

Hello, my name is Miguel Cadena. After nearly fifteen years serving in Mexico as missionaries, my wife Vicki and our three daughters, Rebeca, Rachel and Sara, have returned to the Lynnwood, Edmonds area to plant a Hispanic church under the leadership of North Sound Church. Our prayer is to launch our church services sometime next spring.

Starting with a big Mother's Day celebration this past May, we began to reach out to the Hispanic community. Martha (I have changed all the names of Hispanics) came to our Mother's Day event. When Martha texted me to sign up for the Mother's Day event, I could sense her happiness bubbling over. Not



only was her text full of party hats and streamers, but she said, "After so many years, someone is finally celebrating Mother's Day for me." I assumed it was because she had moved to the U.S. and Mother's day is not as big of an event in the U.S. as it is in Mexico where families will serenade mom with a mariachi band. But Martha had not only moved to the U.S., she is also single mom. After the Mother's Day event, Martha participated in our summer English program and signed her son and nephew up for our soccer clinic. At the last moment they were unable to attend the soccer clinic, but I was still able to drop off two soccer

balls that had been donated for our soccer clinic. The kids were thrilled. This past Saturday Rebeca and I were doing door to door visitation at Martha's apartments when we ran into her daughter. She was so happy to see us and she really wanted us to stop by and say "Hi" to her mom. So we did. We ended up spending a couple of hours with Martha and she prayed to give her life to Christ.

Carmen is another single mom, mother of 4. A few years ago her husband died of a heroin overdose. Carmen works 3 different jobs cleaning hotel rooms and office buildings. And then she makes the rounds to the food banks to help make ends meet. We first met Carmen at a local food bank. She also signed up for our English classes. We had a bed given to us which we no longer needed so we were able to pass it on to Carmen. Carmen was so grateful because two of her college age daughters were sharing an old worn out bed that sagged so much in the middle that her two daughters kept on rolling into each other all night long. They are very glad to be able to get a good night's sleep.

Last fall Sandra had just arrived from Honduras and was attending high school with our daughter Sara. Sara not only helped her to understand her homework assignments, but also brought her home to teach her how to use a computer. Sandra was suffering seizures which



turned out to be due to a tumor in her brain. Sandra recently had surgery to remove the tumor and now my daughters have taken the initiative to help Sandra and her brother get connected with the correct agencies to provide the ongoing medical coverage that she needs as she recovers from her surgery.

These are some of the stories of our connections with Hispanics. Our desire is to make God's love and our love evident, both in word and in deed. We are seeking as many different ways as possible to make meaningful connections with Hispanics through events and programs such our Mother's Day Celebration, English classes, soccer clinic, picnics, hikes, movie nights, marriage and parenting courses, alpha, tutoring, running a food bank, etc.

God has allowed us to make excellent connections with dozens of Hispanics who we are now seeking to follow up on to see them enter into a committed relationship with Jesus Christ. 99% of our ministry is with people who are not yet followers of Christ. Because of this we are seeking churches with a vision to partner with us, helping to support us financially until we can get our own church up and running. We are also praying for people to join our team. I am praying for organizers. For example, I am praying for someone to lead our English program. If I can delegate the organizing portion of our ministry (even to non-Spanish speakers) than I can be freed up to spend most of my time in developing friendships and leading our Hispanic contacts to Christ. We are also praying for Spanish speakers who can help us with evangelism and discipleship.

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