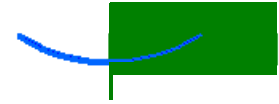
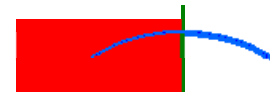


# Central Focus

Spring 2007

## Super's Vision



### *A Vision for Multiplying Healthy Churches among ALL PEOPLE*



We are excited to announce the addition of a new associate staff missionary to the Central District, Luis Martinez. Luis and his wife Susan were installed into the position of Hispanic Ministries & Church Planting Missionary on March 5 at our 2007 district conference. Over the past several years our district leadership has come to recognize the quickly growing multicultural dimension of our population. We have also clearly recognized that we are called upon by our Lord Jesus to minister to "all people" and not just to those who are ethnically & culturally like us. Thus over the past several years a task force has been working to find a Hispanic Director. After interviewing over ten candidates we came to the conclusion that we should extend a call to Luis Martinez. One of the reasons was that he was not only well qualified to lead the Latino movement but had the qualities that would allow him to connect well

with the many ethnic groups within our district. I have had the opportunity to come to know Luis in a number of settings over these past few years. I have watched him in his personal and ministry interactions and have come to deeply appreciate his heart and his skill in ministry. I truly believe that Luis and Susan will take our Hispanic Ministry to the Next Level of effectiveness as we seek to "multiply healthy churches among ALL PEOPLE".

Luis and Susan were married on December 30, 1968. Their daughter Natasha lives in Fresno, CA. Their son Gabriel died in a car accident 9 years ago. They have served five churches, all in California. Their most recent is Shoreline EFC in Santa Barbara. Presently Luis serves with the EFCA National Diversity Task Force, on the National Hispanic Team & the National Church Planting Team. He also leads the Hispanic Planter's Boot Camp & the Hispanic Coaching Clinic.

I believe we are blessed to have Luis and Susan Martinez join us in the role of Hispanic Ministries Missionary. That means, however, that he must raise his complete salary just as do our other staff church planting missionaries. As an individual coming from outside our district this means that many of you have not yet met him but yet we need many of you to take a step of faith to begin to support Luis and Susan, matching the step of faith that they are taking in coming to the Central District from California. We are praying for over 100 churches and individuals to step up and begin support at \$70 per month. However, any size gift will be appreciated and your prayers will be essential. The following is a form that you can fill out and send in should God prompt you to help us and Luis & Susan in this step of faith.

### *Superintendent Cal Swan*

YES,  
Here is my gift  
for the Central District  
Hispanic Mission Missionary

Leadership Development  
Healthy Intercultural, Rural, and Urban  
Churches  
Hispanic Church Planting, Lay & Pastoral  
Care, and Latino Family Ministry

We are looking for at least 100 regular  
shareholders for this ministry. A 1%  
share in their ministry would be \$840.00  
per year or \$70.00 per month.

### *Commitment Card for Hispanic Ministry*

I/We desire to have a share in the support of Luis & Susan Martinez as God provides:

Martinez Personal Support Account (at least 80 full Shareholders needed):

- By giving a one time financial gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- By giving a regular gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_monthly/quarterly/annually. (circle one)

Hispanic Ministry Expense Account (at least 20 full Shareholders needed):

- By giving a one time financial gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- By giving a regular gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_monthly/quarterly/annually. (circle one)

Other:

- By faithfully praying for them and their ministry in the Central District
- By receiving their newsletter.
- By asking Luis to personally contact me.

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## *A SIMPLE WAY FOR YOU AND/OR YOUR CHURCH TO BLESS HISPANICS*

This summer, August 10 -12, the Central District & Hidden Acres will host our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hispanic Family Camp. This has become a can't miss event in the Hispanic Community and a great way to introduce Latino people to Jesus Christ and to the opportunities they have to find a spiritual home in one of our Central District churches. This is a family event and provides great opportunities for Hispanic people to build healthy friendships with other Evangelical Christians. If you wonder what you can do to reach out to the Hispanics among you, a simple way is to let them know of this great opportunity. Hidden Acres is giving us a prime summer weekend for this event at a very reasonable cost. In fact, you or your church may want to help underwrite this event. For more information simply email Luis at [lmartinez@efcacentral.org](mailto:lmartinez@efcacentral.org) or call the district office.



## *WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE DISTRICT?*

- Word Fellowship Meeting, April 24 in Boone, IA; The “Word Fellowship” is an informal gathering of Central District pastors & lay leaders who desire to encourage each other in further developing a God-centered & Word-driven ministry informed by the centrality of the Scriptures. The meeting begins with fellowship at 9 am and concludes about 3 pm. All interested lay leaders and pastors are invited to attend. The format includes two messages from God’s Word along with discussion & prayer. For further information contact [pastormike@crossroadefc.org](mailto:pastormike@crossroadefc.org)
- Muscatine, IA; Mulford EFC will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary as a church this year. To do this the church will be focusing from April 15 through June 3 on eight core values that have played key roles in the development and continuing ministry of the church. Their biggest event will be on Sunday, May 20. We believe this church has the longest history of any church in the district (since 1857). However, if your congregation was established earlier please inform the district office.
- Oak Grove, MO; At the other end of the calendar Faith in Christ Fellowship EFC celebrated its 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We congratulate Pastor John Jones and his congregation. They have recently moved into their first church building, a beautifully remodeled facility on one of the main streets in this community just outside the metro Kansas City area.
- Central District Pastor Gatherings: Recently, in addition to a regular ministerial and/or retreat, Central District senior pastors have been meeting in once-a-year, 24-hour events focused on the special needs of the size church and ministry staff they serve. These have become valuable events for our pastors from those in solo pastorates to those in our largest congregations. We deeply encourage our pastors to attend when invited and when their calendar allows them to participate.
- Fall Pastor and Spouse Spiritual Refresher; Mark your calendar for the Hidden Acres event for September 24-26 or the Lake of the Ozarks event October 15-16. This is the annual event that invites all our pastors and wives to get away together in a relaxing environment for rest, fellowship with others and meaningful spiritual refreshment.

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