

# HISPANIC OUTREACH IN SIOUXLAND

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**JULY 2010**



Look at all the maple tree seeds. The yard, the garden, the sidewalk, and the street are covered with these little winged seeds that fly downward like little helicopters. How many of those seeds will become trees? Probably not very many will become full grown trees (at least in my yard). Yet this does not deter the tree from producing hundreds of seeds each year. It sends the seeds out into the world with the purpose of propagating itself in new locations.

One could compare our work in the church with the maple tree. We too send out the seed of God's Word hoping that it will produce new believers and extend the Kingdom of God. Yet we are many times less persistent than the maple tree. We try to spread the Word, but when we don't see many results, we can easily give up or try to change the Word to something more appealing to the sinful world. The maple tree keeps sending out seeds year after year with very few results; yet doesn't cut back. We have a seed more powerful than any plant seed in the

world. We have the message of the Savior, who creates new life in the midst of a spiritually corrupt and dead world. May God help us to persevere in the proclamation of His Gospel, even when we see few converts or new members. “The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says.’ And whether they listen or fail to listen – for they are a rebellious house – they will know that a prophet has been among them” (Ezekiel 2:4-5).

We give thanks for the opportunities that God gives to share His Word and His love in our community. I was able to preach at Prince of Peace in Fort Dodge for their mission Sunday. Also I shared God’s Word during Sunday worship at Bethany, Sioux City; Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes, and St. Paul, Sioux City. The members of Bethany presented their VBS this year and several Hispanic children attended. One Hispanic girl who attends the Monday “early out” program invited the children. Also at Hope, South Sioux, two children of our ESL students attended its VBS program. In every activity of our congregations whether we minister to children, youth, or adults we have opportunities to share God’s Word with the Hispanic families that live in our communities. May God help us to continually see these open doors.



Some of the students at Bethany’s VBS