



!AMIGOS EN CRISTO!

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

Iowa District West
LCMS

Year 5, Issue 10
October 2009



Speaker Professor Mark Kempff teaching the adults.



Our Saturday evening BBQ was a beautiful gathering of food, fellowship, and music.



Professor Kempff was Zebedee for our closing worship service.

HISPANIC 6th ANNUAL FAMILY RETREAT:

Last month was very special for our Hispanic ministry in the Iowa District West. It was certainly one of the high points of our year. We had our annual gathering of our two congregations in Storm Lake and Denison at Camp Okoboji. This year for the first time we had three special blessings. First we added an extra day to our retreat as we began on Friday evening. Secondly, for the first time we had a family participate from Sioux City, the result of Pastor Henry Witte's work there. Thirdly, for the first time we invited a special speaker from outside our District, Professor Mark Kempff, of the Concordia Seminary Hispanic Ministry in St. Louis, Missouri. Professor Mark was very popular with our folks as he shared 4 sessions for the adults on family and marriage. He was born and raised in a missionary family in Guatemala and later served for many years in Venezuela (with Pastors Bo Brink and Henry Witte). In Venezuela he met his wife, Rut. We were blessed that she was also able to come with him for the Retreat. His sessions were so popular that he had an extra session following the retreat with about 30 adults.

We were blessed to have 61 folks at our Retreat this year. We had a lot of help and talent. We thank Pastor Witte for helping with the devotions, and his wife, Ruthie for organizing the music with Humberto from Storm Lake. We thank youth leaders, DCE Shelly McMullen and Darin Johnson both of Our Savior in Denison. Children's activities were led by my wife Paula and her sister Marilee Grimes of Ocheyedon with April Anderson of Denison. All our leaders were great!

Finally, we thank Camp Okoboji for their beautiful camp and accommodations over the weekend. They were very helpful in meeting our needs. What a beautiful natural setting to gather our families and to grow together in Christ! This is the 6th year that our two congregations have gathered in this special setting. We hope next year to have more folks from Sioux City and also from Carroll.



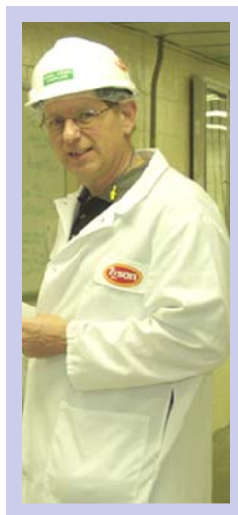
The Kids Had Fun at the Retreat: One of the joys of the annual retreat is to see the kids having so much fun. They love Camp Okobojo where they have so much outdoor fun, from swimming, to sports, to bikes, making new friends and enjoying one another. We had more than 25 kids and youth running around enjoying themselves. But they also learned about Jesus' love and spent time with their families in worship and prayer. God bless our children as they grow in Christ!



BAPTISM AT STORM LAKE: On August 30 we baptized baby Yarixsa Castillo in our Sunday worship at Grace in Storm Lake. The picture at left shows Baby Yarixsa with her mother, Yvanna and godparents, Rigoberto and Maileni. Yvanna is a student at Job Corp in Denison where she is studying to be a Certified Nurse Assistant. Yvanna came to our church through her sister who also baptized her child in our congregation and who also studies at Job Corp in Denison. Our prayer is that the sisters will continue to worship in Storm Lake when they are home, but also in Denison when they stay on weekends at Job Corp.

CHAPLAINCY AT THE TYSON BEEF PLANT IN DENISON:

What's an average day like for me at the Tyson Plant? In such a diverse work environment I have the privilege of finding myself in the midst of a number of very different situations and conversations. A simple greeting such as "How are you doing?" can bring a flood of emotions and answers. Like Gerald who one day last month answered that question with a report of a sick wife and two children in need of special medical procedures. Or Armando, who opened up and talked to me about marital and family problems. Or Omar, a Sudanese man who reported that he was fasting in order to celebrate the Islamic festival of Ramadan. He wanted to tell me how pleased he was to live and work in such a wonderful country, and also pleased that I was interested in his life and his religion. So many great daily opportunities to support these special folks in their work place!



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PLEASE PRAY: + In thanksgiving for our annual Family Hispanic Retreat at Camp Okobojo. + For our new adult Confirmation class in Denison with Marta, Maritza, Alejandro & Faviola. + For our weekly leadership class through the Hispanic Institute with Maru & Isidro and for their evangelistic outreach as a result of their studies. + For the new school year at Zion, Denison, and for our Hispanic children who are enrolled. + For our new Lutheran Hour Spanish radio from Storm Lake "Para el Camino" that it might reach Hispanics in both Denison and Storm Lake. + For the many individuals and congregations of IDW who are so supportive of this ministry as they see the need to reach out to their own communities.