

Iowa Nebraska Hispanic Mission Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 2

Spring 2015

Campamento Familiar Cristiano Tema Conéctate

El propósito de este campamento es educar a las familias hispanas a desarrollar la conexión entre sus hijos y sus parejas a través de la Palabra de Dios.

Empezamos con cena, el día viernes 22 de mayo a las 6:30 pm. Terminamos el día domingo 24 de mayo a las 9:00 pm.

Si usted conoce a latinos interesados, puede invitarlos. O si usted desea ser un voluntario en este campamento por favor hágamelo saber. Es de bendición contar con su apoyo, espiritual de trabajo o económico. Para más información.

Mario Lara (515)619 – 8929

Christian Family Camp (Adult programming in Spanish)

Friday, May 22, 6:30 pm – Sunday, May 24, 9 pm

Central Iowa Bible Camp, 18578 335th Ln, Earlham, Iowa



Connect



The purpose of this family camp is to educate Hispanic families in skills contained in the Word of God to better develop the connections between spouses, as well as between parents and their children.

Know someone who speaks primarily Spanish? Please tell them about this family camp. If they have questions, Mario would be happy to explain further in Spanish. 515.619.8929

Have a few hours to invest in God's kingdom Memorial Day weekend? Even those who do not speak Spanish can help in various ways:

childcare of babies/toddlers, kitchen assistance, teaching school aged children, assisting children's teachers, leading nature walks for the children. We would love to have you come see how God is working in the growing Hispanic population of Iowa and Nebraska. For more information, please call Mario Lara at 515-619- 8929.



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". **All donations will be placed into the Lifebridge general fund unless specified.** We thank you for your interest in the spiritual needs of Spanish-speaking people. INHiM is a ministry of Lifebridge Christian Church.

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Mario Lara Cell: (515) 619-8929

New Hope for Hispanics in Marshalltown, Iowa

For over 20 years, New Hope Christian Church has been seeking to save the lost as well as disciple believers in the Marshalltown area. Recently the church has been helping to reach the many Spanish-speaking people in the area by partnering with Iowa Nebraska Hispanic Mission (INHiM).

INHiM is a recently formed ministry headed by Mario Lara, a Mexican-born and reared minister within the non-denominational New Testament movement. Mario is a church planter of a Hispanic congregation in Des Moines, Iowa, and he previously planted a church in the Scotts Bluff, Nebraska area. Mario founded INHiM to equip and train other Spanish-speaking Christians to reach others from their culture through small groups learning through Mario's recorded sermons and lessons.

In 2012, Mario was alerted by New Hope to a Spanish-speaking man in the Marshalltown area who was seeking spiritual guidance. Although this man, Leonel, did speak some English, spiritual words and ideas were not yet part of his English vocabulary. New Hope needed help to reach this man, so Mario began driving 50 miles one way to meet with Leonel once a week at a local fast food restaurant. Mario and Leonel also went to some Hispanic markets in Marshalltown to hang posters announcing the ministry. After a time, Leonel began to have interested friends, and the group could no longer meet at a table in the local restaurant. New Hope Christian Church offered to allow the group to meet in the church building during the week, and the group has been slowly but surely growing ever since. Recently, around 20 Spanish-speaking people gather at the New Hope building to study on Tuesdays. The children in attendance stay with their parents for the worship time, and then New Hope Christian Church provides child care for the children, while Mario teaches the adults in their heart language, Spanish.

Mario continues to drive weekly to lead this group, but he simply cannot spread himself further to lead even more groups distant from his home. That is the gap INHiM seeks to fill through Mario's recorded teaching in fluent Spanish, delivered electronically and locally to Hispanics, wherever they may be.

Mario's church holds Hispanic family camps on both Memorial and Labor Day weekends at the Central Iowa Bible Camp near Des Moines, Iowa. New Hope Christian Church has further supported the small group of Hispanics meeting in their building by providing registration funds, a van, and gas to attend family camp. Last Labor Day weekend, a group of about four Hispanic adults and their children from Marshalltown came to family camp, assisted by New Hope Christian Church. We sat down on Sunday afternoon, August 31, to visit with these first-time family camp attendees.

Two ladies, Blanca and Iracema, come from a Catholic background, and heard about the small group through family members or through a poster in a Mexican store in Marshalltown. They both had spiritual interest and had tried attending churches and other Latino groups, but "no one seemed to look for us." These ladies were feeling somewhat hopeless, coping with cultural differences, far from their family of origin, along with the normal relational and parental challenges.

They regularly attend the Tuesday small group now, where singing, praying and Bible study are ministering to them. There is more interaction than their experience in the Catholic church. They find the Bible study to be helpful in addressing needs, as well as a place to sing, pray, and learn about God. There is something new each week, which makes Blanca want to keep coming back. They discuss ideas and what the Bible says about them, which helps the students to differentiate what Scripture says and what is just tradition or teaching of man. The Tuesday group is a safe place to talk their real-life needs, such as God's purpose for the family. "Bible study gives me tools to better direct my life. I feel better, I have new hope, new energy in the hard times now," said one woman.

At the time of this interview, Cindy worked on Tuesdays so was not attending the small group. She was able to come to family camp on the weekend, and she found it to be a very positive environment. Cindy comes from a broken family. As the godmother to a niece and nephew, she feels a certain level of spiritual responsibility for them as well as for her own children. But she was rarely taken to church as a child and wants to learn more.

Cindy worked with Leonel at one time, and she says she can see a big difference in Leonel now, compared to before he began studying God's Word with Mario. He has a new peace and happiness, knowing he is not alone and has a support system. Leonel tries to ensure his children attend church at New Hope with him whenever they can. Mario

has helped Leonel not only with spiritual matters, but he has encouraged and helped him to become an American citizen. Leonel took the naturalization oath last fall, shortly after this interview.

The ladies said they were so thankful that Mario is willing to drive such a long distance each week to lead the Tuesday group that meets at New Hope building. He provided a large-print Spanish Bible to one of the ladies with visual challenges. They know that Mario cares for them as individuals, and they can rely on him for good Bible teaching. One of the ladies could only express her heartfelt emotions in Spanish, her first language. Although I was unable to follow exactly what she was saying, her tears and the supportive hugs amongst the ladies spoke volumes, testifying to the value of the small group led by Mario Lara, and nurtured by New Hope Christian Church.

The Spanish-speaking population of Iowa is growing much faster than the general population in Iowa. If you know someone who speaks primarily Spanish and feel the Holy Spirit's prompting to reach them for Christ, please call Mario Lara at 515.619.8929. He could assist you with encouragement, ideas, or teaching materials in Spanish. Maybe **your** church building will be the next location where a Spanish-speaking small group will gather to fellowship and learn more about Christ through the ministry of INHiM.

By Carla Bowers

EL Grito Silencioso

La verdad del aborto

Aproximadamente, **un aborto cada 30 segundos en los Estados Unidos**, o lo que es lo mismo más de **3,300 abortos diarios y 137 abortos cada hora**, según informe *LifeNews*.

Esta película se estará promoviendo en YMCA

**108 Washington Street, Marshalltown, IA
50158**

Viernes Mayo 15. 6:00 Pm.

Para Mas información (515)619 8929

The Marshalltown group featured in the article in this newsletter edition wants to share the truth of abortion with the many Spanish speakers in their area. The Spanish version of the film will be shown at the Marshalltown YMCA on May 15 at 6 pm.

Please invite any Spanish speakers to this event, as well as attend yourself to see an example of INHiM's work in the Marshalltown area .

