

La Iglesia Bautista Nuevo Vida

(Tu Puente Para Una Nuevo Futura)

Purpose

The Purpose of Nueva Vida is to proclaim the life-changing message of Christ to the Spanish speaking community of Jeffersonville, Indiana. This will be done through weekly Bible teaching, culturally-relevant worship and Christ-centered social ministry.

Mission

The Mission of Nueva Vida is to be a bridge to new life to the Hispanic communities of Kentuckiana. We will provide Christ-centered ministry designed at helping this growing segment of our area establish their future through discovering a life-changing, personal relationship with Jesus Christ; integrating into a new language and culture; and realizing their God-given potential.

La Iglesia Bautista Nuevo Vida -- Strategic Plan

Nationwide, the Hispanic population is quickly becoming the fastest growing people group in every community. Recently, census statistics in Iowa showed greater than 40% population growth within the Hispanic culture. However, in the Church, this population continues to be one of the least reached populations. Some reasons for this lack of ministry focus include language and cultural barriers and lack of finances. Nonetheless, these barriers must be overcome.

The following is a sketch of a plan for a Hispanic and/or Spanish speaking church plant in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Jeffersonville has proven to be a community with a growing Hispanic population. Nonetheless, according to Daniel Caceras, Hispanic Strategist for Indiana Baptists, population figures usually indicate less than 25% of the actual Hispanic population in a community.

The majority of Hispanics in Jeffersonville are young (10-35 yrs old.) Most are blue collar workers. They are hard working people who enjoy recreation and good living offered in Kentuckiana. Many of these residents are direct immigrants from Mexico and Central America. However, a large population growth is being noted in Indiana, where Hispanics are relocating to from New York and Chicago in order to pursue a reduced cost of living. Regardless, most are primarily Spanish-speaking and are illiterate in both English and Spanish.

Nevertheless, finding this population has been more difficult than originally anticipated. Much of this is due to the large immigrant population, resulting in a fear of deportation if

discovered. Therefore, this plant will not be achieved through a bulk mail-out or phone bank. It will take exceedingly hard work to develop the trust necessary to build a core group. However, across Indiana, once this core is firmly established, Mr.. Caceras has shown that Hispanics are committed to beginning new churches and reaching out to their unsaved culture. Resources will be necessary to allow a full-time or bi-vocational pastor the time to establish trust and build a core group. Nonetheless, Rolling Fields Baptist Church of Jeffersonville, IN and Calvary Baptist Church of New Albany, IN have both shown significant interest in starting a Hispanic Church Plant, in coordination the North American Mission Board and Indiana Baptists.

Our first priority will be to locate and develop a strong core group. Several ideas for this include:

- Seeking out places frequented by Hispanics--such as laundry mats and community events
- Providing recreational opportunities for Hispanics (such as sports activities, movies and cultural events)
- Seeking places where Hispanics are employed and offering language and translation assistance
- Frequenting Hispanic restaurants/businesses and becoming very familiar to the community leaders
- Volunteering in school systems to help with ESL, translation and school integration for residents
- Providing day care and/or Parent's night out events in coordination with community education classes
- Providing legal and contract assistance for major purchases
- Integrating with Police Departments to provide education on legal rights and reporting crime

According to Mr.. Caceras, through these type of integrative, Christ-centered ministries, we will begin to build the trust of the community and, consequently, be viewed as community leaders. As this occurs, we will have access to a larger portion of the community for pre-launch and outreach events.

Nonetheless, all the while, we will be involved in Bible Studies and small worship services. These Services will be in a church building for the purpose of enhancing community trust. The focus of services at Nueva Vida will be Bible teaching. However, music will be very important in our services. Great care will be given to make this music very high quality. The church will be committed to outreach events including movie presentations, musical guests, singing groups, cultural presentations (such as traditional dance groups,) and evangelistic rallies. At each of these events, transportation will be made available to encourage attendance by migrant workers and those without driver's licenses. Equally, the Gospel of Christ will be clearly presented and public invitations will be given at every event.

