

Hispanic Seminary Begins in Miami



MISSION IN ACTION

by Rev. Doug Kallesen
Executive Director
of Outreach

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School hosted the Hispanic Institute of Theological Training for ten seminary level students, Friday and Saturday, August 19-20. This historical event brought Professor Douglas Groll to Miami to teach students here in Florida. Normally the students would have traveled to St. Louis and been taught on campus at Concordia Seminary. The new model saves airfare and other related costs since most of our students come from southern Florida. The savings in dollars is significant, and the candidates can dedicate more time to their studies and outside work.

Rev. Benito Perez-Lopez of Hospital del Alma serves as Regional Coordinator of the Institute for the Florida-Georgia District. He identifies men and women for the Theological Education by Extension courses (TEE) throughout Florida and Georgia, and then enrolls them in Level One training to prepare them for greater service as lay leaders in their congregations. From the Level One classes some students will be identified

ethnic leaders for ministry have sprung wide open. These leaders are trained for service in the context of the communities they are serving in. This is yet another sign that the Lord is moving mightily in our midst as we are ABLAZE in the love of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Grant Funds Hispanic Outreach

Rev. Carlos Hernandez, Director, Districts and Congregations, LCMS World Relief and Human Care, took a break from a recent District Human Care Committee meeting at the Florida-Georgia District office to present a \$61,801 check to Danielle Kearney, Disaster Relief Coordinator for Lutheran Services of Florida-Tampa.

The grant will help fund an Hispanic social worker in the Orlando area (\$54,301) and an immigration/information and referral case worker (\$7,500) at Hospital Del Alma Lutheran Church (Rev. Benito Perez) in Homestead, FL. Deaconess Irma Rojas has been chosen by Lutheran Services of Florida to serve in this position.

Both projects are LCMS World Relief and Human Care partnerships with Lutheran Services of Florida and the Florida-Georgia District.

David Weider, Florida-

- Mission Planter's Institute - February 6-10

- Caring Ministry Workshops. Stephen Ministries will be holding three Stephen Series Caring Ministry Workshops in Florida and Georgia; October 22, and in Jacksonville Beach on November 12. These are half-day events where congregations that do not have Stephen Ministry can come and receive a sample of Stephen Minister training ("Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief" and "How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way") and learn how to bring Stephen Ministry to their own congregation. See the www.flga-lcms.org/missions/resources You will find more information about the upcoming workshops.

Ablaze! Synod/ District Updates

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has embarked upon a bold outreach initiative to plant 2000 new mission churches, reach 50,000,000 people with the Gospel message and help refocus 2,000 of our existing churches on the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This missional thrust will have huge implications on our Florida-Georgia District as well as we plug in with a goal of establishing 150 new ministries by 2017 and share the Gospel with more than 2,000,000 people and develop outreach strategies in each of our 22 circuits.

Rev. Scott Snow has been called to serve as the Director of Evangelism for North American Missions with a special assignment to work with Districts and congregations in the target goal of sharing the Gospel with 50,000,000 people by 2017. A website link will be soon be sent to the District and to our congregations requesting a link to the Ablaze website. This link will provide a way to count sharing "critical events," and also new resources being developed. Rev. Yohannes Mengesteab will head up the Ablaze Church Planting efforts and Rev. Roger Altenberger will serve in the area of Congregational refocus. You may also contact me for information on Florida-Georgia's plans in each of these three areas.

In the book of Philemon v. 6 we read, "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith so that you will have full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." As a District we speak of every congregation a mission out post and every member a missionary. My prayer is that we will continue and expand our missionary thrust in all we do

Ablaze Resources

Friendship Ablaze Resource: A comprehensive new outreach tool has been developed by the Center for U.S. Missions (CUSM) that covers

Worship, Schools, Bible Studies, Prayer, Assimilation, Planning Guide, Other Resources. Go to www.friendshipablaze.com to see all that this powerful tool will do for you. This is really good stuff and has the potential to kickstart your outreach.

Equipping to Share (Lutheran Hour Ministry) workshops were held recently at Trinity in Titusville and Ascension Lutheran Church in Casselberry. The following excerpts describe some of the learnings on how to equip your church for outreach.

1. **Religious Research and Outreach Planning Tools** (demographics and promotion) at www.lhm.org/profile or localmedia@lhm.org.

2. **Equipping to Share: A Workshop for Everyday Evangelism**

If you feel tongue-tied and a little fearful when it comes to sharing your faith with others, you're not alone. At LHM, we want to help you be ready for those "mission moments" — those times when God uses

you to share the Gospel at equipping@lhm.org.

3. **Project Connect® Booklet Display**

Think beyond the narthex! **Project Connect** is an indispensable outreach booklet display ministry that uses displays of topical LHM booklets, written from a Christian perspective, to help church members share Christ with the lost. Each full-sized display holds 23 pocket-sized booklets concerning topics as varied as how to be an effective parent to managing finances from a Christ-centered perspective. Visit www.projectconnectinfo.org or contact projectconnect@lhm.org for more information.

Mission News

The Manger closed August 21, 2005, after trying to develop a growing core group in the Four Corners area in Clermont. Pastor Garrett Knudson accepted a call to serve Holy Cross Lutheran Church-Borgentown, NJ. The core group faced the lack of a developing commu-

Continued on page 17

New doors for training ethnic leaders for ministry have sprung wide open. These leaders are trained for service in the context of the communities they are serving in. This is yet another sign that the Lord is moving mightily in our midst as we are ABLAZE in the love of Christ Jesus our Lord.

as candidates for professional church work as deaconesses, DCEs or as pastors. These students are then placed in the Seminary Level Two of TEE. These courses will now be offered in Miami.

Each level takes more than three years to complete. Pastor Perez-Lopez is helped by mentoring Hispanic pastors throughout the District such as Bob Selle, Roberto Rojas, Angel Perez and Hector Parode. Level One training is currently offered in Orlando, Miami, Tampa, Bonita Springs and tentatively again in Lake Worth.

Special thanks also to St. Paul Lutheran Church and School for their hosting our Hispanic Seminary. These classes will train many Hispanic leaders to serve throughout our District and Synod. Pastor Alan Sielk and Principal Maria Sanders both welcomed and personally greeted the students and their professor for this historic event.

The hand of our Lord rests upon His Church with this change. New doors for training

Georgia Executive Director of Congregational Services, and I teamed with Ms. Kearney in the planning of the projects and grant request.

At the presentation of the check on July 20, Rev. Hernandez also met with the District Human Care Advisory Committee. The committee discussed ways to both develop and fund human care initiatives in the congregations of the Florida-Georgia District. David Weidner provides District staff support to the committee.

Upcoming Outreach Events

- LCMS Igniter Event, November 3-4, St. John's Lutheran Church-Lake Mary, FL

- Open Arms Conference, November 7-8, Dulles, VA

- Outreach Summits, February 2-4 St. John's Lutheran Church and School-Ocala, FL; February 9-11, St. Paul Lutheran Church and School-Boca Raton, FL; February 23-25 Faith Lutheran Church and School-Marietta, GA



INCARNATE WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH celebrated its second Family and Friends Day on September 11. The liturgical dance group that is part of the congregation's outreach ministry gave God the glory in their first dance performance at the 10:50 am service. "The attendance count was 92 but we believe that well over 100 persons attended the service," reported Pastor Wilton Heyliger. A reception followed the service. □

