

Iowa Nebraska Hispanic Mission Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 1

New Website: www.inhim.tv

Summer 2014

A CEM church plant gives birth to INHiM



In 2004, Christian Evangelistic Mission (CEM) took a risk by trying something new to reach a rapidly growing group of people. When we follow God, He often leads us out of the familiar into the unknown.

A dramatically growing number of people in Iowa need to hear the gospel in Spanish (table), their primary and heart language. God led us to Mario Lara, whom we partnered with to start Lifebridge Christian Church (Iglesia de Cristo de Puente de Vida) in Des Moines, Iowa.

I am very proud of CEM and Mario for starting this venture so that Hispanic people can have a life bridge back to God.

Mario Lara Cell: (515) 619-8929

CEM's role with the church plant Lifebridge Christian Church is gradually transitioning from direct financial support of one church to a ringing endorsement of the newly established INHiM, a ministry developed to serve Hispanics in a much broader geographic area. We hope CEM churches will now consider giving aid to INHiM directly.

CEM is glad to have supported the church plant because through it, God is changing lives in the Spanish-speaking culture in the Des Moines area. With the creation of INHiM, we look forward to even greater results over an almost unlimited geographic area.

This new approach allows CEM and our churches to better fulfill our unchanging vision of reaching Hispanics throughout Iowa and Nebraska more effectively than starting several churches. As Hispanic Family Altars (small groups) form and multiply through local leaders and the use of technology, churches may form in areas where several small groups are clustered.

Please forward this introduction of INHiM to your church's mission committee. Consider how your congregation may wish to fulfill the Great Commission to Spanish-speaking people, beginning here in Iowa with an organization headed by an experienced and gifted evangelist and minister.

By—Mike Knight and Carla Bowers



Mike Knight, director of CEM, and Mario Lara Minister Life Bridge CC & INHiM.

79,706 The numeric change in the Latino population from 2000 to 2012. This is a 95.8 percent increase for the period.*	162,894 The estimated Latino population of IA as of July 1, 2012, making people of Latino origin the state's largest race or ethnic minority. Latinos constitute 5.3 percent of the state's total population.*	436,138 The projected Latino population of Iowa as of July 1, 2040. According to the 2013 Woods & Pool Economics Inc., Latinos will constitute 12.7 percent of the state's total population on that date.*
--	--	--

Source: <http://www.iowadatecenter.org/Publications/latinos2013.pdf/view?searchterm=Latinos%202013>

If you or your church wishes to contribute to INHiM, please make checks out to Lifebridge Christian Church *, and send to: Lifebridge Christian Church Treasurer, 6390 NE Rising Sun Drive, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327. *Please include in the check memo line the word "INHiM". We thank you for your interest in the spiritual needs of Spanish-speaking people.

INHiM is a ministry of Lifebridge Christian Church.

Mario Lara, Iglesia de Cristo Puente de Vida, www.icpvida.org, Tel: 515.619.8929, Fax: 515.265.2831, Email: icpval@aol.com

Working INHiM from Iowa to Nebraska to the ends of the Earth

The INHiM leadership team is made up of people who understand and can reach our target audience, and is chaired by Mario Lara.

Mario, through the church plant Lifebridge Christian Church, has reached first and second generation professionals and educators and who are committed to help reach other Spanish-speaking people for Christ. Mario has also formed relationships with English-speaking individuals from established churches who share the vision.

Another exciting aspect is Mario's ministry role through this transition. A leader and minister, Mario is shifting from ministering traditionally through one congregation to training ministry leaders at Lifebridge Christian Church and in many geographical locations in the following ways:

- Mario has recorded many sermons and lessons in Spanish for use by small group leaders in locations starting in Iowa and Nebraska. There have already been instances of these lessons and sermons being viewed from outside the U.S.
- Mario provides weekly training to leaders, who then regularly lead small groups in their communities, currently including Ankeny, Des Moines, Marshalltown, and Scotts Bluff/Gering in Nebraska.

Praise God! Our brotherhood now has a more effective way to reach the growing Spanish-speaking population.

Mario would be happy to act as a resource to any established church who realizes a need within their community.

Whether a Hispanic couple has moved in next door or the mission team is looking for a way to reach out locally or within Iowa, a phone call can provide assistance of many types: brochures in Spanish, information on CIBC Hispanic family camp, discussions of starting a Hispanic small group within the established church.

INHiM asks for your assistance in fulfilling the Great Commission in these ways:



The Iowa Nebraska Hispanic Mission (INHiM) committee meets several times a year to find ways to reach Hispanic people in the Midwest for Christ. Clockwise from left: Scott Johannes (Marshalltown), Carla Bowers (Martelle), Maria and Mario Lara (Des Moines), Yovany and Susan Garcia (Sioux City), Candelario Garcia (Des Moines), photographer, Stan Smelser (Bondurant). Others present at the meeting via Skype.

- Pray that a large number of Hispanics can be reached for Christ through INHiM.
- Pray adequate resources would be given as INHiM is established. Currently, INHiM is purchasing video equipment to record Mario's sermons and lessons in Spanish for use by small group leaders and others who speak Spanish. This is roughly a \$3500 equipment list, and over half of that amount has already been raised for this investment.
- Please consider regular financial support or a special gift to INHiM, for the spread of the gospel to Spanish-speaking people.



Present for the May 2014 meeting were (left to right): Mike Knight (Urbandale, IA), Raul Martinez (Gering, NE), Mario Lara (Des Moines, IA), Mildred Rivera (Des Moines, IA), Carla Bowers (Martelle, IA), Candelario Garcia (Des Moines), David Bouchard (Pleasant Hill, IA).



Campamento Familiar Cristiano—Latino Family Christian Camp—campers.

Faith, Family, and Fellowship at Latino Family Christian Camp

Lifebridge Christian Church sponsors two non-denominational Latino family camps each year. These camps provide time for families to relax, recharge and re-focus.

Directed by Mario Lara, the camps are usually held over the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. Adult programming and worship are in Spanish. Children and youth programming is bi-lingual. Lessons center on Biblical wisdom, teachings of Jesus, Godly living, and worship. The camps also provide an opportunity to fellowship with other Spanish speakers.

The next Latino Family Christian Camp will be August 29-31, 2014 at the Central Iowa Bible Camp 18578 335th Lane Earlham, Iowa. Registration and dinner start at 6 p.m. Aug 29. Camp will end 9:30 p.m. August 31.

Friday activities include registration, dinner, and worship. Saturday events include worship, classes, Christian Dynamics (for all age groups), sports (basketball, volleyball, and soccer), plus a movie and bonfire. Sunday devotions will be offered, as well as Sunday school, and church services will be held .

Cost for registration is \$29 for individual, \$70 per family and pre-registration is required. If you register after August 24, cost is \$90 for family and \$40 per individual. Family style cabins are available, families can bring tents if they would like. Meals are included in registration fee.

For more details about attending the camps, camp activities, registration forms, volunteering, or donating to the camp, please call Mario at 515-619-8929.