

HISPANIC OUTREACH IN SIOUXLAND

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During the past weeks we have put our emphasis on the VBS programs offered by three Lutheran congregations. After giving invitations at the final classes of our spring ESL session, we also visited several of the students and former students in their homes to encourage them to send their children to one of the VBS programs near the area. Several Hispanic children from a nearby daycare attended the VBS program at St. Paul. Only one child of the ESL students attended at Hope and two Hispanic children were present at Bethany. Ruthie, my wife, and I helped as teachers at Hope and I led the opening and closing presentations for Bethany. We had a good time meeting the children who attended. We learned that several of our ESL children attend summer school classes during June and others are at daycare settings since both parents work. Also a number travel to Mexico or Central America to visit with grandparents and other family members during the summer vacation. We need to better evaluate what times and dates will work better for a VBS outreach to the Hispanic children.

We hope to continue to offer Bible classes on certain evenings for the families during our break from ESL classes. Also one student has begun confirmation classes and some others have expressed interest in a home Bible study. Please pray that God give us wisdom and perseverance to continue sowing the Word in the most effective manner.

In one of the VBS programs we studied the parable of the sower with the students. Even though not all of the seeds will produce a harvest, the sower continues to sow. As I was working to clean maple tree seeds from my gutter screens, I was impressed by the amount of seeds that one tree can produce. Very few of those seeds will ever become a full grown tree (at least in my yard, if I can prevent it); yet the tree does not give up producing and spreading its seeds. Next year it will produce just as many and will do what it can to send them out to the world. We likewise must continue to sow the Word and spread the seed of the Gospel, even though we may see very few results. May God help us to make the most of the resources and opportunities which He gives to us to proclaim the life giving message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. "A sower went out to sow his seed." Luke 8:5



Hope VBS June 2009 5th and 6th grade class



Bethany VBS June 2009