

HISPANIC OUTREACH IN SIOUXLAND

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We give thanks to God for the members of various congregations who continue to help with the ESL classes and the care of the students' children. Together we have been able to share the Gospel and love of God with many new people as we began our new session of classes. The students gave me a nice birthday party, and our picture was in the South Sioux Hispanic newspaper. Our classes with the Hispanic senior citizens have continued and given us opportunity to meet more families.

On March 29 we had a display at the Sioux City Multicultural Fair in the Long Lines Family Center. We shared our ESL materials, Bible tracts, and Lutheran Hour Ministry booklets. Even though only a few Hispanics came by the table, we were able to meet and learn about the other organizations working in the community and among the Hispanics. We look forward to participating in the May 5 (Cinco de Mayo) events which will be celebrated on Saturday, May 2 at the Long Lines Center. Hopefully may more will come by our table at this event.



An ESL student with wife and daughter who danced at the Multicultural Fair

During the past month I was able to preach and lead Bible study at Hope in South Sioux City. Also I helped Pastor Dan Vogel with the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Hispanic services at Storm Lake and Dennison. We enjoyed worshipping with the members at this special time. We also had the opportunity to participate in the Siouxland Lutheran Sunrise Service on Easter and later that day to attend the Winnebago mission where nine children and youth were baptized. During April I will be explaining the Hispanic outreach at three LWML zone rallies.

On April 7 the Hispanic missionaries of Iowa West and Nebraska Districts met with the District mission directors to share about their ministries and needs. We hope to continue these meetings on a regular basis in order to encourage one another and make the best use of the resources which God has given us. The challenges of a transient population, little Biblical knowledge, anti-Biblical traditions and beliefs, and minimum resources affect each of the missions. By sharing together as the Body of Christ we can help to spread the Gospel among the different nationalities present at this time and help to spread the light of Christ to more peoples of the world.



ESL classes with elderly Hispanics at South Sioux City YMCA

In Latin America on the Saturday or Sunday of Holy Week the people in different neighborhoods make an effigy of Judas, hang him in a noose, and burn him. This custom shows contempt and condemnation for the one who betrayed the Savior. However in many cases it becomes a political statement because the figure may be made to represent a politician, business man, or even a corporation. Whoever has made the biggest scandal and is perceived as having betrayed the people will have his or her or its name on the effigy. It is our sinful nature to put the blame on someone else for the problems which one suffers. Even blaming others for the death of Jesus helps one to imagine that one is not so bad. However the Bible says that we are the guilty ones for the death of Jesus. We should be the ones burnt in condemnation. Yet our loving heavenly Father hung His own dear Son and punished Him in our place.

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all” Isaiah 53:5-6.