



### From the Desk of the Director



*“But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me”. Psalm 13:5-6 (ESV)*

My sisters and brothers, after a year full of blessings and having the opportunity to serve the Hispanic community, I can see how God is using the ministry to assist and support our sisters and brothers, and the consequence is that they can experience the Father’s love through our compassion and love. Every day, I’m encountering a caring community of doctors, dentists and many other professionals that are providing good care for them. In addition, I am thankful to have a faith community that is supporting the ministry, churches, business, our board members and all our stakeholders of Open Arms that are making a big difference in the lives of the Hispanic Community, assisting the ministry to become a great resource to our Hispanic community. Thank you!

Open Arms has been blessed to help in many areas. For one, the ministry partnered with the health department, and we had our second Covid-19 vaccine clinic at Orrville Mennonite church, February 9<sup>th</sup>. We were able to vaccinate adults and kids that are participating in our tutoring program, for the safety of the families and our tutors, as well.

We are also excited for the opportunity to have our Annual Fundraiser in person again. I would like to ask you to mark your calendars for Taco Tuesday, at the Kidron Fellowship Hall at the Park, on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. We hope you will RSVP and join us.

Another accomplishment is that we are helping more people to get their driver’s licenses, work permits and social security cards, and we are thankful for the knowledgeable volunteers helping them. This help has given those sisters and brothers more peace of mind to work in the USA. Praise the Lord for that!

*As this newsletter goes to print, Haroldo is in Brazil, visiting his father, whose health has declined considerably. Your prayers are appreciated.*

Moreover, my relationship with local farmers and their Hispanic workers has been vital to successful business communication on both sides. As well, I’m always looking for opportunities to bridge more relationships in the community. I’ve had meetings with the mayor and Chief of Police of Orrville, to discuss the ways that we can help each other in making the city of Orrville a safer and more welcoming place for immigrants. Thanks be to God that we have good authorities that want to work together to make our cities a better place for everyone!

Thanks to God for our caring community, as well for the work that you do, to help Hispanic families! Please keep loving and helping them!

Please stay safe and healthy.

Blessings,

Pastor Haroldo Nunes



INVITE A FRIEND & JOIN US FOR

## Taco Tuesday!

OPEN ARMS HISPANIC MINISTRY ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

MARCH 15, 2022 | 6PM

KIDRON PARK COMMUNITY CENTER  
4434 KIDRON ROAD, KIDRON, OH 44636

FOR ANY QUESTIONS & TO RSVP:  
KELSEY@OPENARMSHISPANICMINISTRY.ORG  
330.466.7845 (CALL OR TEXT)  
PLEASE RSVP BY MARCH 11



### Note from Gloria Miller, OA Board Member



September 1, 1968: that’s the day Levi and I were married. A month later we found ourselves high up in the mountain range which runs through the center of Puerto Rico. The reception of our new neighbors was as warm as the sun; at each home we visited we were offered coffee and goodwill. Our voluntary service program assignment was to lead youth recreational programs, start boys and girls clubs, and relate to the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) medical and agriculture programs. We tied in with the local Mennonite church which met at our unit house and also taught English as a second language in the Orocovis regional public schools during these two-and-half years.

Twelve years later, now with our children Jakob, Hannah, and Elizabeth, we accepted an assignment with the Eastern Mennonite Mission Board to live in Venezuela. For two years we worked alongside the recently organized Mennonite church in Charallave, a small

city near the capital Caracas. Once again we felt the warm hospitality of the people of the church, the schools, and the community. During those years, Venezuela was a magnet country for immigrants, and our church attendees came from Colombia, Chile, Spain, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela. We all helped each other adjust to the Venezuelans’ largesse and goodwill.

During a month-long pilgrimage on the Camino Santiago de Compostela in Spain and in all the Latin American countries we have visited over the years, we have always been welcomed with open arms. That is why I enjoy working with an organization here in my own country which has as its mission to “share God’s love by meeting needs of Hispanic immigrants in Wayne County and surrounding areas.” This ministry has many opportunities for involvement such as tutoring, translation, transportation, and teaching. But most important, we can all be welcoming persons, good neighbors to the strangers and immigrants who have arrived among us.

## Tutoring Program Update & Needs—Kathy Troyer, OA Board Member

The elementary-school Hispanic students and their tutors in the Open Arms tutoring program have been enriched in many ways. The young students in the tutoring program continue to learn and improve their English-language reading and writing skills and their math skills. They and their tutors have the opportunity to build lasting relationships with each other.

Also, the preschool Hispanic students are beginning to acquire English skills that will help them prepare to enter Kindergarten. Currently, Open Arms has several young boys in Preschool who will begin Kindergarten in the fall and will enter the tutoring program to help them develop their ability to speak and learn in English. Persons who might be interested in becoming a tutor for elementary age kids are always welcome to contact Open Arms. (ktroyeropenarms@gmail.com)

“Open Arms Kids Camp,” a weekly coming together of the children who are part of the tutoring program, will again meet this summer

at Orrville Mennonite Church. Camp gives the kids the opportunity to keep speaking English, improve their reading and writing skills, learn more about the world they live in and build strong friendships with other kids in the program. They also get to experience fun new adventures, such as learning new games and how to cook. The camp experience will meet Wednesdays from 9am to 2:30pm throughout June, July and early August. Churches and individuals who would like to assist with food for snacks and lunch are invited to connect with Open Arms Tutor coordinator, Kathy Troyer ([ktroyeropenarms@gmail.com](mailto:ktroyeropenarms@gmail.com)). Volunteers are needed to be reading buddies, help with recreation, and assist with transportation. Open Arms will assist all volunteers to acquire a current background check.

We look forward to the continued good work the Tutoring Program is doing. If you are interested in helping us with the program in ways listed above and more, we would love to hear from you.



## An Excellent Retreat—Dan King, OA Board Chair

On Dec. 11, 2021, the Open Arms board and staff met for a one-day retreat at the Steiner’s cabin at Lake Buckhorn. Our consultant and facilitator was Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi. We began with scripture readings, reflections, and prayer. Jeanne then led us in a variety of team building exercises, including a time of sharing the reasons why each board member and staff person has sensed God’s call to this work. The overarching motivation among us is the desire to be faithful to God’s commands to love our neighbors as ourselves and to “welcome the stranger.” Jeanne pressed us with questions of What?, “How?”,

and particularly “Why?” Open Arms does what it does. We took an “Emmaus Walk” in pairs to share stories of God at work in Open Arms’ ministries. Jeanne conducted an “interview” with Haroldo, asking about his biggest challenges and his goals for the future. Considerable time was spent looking at each activity in which we are presently engaged and discussing its value within our overall programming. We also brainstormed other types of ministries as future possibilities. Examples include decent housing, child and adult education in English, drivers’ licenses, and legal assistance. We are grateful for a number of volunteers who are already beginning to work in some of these areas.

As the day progressed it became clear that some structural and staffing changes will be needed in order to provide for the increasing variety of needs among Hispanics in our area. To ensure that this important work of long-range planning continues, three board members and Haroldo agreed to form a Strategic Planning Committee to continue the work that Jeanne began. We thank Jeanne for her expertise, wisdom, and positive spirit.

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