



## !AMIGOS EN CRISTO!

News from IDW Hispanic Ministry in Denison, Storm Lake,  
& Des Moines: **Missionary/Pastor Daniel Vogel**

Iowa District  
West, LCMS

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**LUTHERANS IN MISSION IN DES MOINES:** On May 24 I met at Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Moines with the mission organization called: “*LCMS Lutherans in Mission.*” This is a group of pastors and laypeople of the area LCMS churches that seek to do mission projects in the Des Moines area. Twelve folks were present for the evening meeting. I explained our work among the Hispanics at Our Savior and asked for their support and prayers. I emphasized our prayer is that this would be a local mission program that all area congregations would joyfully be a part of. According to the latest census from estimates in 2008, 17% of the population of Polk County (Des Moines) are minorities of which the largest group are Hispanics from many Spanish speaking countries.

At this point our Hispanic mission is quite small, only two families. They are from Honduras and El Salvador. But they are faithful and committed to being Lutherans. Unfortunately, we have not had many new visitors or contacts. But we are confident that the mission will grow with creative outreach and the power of the Holy Spirit. This summer we have a number of goals for this mission. First we will be putting up a outdoor sign in front of the church, Our Savior, to announce in Spanish our ministry and time of service. Also and most importantly, we have received an *Ablaze* grant to fund a short term mission worker who will live with a Hispanic family in order to visit and interact with our families and the Hispanic community in the area. We also pray that this summer the LWML will approve our grant for a more long term worker for this mission.



**The Kids are our Future:** Kevin, Junior and Angelo are helping Maru with our garage sale. They represent some of the children from many Hispanic countries that make up our Hispanic ministries in western Iowa. Our children have come from backgrounds with histories that would amaze most of us. As immigrant children they have experienced many abrupt and dramatic changes in their young lives. From moving to a new and strange country, to adapting to another culture and language they learn early to become very flexible. Unfortunately

as part of a immigrant family they also often see at an early age the stresses and strains on families and parents that do not always adapt well to a new life. This provides all the more reason for us to share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus who gives us hope and salvation. These children will grow up in our churches and schools and will be a blessing to so many. They learn quickly and are good students, with talents and gifts that will bless our communities and our country. It's an exciting glimpse of the future that we are blessed to help shape and serve.



## GARAGE SALE IN DENISON

Our annual May Garage sale was another good effort by our Hispanic congregation in Denison. The purpose of this effort is to earn money for scholarships for children to attend our local Lutheran schools and also for our annual Hispanic retreat at Camp Okoboji. This year the sale earned \$665.00 for these projects.

Maria Eugenia (Maru) is the organizer of our sale (lower photo on far right). She really has a passion for garage sales, for collecting and dealing with the people, in English and Spanish. We refer all pricing to her and I think she can sell about anything. Most importantly she doesn't miss an opportunity to share the purpose of the sale which is to serve the work of the church in helping the children to learn the Christian faith. Our most important goal is to meet the community and to share the work of our Hispanic ministry. A garage sale is also a great way to meet Hispanics as they are eager to find good bargains.

This year our Hispanic kids were a big help in working with Maru. Since many of the parents had to work on Saturday we were blessed with the hard work of the kids, from start to finish. We have plans to have more garage sales in July and August.

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## MY TYSON CHAPLAINCY AT THE BEEF PLANT IN DENISON

What kind of people are working at Tyson these days? I'm guessing that about 60% of our workers are Hispanics. The others are American born. But lately we have had an influx of Africans, mostly from the nation of Sudan. Dake (not his real name) is one of those workers. He is a tall, energetic, and a friendly worker who greets everyone. He always greets me with a handshake and we visit often. He is also a strong Christian. His personal story of his journey to this country is amazing. As a child soldier forced to fight in the civil war, he survived and came to this country. Most of his family was killed. Recently he told me of an attack on his home city where 200 people were killed. He knew 75 of them as personal friends.

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**Ministry  
Prayers**

**PLEASE PRAY:** + In thanksgiving for our students studying for confirmation, three in Storm Lake and four in Denison. Our prayers for them as they finish and become confirmed. + For our church worker, John Redlin, who will work in Storm Lake and Des Moines during the month of July. + For more contacts in Des Moines, the support of area pastors, and for bilingual volunteers there to help us develop a network for this new ministry. + For the new ESL class in Storm Lake that this would produce new contacts. + In thanksgiving for the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who are so supportive of this ministry and for outreach in their own communities.