

PRESBYTERIAN LATINO ALLIANCE NORTHEAST
'PLAN' MONTHLY UPDATE
by Charlie Hill

ESL & KIDS CLUB: The need for the ESL program is obvious as the participation remains strong and growing with three levels of study at both sites. Additional activities for adults at Grace include classes for computer training, knitting and self-defense. A kid's level Karate class is also being provided. The effectiveness of the ESL program can also be seen in the successes of its graduates. There have been new job opportunities. One graduate has started her own business, and one is now enrolled in a college level course.

Special Thanksgiving dinners are planned at Grace on Saturday November 22nd., and at Calvary Third on Tuesday, November 25th. following class time for the participants and their families and friends.

Plans are underway to find and hire a Site Director for the program at Calvary Third. One candidate for this position has been identified and was interviewed. Hopefully a site director will be in place to supervise and manage the Calvary program by January, 2009. In addition to their current financial support of this program, each of the five local Presbyterian churches are asked to fund one month salary for this new director. (\$200.00)

Volunteers are needed at both sites to assist with activities for the children and to assist with the language classes. Please keep in mind that training in Spanish teaching or the ability to speak Spanish is not a prerequisite to be of assistance. Volunteers can also choose the amount of time they are willing to give to this important program.

MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUP:

This monthly program offers opportunities for individuals and families to come together to share a noon meal, to enjoy friendly fellowship, and to participate in a spiritually based discussion led by Pastor Pech. Currently, a book written by Rick Warren's entitled, "The Power To Change Your Life", is being used to initiate and encourage open discussion. Everyone is encouraged to take part by sharing their thoughts, ideas and opinions. The support group meets in the homes of the participants where the atmosphere is warm, welcoming and wholesome.

AMISTAD CHRISTIANA is currently in the "Gathering and Developing" stages of this church planting project. There is a direct connection to the ESL project in that a majority of those who are attending on Sundays are also involved with the ESL classes at Calvary Third. About a dozen families have attended Amistad Christiana services. Recently, the Amistad band was one of three music groups invited to participate in a musical service at the Northminster Presbyterian church in Indianapolis. A Christmas Eve service and dinner is being scheduled at Calvary Third on December 24th at 8:30 pm. An open invitation is extended to the supportive churches and to the community as well.

A Commissioning service will be held at Calvary Third and Trinity Presbyterian churches during the month of December to formalize the relationship between Amistad Christiana, the sponsoring churches and the Anglo families who have been called into active service. It will also serve as an acknowledgement of the PLAN partnership and the collective responsibility of the Fort Wayne area Presbyterians to support and encourage this new ministry.

The sponsoring churches of the PLAN project are urged to include Amistad events in their newsletters and Sunday bulletins and to promote visitations to the Amistad Christiana service. The importance of such visitations is significant in that they would be a visible sign of Presbyterian support while bringing about a deeper understanding and support for the program by members of the Fort Wayne Presbyterian family. For additional information regarding the objectives of the Presbyterian Latino Alliance Northeast, for any questions regarding the current programs and activities, or to volunteer your time and talents for any of these special ministries, please contact your church office or Rev. Leonel Pech at 486 - 6679.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

HISPANIC DEVELOPMENT:

Thanksgiving dinner at GRACE Nov. 22nd
Christmas program at GRACE Dec. 20th
Karate for Kids at GRACE January 2009

Thanksgiving program at CALVARY-THIRD November 25th

AMISTAD CRISTIANA:

Bilingual Sunday Morning Worship 11:30am @Calvary-Third

Amistad Support Group Saturday December 13th

Nochebuena Gathering - December 24th 8:30pm @Calvary-Third