



“WHERE ARE THEY?”

THE NEED FOR HISPANIC NAZARENE EVANGELISTS

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**South Texas District
Church of the Nazarene**

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I can't help noticing stores, restaurants, job adds, schools, and many other organizations in search and in need of bilinguals. I am writing this article for one reason alone to inspire Hispanics to do *"THE WORK OF EVANGELIST"*. *"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers."* (Ephesians 4:11)

An Evangelist is a messenger or one who announces good news. The responsibility of the Evangelist is *"to present Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that men [and women] shall come to put their trust in God through Him to accept Him as their Savior, and serve Him as their King in the fellowship of His Church."* The Nazarene *"Evangelist...is one devoted to traveling and preaching the Gospel, and who is authorized by the Church to promote revivals and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ abroad in the land."* (2009-2013 Manual-Church of the Nazarene, Paragraph 408)

I grew up in McAllen, TX. In the Rio Grande Valley. Where speaking Spanish and English was normal to me as a second generation Hispanic. Now as a Nazarene Evangelist, God has given me the privilege and opportunity to preach to both English and Spanish congregations. The truth is that there are very few Hispanic Evangelists and even fewer Bilingual Nazarene Evangelists listed in the Church of the Nazarene in the USA and Canada. Recently, I came from a Revival held in my hometown. As a result, souls were saved, Christians were sanctified and the church experienced revival, Praise God! Unfortunately many Spanish churches don't have the financial resources to hold revivals, but the need for Revivals and Hispanic Evangelist's is greater today than ever before.

It is not uncommon to walk down the streets of an American city today and hear Spanish spoken. About 50 percent of Hispanics have origins in Mexico and the rest come from other countries. The term Hispanic was coined by the federal government in the 1970's to refer to the people who were born in any of the Spanish speaking countries of the Americas. The population of Hispanics in the USA was 44 million in 2007. By the year 2050, it's estimated that 103 million Hispanics will be living in the United States. The five states with most Hispanics are California 13.1 million, Texas 12.2 million and Florida 3.6 million, New York 3.1 million, Ill. 1.8 million. As the Hispanic population continues to grow, there's a greater demand for Hispanic Evangelists to proclaim the Gospel.

With the growth of the Hispanic population, problems and issues are on the rise too. There are 283,000 Hispanics in federal and state prisons and local jails. Estimated 161,505 Hispanics were diagnosed with aids from 2003-2006. Suicide ranks as the 11th leading cause of death for individuals of Hispanic origin of all races and ages, and the third cause of death for those 15-24 years old and the problems continue to grow.

The question is being asked. "What do we do?" For some the answer is better government programs and better involvement. I believe with all my heart the answer is Jesus Christ. As Christian Nazarenes,

we hold in our hands a life and death message that needs to be delivered to hurting Hispanics. Jesus is the Hope for our generation. In Ezekiel 3:17-21. We read that God appointed Ezekiel to be a watchman for Israel. Jesus has chosen us to bear fruit for His Kingdom (John 15:16). Jesus Christ called the Apostle Paul to be a minister and a witness (Acts 26:16).

Throughout the years I have read and heard that we are in great need of Hispanic pastors and new Hispanic Churches and I agree 100 percent; but I've never read or heard anything about the *Need of Hispanic Nazarene Evangelists* in the USA and Canada. We need more Hispanic Nazarenes who will respond to the call of God- Evangelists who will proclaim the Gospel, preach scriptural holiness, be an instrument of revival, help and encourage pastors and churches, to help and be part of New Starts- not as a competitor with the Pastor, but as partners in ministry- and who will help churches and pastors with training on Personal Evangelism and in effective follow-up ministry to conserve the fruits of evangelism.

About 400 Hispanic churches in USA and Canada. In 2007, 203 revivals were reported. This means that 52 percent of Churches reported a revival and 86 Evangelists were used. As growth goes 3,662 New Hispanics Nazarenes were won, but the loss was 1,930. You do the math. (Taken from the Pastors Annual Reports, Research Center, Kansas City, MO)

“The mission of the Church of the Nazarene is to make Christlike disciples in the nations.” “The primary objectives of the Church of the Nazarene is to advance God's kingdom by the preservation and propagation of Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures.” “The critical objectives of the Church of the Nazarene are 'holy Christian fellowship, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers, their upbuilding in holiness, and the simplicity and spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament Church, together with the preaching of the gospel to every creature.” “The Church of the Nazarene exists to serve as an instrument for advancing the Kingdom of God through the preaching and the teaching of the gospel throughout the world.” “our objective is a spiritual one, namely, to evangelize as response to the Great Commission of our Lord to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15; John 20:21) (Foreword Church of the Nazarene Manual 2009-2013)

God is asking. *“Whom shall I send, and will go for US?” (Is. 6:8, NKJV) Are you willing to say to the Lord, “Here am I! Send me!”* Maybe you have the call to be an Evangelist but have fear or a certain doubt about your call. Or you have the call and wonder about finances. Then allow me to remind you what Paul wrote to Timothy: *“Do the work of Evangelist”. (2nd. Tim. 4:5) “Do not neglect the gift that is in you” (1st. Tim. 4:14 NKJV)* We must never minimize our evangelistic gift. God's gifts, like the talent, must never be left unused. *“Stir up the gift of God which is in you” (2nd. Tim. 1:6, NKJV)* An evangelistic gift is to be used, not neglected. God needs Hispanic Evangelists who are on fire for God and the Gospel and have a great passion for a lost generation. Yes, God needs: Spirit-filled, Spirit-led and Spirit-empowered Hispanic Nazarene Evangelists. Amen!

Jesus said: *“Therefore pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (Luke 10:2b, NKJV)* Will you join me in prayer to reach Hispanics in our Nation. The day is today, the time is now. Answer the CALL.

David Garibay
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