Bible study formats will be dependent upon the literacy of the group. Nonetheless, all Bible studies will be conducted in Spanish for adults and as appropriate for children. Adults will be presented Bibles, pictorials, cassette tapes and video tapes in order to enhance their learning. Strong emphasis will be placed upon memorization of Bible verse through songs, picture presentations and repetition. All Bible students will be rewarded for their memorization work. Nonetheless, all adults will be offered opportunities to integrate into literacy classes, in Spanish and English, to enhance their Bible knowledge and teaching.

Children's ministries will equally be of utmost importance at Nueva Vida. Children will be provided with exciting, entertaining, and educational opportunities via Children's church and Parent's night out programs. The main focus of Bible teaching will be accomplished through music, video presentations, dramatic presentation, crafts, recreation and Bible teaching. Children will be encouraged and expected to memorize Bible verses and will be rewarded for doing so. Finally, children will be given weekly reading assignments (as appropriate,) which they will be encouraged to read out loud to their family.

36-Month Strategic Plan

The following goals have been set for Nueva Vida:

Long Term Goals:

In 36 months

1. We will be an established, constituted church, meeting in our own facilities.
2. We will average 100 people.
3. We will have baptized 50 people.

Short Term Goals:

In Nine Months:

1. We will have a full-time pastor and an established core of 15 people.
2. We will be meeting for worship on a regular weekly basis (as a mission of a local Baptist Church) averaging 35 people
3. We will have weekly children's activities.
4. We will have 5 evangelistic events.
5. We will have baptized 15 people.
6. We will have an established ESL/Literacy Program

In Eighteen Months:

1. We will have a core of 30 people.

2. We will be meeting for worship on a regular weekly basis (as a mission of a local Baptist Church) averaging 50 people
3. We will have weekly Children's church and weekly Parent's Night Out Programs.
4. We will have monthly evangelistic events.
5. We will have baptized 25 people.
6. We will have both an ESL/Literacy and job-skills training program.
7. We will have 2 Community Bible Studies (led by Pastor/Seminary Students.)

In 27 Months:

1. We will have a core of 50 people.
2. We will be meeting for worship on a regular weekly basis (as a mission of a local Baptist Church) averaging 75 people
3. We will have weekly Children's church, Parent's Night Out Programs and Parent's day out programs.
4. We will have monthly evangelistic events.
5. We will have baptized 40 people.
6. We will have both an ESL/Literacy and job-skills training program.
7. We will have 5 Community Bible Studies (led by Pastor/Seminary Students/core members.)

In Thirty-Six Months:

1. We will have a core of 75 people, including 15 lay leaders.
2. We will be an established, constituted church, meeting in our own facilities.
3. We will average 100 people in weekly worship.
4. We will have baptized 50 people.
5. We will have bi-monthly evangelistic events, led by lay-leaders.
6. We will have child-care available 3 times/week for job training, education, and GED programs.
7. We will have 10 Community Bible Studies (led by core-group/Seminary Students)
8. We will have 2 part-time staff members as indicated.
9. We will support a church plant in attempt to begin reproducing ourselves.

Consequently, due to the nature of this plant, there will not be a launch event, per se. From the very start, the core will be participating in Bible study and "mini" worship services. However, we will utilize all media opportunities available to increase attendance at monthly evangelistic events and church milestone events. Equally, once constituted and ready to begin in our own facilities, we will have a large launch event which, likewise, will be our new-church send off.

Letters

Although, due to literacy issues, letters may not be the most effective type of outreach, each visitor who attends Nueva Vida will receive a letter of thanks. Equally, new contacts will receive a letter, introducing them to Nueva Vida. This letter will be written in Spanish on one side and English on the other. All letters will be hand addressed.

Nonetheless, all visits and new member contacts will equally be followed up by at least 2 personal visits, in which, the visitor will be given a music cassette or video tape (such as the Jesus film) and some type of traditional baked pastry.

Letter to First Time Visitors

Date:

Dear _____,

We at La Iglesia Bautista Nuevo Vida would like to thank you for visiting with us this past Sunday evening. We hope that you felt welcomed and appreciated.

