



### Paisanos in the USA



The word “paisano” refers to people who come from the same “pais” or country of origin. It is a warm term; generally used when people from the same “pais”, or country, meet in a foreign land.

Last month I was driving to the El Paso, TX airport and stopped at a red light. I looked up and saw that I was sitting at the intersection of Paisano Drive and Cleveland Avenue. The traffic light turned green, and I sat there as if frozen in time, thinking, “This intersection illustrates the context of Hispanic ministry in the USA!”.

Living and ministering in the intersection of two cultures is not easy, but it points to the inescapable reality of living in the USA. Our response to the burgeoning Hispanic population in the USA will help keep the PCA relevant. I’m encouraged to see the Lord opening the eyes and hearts of many PCA churches and Presbyteries to the strategic importance of Hispanic ministry in their own back yard. I am blessed to have a team of six committed leaders to help advance the gospel among Hispanics in the USA.

### Ministry Spotlights

**Leadership Development** - If we want to see a movement emerge, it is crucial to find, train, and empower leaders for Hispanic ministry in the context of the local church (Rom 15:14). I’m actively working with LAMP Theological Seminary to develop LAMP in the Spanish language. It is very exciting to be involved in creating a tool that will allow Hispanic men to be trained for the gospel ministry in the PCA. Last month the Lord providentially connected me with a Hispanic Teaching Elder who was praying for an opportunity to teach courses at the seminary level in Spanish. He is excited and set to begin the production of one of the SpanishLAMP courses.

I was also involved in the creation of the LAMP Escuela de Disipulado (LAMP School of Discipleship), which is a certificate level training program designed to train lay leaders in the local church. I met with seven Hispanic pastors and leaders to encourage them to implement the LAMP Escuela de Disipulado into the life of their church.

I’m actively working with a bilingual, bicultural, and seminary trained Mexican man who is seeking a place where he can fulfill his call. I’m also helping a Venezuelan and a Puerto Rican man navigate the often difficult and turbulent waters of becoming credentialed in the PCA.

**Existing Church Development** - My leadership team and I have been working hard to plan a conference designed for PCA Hispanic churches and missions. The conference will be held at one of our PCA Hispanic church plants in Atlanta, GA, Christos Community Church, on April 30 – May 1. We expect this conference will be a catalyst for growth.



In the last three months I’ve made thirteen site visits in seven States, to encourage and help pastors and leaders. Las Tierras Community Church in El Paso, TX is in the process of purchasing five acres of land for their future facility and Iglesia La Vid in Laredo, TX is poised to become a particular church in November.

**New Ministry Development** - The growing interest in reaching Hispanics in the USA from existing PCA churches and church plants is very encouraging. I met with church leaders from Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Virginia, and Texas to talk about plans for growing their outreach to Hispanics.

I worked with my leadership team to produce an informational brochure, in Spanish, that can be used as a tool to build bridges for Hispanics who come from a Roman Catholic background. The brochure can be customized, and used by any PCA church, with the desire to reach Hispanics.

In February, Mission to North America (MNA) hosted the Western Region Vision meeting in Salt Lake City, UT and I facilitated a seminar entitled “Reaching Hispanics in the USA”. I dream of the day when the presence of PCA Hispanic churches in the West will increase dramatically.

### Prayers and Praises

**Prayers** - For the upcoming Hispanic conference to be a blessing to all the participants.

**Praises** - For the courage and sacrifice of the men currently engaged in Hispanic ministry in the PCA.

For me to be able to raise all the necessary funds for my ministry.

For the new men the Lord sent to labor to build up the Body of Christ among Hispanics.

For more laborers for the Hispanic Harvest in the USA.

For the growing desire in the PCA to reach Hispanics.



**Thank you for your friendship, your prayers, your commitment to us and your financial support. We cannot imagine being without any of these good gifts!**

**Hernando, Debbie, Sarah and Nicholas Sáenz**

You can make a tax-deductible contribution to MNA’s Hispanic American Ministries at [www.pcamna.org](http://www.pcamna.org). You can also mail contributions, made payable to Mission to North America, to: Mission to North America, 1700 North Brown Road, Suite 101, Lawrenceville, GA 30043-8122. Designate: Hispanic American Ministries.