



!AMIGOS EN CRISTO!

News from IDW Hispanic Ministry in Denison & Storm Lake
Missionary/Pastor Daniel Vogel

Iowa District
West, LCMS

Year 5-Issue 4
May 2009



PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER: Despite a blizzard that kept us from worship on Palm Sunday in Storm Lake, we had a beautiful Holy Week and Easter at our two congregations. The children below learned about Jesus, alive and living with us, and the blessing of the Resurrection for us. This year for the first time we had services in both congregations on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as well as Easter. Missionary Henry Witte of Sioux City preached on Maundy Thursday and his wife Ruthie played the piano. He also helped with worship on Good Friday. In Denison we had a special Easter as our children's bell choir played and our newly formed adult choir sang for the first time. Following the service we had an Easter egg hunt and a Piñata for the children (bottom picture). We are working to make Easter the high point of our Christian year. Unfortunately, for many Hispanics it is just another Sunday, or one church holiday among many.



HISPANIC MINISTRY DISTRICT SUMMIT:



From left: Vicar Obdulio Felix (Omaha), Nebr. District President Russ Sommerfeld, Pastor Henry Witte (Sioux City), myself, Rev. Mark Gerken, IDW Mission Exec., Richard Boring, Nebraska District Mission Exec., Pastor Joel Hormachea (Lexington), Student Juan Aquilar (Grand Island) On April 7 at Mission Central in rural Mapleton I participated in a very special bilingual gathering of the Hispanic ministries of the Iowa District West and the Nebraska District. We got to know one another and talked about the challenges to our ministries. After lunch together we also made plans to visit monthly by conference call and to eventually work together toward the preparation and training of workers, and also a family retreat together. God has blessed our 2 Districts in the past few years with willing workers dedicated to sharing the Gospel to the growing Hispanic communities and cities of our Districts. Omaha for example has over 100,000 Hispanics and Grand Island and Lexington have large communities of Hispanics. Pastor Joel Hormachea and Student Juan Aquilar are both from the country of Chile. Joel grew up in the Lutheran Church of Chile and his brother Juan is also a LCMS pastor in Denver. Obdulio is from Mexico. He is studying to become a pastor in Synod's Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Joel became a pastor through that program. Juan was a Protestant pastor for many years in Chile, Argentina and this country and is now also studying in the program. We pray God will bless our work together!



A SPECIAL BLESSING: I have been privileged to bless homes, children, and many special items at church, but last month I was asked to bless something special. I was asked to bless the office, staff and the first edition of a new Spanish language newspaper, LA VOZ (The Voice). It will serve the Hispanic communities of Storm Lake, Denison and western Iowa. Rogelio Diaz (center) is a member of our church and his sister, Sue Ellen (right) and Victor Ayala (left) have been attending. Victor is the editor and the paper is a very professional weekly paper that covers news, sports, health and social issues that affect the Hispanic community. We thank them for publicizing our church and we wish them God's blessings with their new newspaper!



CHAPLAINCY AT THE TYSON BEEF PLANT IN DENISON

As the country struggles with the economic recession the cattle industry has been affected and so our plant has not worked a full 40 hour week for most of the past month. The plant guarantees a 32 hour work week, but it is still a challenge for many workers to make ends meet with a smaller paycheck. Most of our Hispanic workers want to work more hours and struggle with whether to stay or look for other work when it may be hard to find another job. It's a very stressful time for all, from management on down, but an open door to share God's love in crisis.

NEW IOWA CENTER IN DENISON:

Denison is blessed to have a "New Iowa Center" in which Rebecca Jackson, is the bilingual outreach specialist. It is an arm of Iowa Workforce. She is busy providing assistance to new immigrants in Denison. She helps provide language, jobs, immigration helps, and other community resources. Rebecca is also a LCMS member from Des Moines. She is married and has a young daughter. She is pictured below (right) with Ana and her son, Kevin following our Sunday worship. We pray that God will bless Rebecca's important work in our community.



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**Ministry
Prayers**

PLEASE PRAY: + In Thanksgiving for our Holy Week services and Easter celebrations.

+ For our upcoming Cinco de Mayo dinner at Zion School in Denison. + For Juan and Victor, new contacts in Storm Lake. + For newly elected leaders in Denison and Storm Lake and for their leadership in this new year. + For a new adult Confirmation class in Denison. + For our new Carroll Bible Class and our new contacts for outreach there. + In thanksgiving for the many individuals, congregations and Circuits of the Iowa District West who are so supportive of this ministry as they see the need to reach out to their own communities.