missionary for Hispanic Ministry. While this presents a challenging journey, John has expressed confidence that the Lord will strengthen and direct him. John has seen God's leading through the positive responses and acceptance from churches already visited in Chicago, Memphis and California. In addition, John has received requests for further contact from EPC churches throughout the United States.

Because of the challenges for growth ahead, John realizes the need to restructure existing ministries and refocus the vision for Latin's United (LU). There is a great deal of work to be done as we transition to a national presence; we ask for your prayers and support as we gain an awareness of the Lord's direction in preparing for these new opportunities. Requests for outreach to Hispanic commu-

nities across the country has added a new dimension to the administrative tasks and responsibilities of Latin's United.

In response, we are creating a Ministry Board to share in the tasks of facilitating growth and responding to the needs of ministry. Tim Brown, who served as Vice President of Knox Fellowship, has joined Latin's United as a member of this board. John has worked with Tim for over eight years and is honored to have him as a part of the team. We look forward to each member of the Ministry Board benefiting the ministry as they serve through their unique gifts and experience in ministry.

providing solutions for cross cultural ministries



ON THE AIR

Each week, two hours of programming called "La Nueva" provides a spiritual touchpoint for listeners in the Latin community. Scriptural viewpoints are provided on family topics, parenting, healthy relationships, developing faith, and more.

We regularly reach unchurched listeners through these secular radio stations.



COLOMBIA MISSIONS OUTREACH

John Bueno and his sister, Anna Keopsell, joined the mission's team of Dundee Presbyterian Church as they traveled to the cities of Bogata and Ibague in Colombia on May 20 through June 1, 2011. The church at Dundee supports a year-round after school program at Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church in Bogata. Through their financial support each child in the program is fed after school, given help with their homework, learns about the love of Jesus through Biblical stories and Christian songs, then enjoys a time of fun and fellowship before receiving a snack and returning home with their parents. The Dundee group makes an annual visit to the church, and provides a community festival and ministers to the children and families of the area. Dundee's outreach continued as they joined with a group from the church in Bogata and traveled to Ibague, then on to a city called Fusa, where they in turn ministered to the needy in those areas.

On the outskirts of Ibague is a village called El Totumo. Here the group ministered to a school of approximately 120 children through a Health Fair that included dental hygiene and minor medical services. Each team member traveled with an extra suitcase filled with children's clothing which was distributed among the needy in El Totumo. Through this effort and our El Totumo Water Plant, we have had the privilege of building relationships within the community and will soon begin a ministry through Vaejo De Zion, a Christian retreat in El Totumo.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Over a period of five years, we have been working with the Colombian government and the city administrators of El Totumo to bring fresh drinking water to the villiage. Until this point, the only

source for drinking water was a creek filled with water which was unsuitable for human consumption. This year, the efforts were rewarded when Latin's United was given permission to install the water treatment center.

The treatment center shown has the capacity to produce 60,000 to 100,000 gallons of clean drinking water each day for the villiage of 4,000 to 5,000 people. When a gift of \$50,000 was provided through an anonymous donor, the vision of the treatment plant became a reality for this rural

area. People from the villiage, government officials and representatives from Latin's United attended the official inauguration ceremony on May 25th this year.

Latin's United continues to work with government agencies in Colombia and other nations that are eager to provide this type of water treatment center in other villiages.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Latin Ministry Consultation, GA
- Latin Ministry Consultation,, NC
- Latin Ministry Consultation, SC
- Latin Ministry Consultation, IL
- Church Visitations, Northern CA
- Mid-America Presbytery, KS



FAMILY CAMP

Our first Family Camp included special events, acitivities, and speakers, helping a new congregation to connect through ministry and biblical teaching. The camp also helped us to reach out and connect with families who had become part of the church through recent community and evangelism events.



PURE DRINKING WATER

"the El Totumo treatment center has the capacity to produce between 60 and 100-thousand gallons of drinking water each day."

