

**Quarterly Mission Organization Update to Woodbury Lutheran Church
February, 2008
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Deaconess Intern**

Mission: WLC, Concordia University-St. Paul, and MN South District Partnership.

Date: July 2007 – January 2008

Opportunity #1:

MN South District Retreat for Hispanic Ministries in South MN, at Camp Omega. August 25-26.

This is an annual activity that brings together members and friends of this community for Bible study and fun. My participation was in the Children's Ministry.

Opportunity #2:

Mission Week at CSP. October 19.

I was asked to introduce myself and my ministry at the chapel of the college in 15 minutes. My speech was a summary of why I am in this country, how I became a Lutheran at WLC, went to Venezuela as a volunteer missionary, and to Concordia Seminary. I also explained briefly what a deaconess is and does for the church of Christ. The Hispanic children and teens from Glencoe-MN that I met at Camp Omega came to chapel that day to sing in Spanish

Opportunity #3:

Hispanic Lutheran Consultation, Concordia Seminary-St. Louis. October 29-31.

I coordinated the trip and participation in this learning opportunity of two lay leaders of Cristo El Redentor --the only LCMS Hispanic church in the Twin Cities's area and myself. CSP and the District sponsored us by paying the registration, hotel, and food. We paid for the traveling expenses. It was a motivating experience to hear from Hispanic/Latino leaders who are in successful ministries all over the USA. These two lay leaders are in need of training and it was encouraging for them to see the seminary and relate with Hispanic/Latino men in training and in ministry. The District is considering formal training for these two men.

Opportunity #4:

Hosting CSP Spanish Club in my home. October 18.

I volunteered to have seven students and a Spanish Teacher from our college for a two-hour long get together. The activity for that day was cooking. I chose to teach them about plantain: its origin, nutrition value, and three different fast recipes to cook it. They helped me to cook and tasted the food. The recipe that they liked the most was mashed plantain with soy milk. The whole activity was in Spanish.

Action #1:Prayer Walk with St. Michael's at George Town Park, in Bloomington.

This is very diverse neighborhood. We did this activity for a month in order to make ourselves known to the neighbors. As a result of that, I have been meeting with two ladies for writing and reading class and ESL class for the last three months. One of these ladies is Paula, from Guatemala, who has been going to St. Michael's to worship every Sunday with her husband and three children. This family has been helped by a member of St. Michael's to find a job for him and by CSP through the Food Shelf.

Action #2:Teaching Spanish at Concordia University.

I have been teaching Spanish as an independent study to a few students who have minors in Spanish. I really enjoy teaching my language. The syllabi for these studies were already written but I have the freedom to modify them. I added the reading of the Scripture as the beginning activity for every class. We also discuss the application of the verses for our daily life. This is in Spanish. Two additional activities that I added to the syllabi are the learning of idioms and the reading of news from the Spanish speaking world. Because my job with CSP is part-time, I haven't had the opportunity to teach a whole class of students. I requested that opportunity for fall semester of 2008.

Action #3:Teaching Congregational Spanish at CSP.

Members of WLC and St. Michael's were invited by OHSCO to learn Spanish for beginners one time a week for a trimester. Twelve people started this class. No grading but homework. They memorized Bible verses in Spanish, they sang "Jesus loves me" in Spanish, they spelled, and conjugated verbs –which is the hardest part of learning Spanish. We had a good time. At the end of the course, these students had the chance to share in an offering for Cristo El Redentor Lutheran Church.

Action #4:Assisting Pastor Paul and Rhoda Pfothauer in the Venezuelan mission trip 2008.

We have started the conversations with the Venezuelan Lutheran Church about our mission trip in August. We will support this time their farm project in Maturin. We will try to assist them in the needs they have communicated us. Our first recruiting meeting was in December and we had more than twenty people interested in being part of this mission. Our next meeting is going to be in April.

Action #5:Translating the book *Devoted to God and to Each Other*.

I was asked by Pastor Schuessler to translate his book, which was published in 2007. I accepted thinking that we need this type of literature in our Hispanic/Latino churches. My plan was to finish the book before going to Venezuela, so I can leave it to our women there. This translation is going very slow.

I praise and thank God for:

1. The car provided through a member of WLC. It is working great!
2. My health has been very good and my energy level has been increasing
3. The great team work I am surrounded by
4. The love, care, and encouragement from members of WLC
5. The provision to visit family and friends in Colombia for three weeks
6. The call that I am going to receive from CSP, in partnership with WLC and MN South District.

Please ask God on my behalf for:

1. Spending more time with the Lord
2. Spending more time with family in Colombia & Aruba –phone calls, emails, letters, and traveling
3. Divine connections with the Hispanic/Latino people in my ministry
4. Creativity and energy to plan and bring things to happen
5. Fighting procrastination
6. Fighting fear of living and visiting unsafe neighborhoods

Signed: Luz M. Guerrero