My name is _____, as Pastor of New Life Baptist Church; I would like to invite you to visit with us again whenever you have the opportunity. We are a new church that desires to reach out to the specific needs of Spanish-speaking people in the Jeffersonville area. Although we do not claim to understand everything about you or your family, I think you will find that we are serious about our ministry and have a good understanding concerning what Spanish-speaking people need in Jeffersonville. Our goal is to minister to the whole person: physically, spiritually, and mentally. If this is something you are looking for, we would love to have you visit with us again.

If you have any questions about our ministry, workshops, or children's programs, please feel free to contact the church office at 945-HOPE (4673). I have enclosed a brochure that will tell you a little bit more about us.

Once again, thank you for your visit.

God Bless,

_____, Pastor

Enclosure: Brochure

Letter to New Movers

Date

Dear Friend,

Congratulations on your recent move to the Jeffersonville community. The members of La Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida would like to welcome you.

If you have attended church in the past or are looking for a church for the very first time, please accept our invitation to join us this Sunday evening for a time of Celebration and Bible Study. We know that the move to a new city can be a difficult transition and we would like to help make your transition as smooth as possible

Nueva Vida is a new church that reaches out specifically to Spanish speaking people in the Jeffersonville area. No matter who you are or what your background is, you are welcome to join us and be encouraged. Our services begin at _____. Entertaining, Exciting and Educational Children's ministries are provided for all children. We have trained workers who will take good care of your children and will provide them with many fun and interesting activities. We conduct Bible Studies during the week that meet in area homes, along with workshops aimed at helping Spanish speakers get settled into the community, dealing with such issues as school registration, telephone hookup, shopping options, insurance needs, etc. We also have English classes that are offered at no charge. Workshops are conducted at the church.

I have enclosed a flyer and a reply card. If you are interested in New Life Baptist Church, or if you need help with any needs related to moving into Jeffersonville, please feel free to call us at 945-HOPE (4673), or stop by the church anytime between 7am and 6pm. The church is located at _____.

Once again, welcome to our community, we at New Life Baptist Church look forward to meeting you.

God Bless,

_____, Pastor

Enclosure: Brochure

Letters to Established Community Pastors/Churches

At Nuevo Vida, we will strive to keep area churches informed on what God is doing in our congregation. We realize that many new churches do not receive personal and financial resources from other congregations due to a lack of information, concerning their needs. Therefore, monthly correspondence will be kept with area churches indicating current ministry triumphs and needs.

Letter to Area Pastors

Date:

Dear _____,

Jeffersonville has a new church that is focusing on reaching out to Spanish speaking people! La Iglesia Bautista Nuevo Vida is a recent church plant that is reaching out to unchurched, Spanish speaking members of Jeffersonville and the surrounding communities.

We realize that your own goal is to reach out to those members of the community who do not yet have a church home. However, the Spanish speaking community has a variety of needs, not the least of which is a language gap, that make it difficult for traditional churches to meet. We at Nueva Vida feel that God has led us to minister to these specific needs. Our services are conducted in Spanish, and we offer a variety of workshops and personal services aimed at helping Spanish speaking people adjust to the English speaking community. A few of these services include: school registration, immigration paperwork, shopping options, insurance needs, English classes, etc.

We are requesting that area churches who care about Spanish speaking people but who do not have the personnel or resources to assist them fully, would consider referring them to Nueva Vida. In addition, we would appreciate it if you or your staff could direct them to us so that we may provide them with a ministry that is directed toward their unique needs in a purposeful way. We have no desire to pull members of your church away from you, but only desire to reach out to the Spanish speaking community in a meaningful way.

I have enclosed a few flyers for your use. New Life Baptist Church is located at _____ and our phone number is 8PUENTE (878-3683). Our services are held on Sunday evenings at _____.

We also offer Bible Studies in Spanish during the week in area homes. If you have any specific questions that you would like answered or would like to be involved in the

ministries of Nueva Vida, please feel free to call me at the church or on my cell phone at _____ . I would be happy to speak with you about this new and exciting ministry.

In His Service,

_____ Pastor, New Life Baptist Church

Enclosure: Brochures