

Spanish Speaking Ministry Update

From Randy Kennedy

Why commit to a Spanish Church Plant in Polk County, Florida?

Polk County's fastest growing sector is the Hispanic community. In the last 8 years it has more than doubled in size, far out-pacing the Black community and the White community.

Polk County is currently 67.1% Non-Hispanic White, 16.2 % Hispanic, 15 % Black and 0.7% Other.

A 2007 survey by the Pew Hispanic Center noted that the number of Hispanics in Polk County, Florida placed the county in the top 3 percent in terms of the actual number of county residents classifying themselves as Hispanic.

The Hispanic community in Polk County is numerically made up of Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans in that order.

Nationwide statistics show a fuller picture.

The 10 largest Latino communities in the USA are Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadorian, Dominican, Guatemalan, Colombian, Honduran, Ecuadorian, and Peruvian in that order.

47.3% of Latinos in the USA are married, leaving 52.7% single or divorced.

38.8% of Latinos in the USA speak English well, leaving 61.2% limited or unable to communicate in English.

But getting back to Polk County, Florida: Who do you intend to disciple in Polk County?

We are in the Church Planting "business" and will seek to disciple and "build" the ministry around stable people. In other words, Spanish speaking couples (of whatever nationality) who are here legally and have employment.

Last but certainly not least. God has put this together and has invited us to be a part of what He has in store for the Latin community here in Polk County.

Some may think we are asking for the moon. What we are asking God for? We are asking for everyday Latinos who love Him, have a passion for their own people and are settled in life. We believe God has directed us to pray for these couples. We know that he wants us to be obedient to his direction in our lives. So, please pray with us in this.