

HISPANIC OUTREACH IN SIOUXLAND

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At the end of each eight week session of ESL we have a pot luck meal with the students and teachers. One of the students said that these were special events for her because they help to create a sense of community and family among the participants. At our recent pot lucks (one at Hope and one at St. Paul's) I was able to share a study about the family and the story of the prodigal son. In Luke 15 Jesus related that when the son was among the pigs he then "came to his senses" (Beck translation) and remembered the goodness of His father. His life of wealth and selfish desires was senseless and foolish. The love of his father changed him and forgave him and restored him to being a son. Many Hispanics have told me that they want to enjoy their lives now and later, when they are old, they will come to God and attend church. Of course as Jesus taught, life away from the Father is senseless with no true joy. The only true life is with the Father in His house. Better to live with Him as soon as possible. Pray that we may share God's Word so that many "come to their senses" through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

We ended our spring ESL eight week session the second week of May. We thank God for allowing us to present His Gospel message while teaching the English language. During this session we taught over 60 students and over 30 of their children in child care. During the past three sessions over 25 members from the Siouxland LCMS churches have helped in this program. We hope to maintain contact with the students and their families and to continue to share the message of our Savior Jesus Christ in future activities.

During the last two weeks of April I was invited to three LWML zone rallies to give presentations about our work in Siouxland, and my experience as a missionary in Venezuela and Panama. We thank God for the many who attended these events and for their prayers and support of missions. During my 27 years in Latin America, many projects were funded by the LWML, and they helped to proclaim God's Word to the many who know very little about God's Word. We pray God's blessings so that the LWML can continue sharing in His mission.

We thank Hope Lutheran Church in South Sioux City for allowing us to use their facilities for our Hispanic garage sale the last weekend of April. Various members from several churches donated items and others helped with the moving, sorting, and selling. We were able to raise over \$1,200 which included additional funds from Thrivent Financial.

On Saturday May 2 we participated in the Siouxland Hispanic "Cinco de Mayo" Fair at the Long Lines Center in Sioux City. Many came by our table and received Bible story pictures for their children, booklets from Lutheran Hour Ministries, and information about our activities. We were able to enjoy some of the presentations and food during this event.

Please pray for three students who want to know more about God's Word and the Lutheran Church. Also pray that we may be able to continue to sow the Word and make the most of every opportunity to meet and share with the Hispanics and others in our area.



Table at the Cinco de Mayo Fair in Sioux City

Two children from ESL child care danced for the Cinco de Mayo Fair



ESL Rummage Sale at Hope Lutheran Church

End of Spring session at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sioux City

