

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

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Open Arms Hispanic Ministry

Seeking to meet the spiritual and physical needs of Hispanic immigrants in Wayne County and surrounding areas

Worldwide Mennonite Marriage Encounter

There is something special about the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For over 40 years couples have recommended Marriage Encounter weekends to their married friends and relatives. The reason for glowing recommendations is that couples learn how to rekindle the passion in their relations and how to keep their love growing.

On the weekend of September 28-30, fourteen couples attended our Marriage Encounter, at Comfort Suites of Berlin, Ohio. The weekend was sponsored by Open Arms Ministry and Ohio Conference. Raul Tadeo and pastor Haroldo Nunes served as coordinators of the Encounter. Most of those attending were from Salem Mennonite Church of Wooster, a bilingual congregation. A good number of Hispanics attended the Encounter. It has been the dream of Raul Tadeo to have an Encounter that would include Hispanics. For this purpose, Raul translated the English Marriage Encounter manual into Spanish. The Spanish manual was used in our Encounter by Hispanic couples who were not fluent in the English language. Raul also did the translating during the teaching sessions, via a wireless set up.

Two couples from Sinaloa, Mexico were able to attend our Encounter. The purpose of having these Mexican couples attending our Encounter was so they could experience a Marriage Encounter and return to Mexico and begin to prepare for a future Encounter in 2019, in their area of Sinaloa, where there are good number of Mexican Mennonite churches. This is the area where the Tadeos served as missionaries years ago.

We were able to offer this Marriage Encounter at well below the actual cost for each couple, thanks for money given from various sources: a grant from Ohio Conference, a gift from Venture Products, a gift from Crown Hill Mennonite Church and Salem Mennonite Church of Wooster and gifts from the Mark and Dallas Steiner families. We are thankful for 4 couples who came from the Marriage Encounter program of Pa. They did teaching and organizing and covered all their own expenses. We are thankful to Linda Schlabach of Log Cabin Catering for giving us a discount for their catering of all the meals during the encounter. We are thankful to Kent Miller, manager of Comfort Suites, for the room discounts that were given to the Marriage Encounter



So why do we help Open Arms Ministry?

Haroldo asked us to share the answer with you and I've been trying to pin point a reason ever since. One reason would likely be that having lived in Bolivia, we know what it is to be 'taken in' and loved by locals during our time there. God provided 'family' when we were so far from our own. Mind you, this was during the time of snail mail too! We know what it's like to be welcomed and spoken to, so since we have some ability with Spanish, it's easy to at least try and communicate! We also came to appreciate the 'heart' of our Bolivian friends. Hospitality is huge and we have much to learn from our Hispanic friends in regards to this. Once you get involved, you don't have a project, you have friends. So, I seriously don't have an answer of "Why" we do, but we can appreciate the

challenges that many faces and believe we can all do even a small part as part of our journey.

Deuteronomy 10:18 "He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing." Surely we all had ancestors in this situation... we were all foreigners to this country and if heaven is truly our home, we all continue to walk in a foreign land. May we follow His lead and as He commands in John 15:12, may we love one another even as He has loved us.

Rhoda and Dallas Steiner



Extending the arm of partnership

This fall, Open Arms translators helped Hispanics in around 130 doctor and dentists offices. They've accompanied 35 people on their immigration's check-in and court hearings. Those details are easy to count. What's harder to quantify is the impact of a relationship.

How do you count the value of a friend? Only through personal experience.

This fall, Open Arms is excited to announce a possible partnership with OHuddle Mentoring program.

OHuddle is a mentoring program for high school and middle school youth in Wayne County. Through one-on-one mentoring they seek to empower every child to thrive in their community. They do this through one-on-one mentoring, case management, and youth ministry.

Together with Open Arms, they plan to specifically reach

out to Hispanic students in the Orrville school system, to match them with a personal mentor.

It doesn't take long to see the benefits of mentoring. In just ten weeks of one-on-one mentoring, OHuddle has seen grades and behavior marks increase by 23 percent. Eight of ten teachers believe that mentoring reduces the need for discipline. For Hispanic students, the opportunity for one-on-one mentoring also gives them the chance to practice English, get help with homework, and build their network of support.



But mentoring doesn't just happen.

It takes people like you and me. If you want to invest in the future of our community, support local immigrant families and live out your faith... this is a great way to start!

From the Desk of the Director and Pastor of Open Arms

Dear brothers and sisters, supporters of Open Arms Hispanic Ministries, we thank God for what each of you are doing to help our ministry.

My family is well. We are grateful for all the blessings that the Lord is showering upon us each day. Esmirna and I had a wonderful trip to various cities of Europe. We had opportunities to make connections with our Mennonite sisters and brothers in countries with Mennonite connections. We visited Israel, where we met the staff of MCC. We learned about the peace programs that people are working with there. It was a good trip for us that served to recharge our bodies and souls. God is good!

At home, we are amazed how the Lord is working in our midst. My heart rejoices to see Salem Mennonite of Wooster full of people of different backgrounds and races and languages, all worshipping together. Our Anglo brothers and sisters are giving our Hispanic brothers and sisters a good testimony of faith and are helping them to grow in their relationship with our heavenly Father. The partnership between Open Arms Ministry and the Salem church is helping to build bridges between cultures. The Anglos are now better able to understand the issues that the Hispanics face each day. All the honor and glory be to God, our Creator.

Open Arms Ministry is presently working in different ways and with different organizations, trying to minimize the

trials and suffering of the Hispanic community. Our most important partner is the IWP (Immigrant Work Project), led by Jeff Stewart and lawyers that work with him. They have been able to help a great number of immigrants at a low cost. Esmirna is cooperating with them by offering transportation for those that have appointments at the immigration office and court hearings in Cleveland. Help us in praying that the Lord will change the hearts of our anti-immigration politicians in Washington, DC. The U.S. needs a comprehensive immigration reform. This will greatly help the immigration situation and bring relief to more than 11 million people. This could also protect the caravan of people who are approaching the U.S. border seeking asylum.

Through our Open Arms Hispanic Ministry, we are helping a good number of families with children at various schools in Wayne County. Most schools do not have a person that can help with translations for non-English speaking children and parents. This can make our work more difficult sometimes. We are thankful for the help and attention that the staff of the Orrville schools is giving to the students. They are walking the extra mile to make the students and their parents to feel welcomed and helping to build of communication for English and Spanish speakers.

Thanks so much for everything that you do for Open Arms Hispanic Ministry. Please keep praying for our staff, board members and volunteers.

Peace
Pastor Haroldo Nunes