

STARTING A SPANISH MINISTRY IN YOUR CONGREGATION

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INTRODUCTION:

1. We as Christians have the command to reach out and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15).
2. The Spanish-speaking community in the United States continues to grow in leaps and bounds!
3. Even if the Spanish-speaking community in the United States were just one percent in the general population, we still have the need and the command to reach out to them.
4. Consider the following information as you prayerfully contemplate the possibility of starting a Spanish ministry in your congregation. This does not apply only to the Spanish language, but any other language in the world.

THE NEED TO REACH OUT TO THE SPANISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

1. Elders and congregations need to consider the present need to reach out to the Spanish-speaking community.
2. The community must be examined to find out the need to reach out to those who do not speak our language.
3. There may be Spanish families visiting some congregations that do not speak the English language and who may be looking for a place to worship.
4. Therefore, the need to reach out must be prayerfully considered.

THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE DECISION TO START A SPANISH-SPEAKING MINISTRY IN YOUR CONGREGATION MUST BE CONSIDERED

1. Elders must be in full agreement to start a Spanish ministry.
2. The congregation must be in the same page with the elders when starting a Spanish ministry.
 - a. Some in the congregation may not be in favor of starting a Spanish ministry.
3. If the elders and the congregation are not in favor of starting a Spanish ministry, then such should not be done.
 - a. More harm may be done than good if a true desire to start a Spanish ministry is not there.
4. From experience, I have been in places where some in the congregation were not in favor of having a Spanish ministry within their facilities, and their wrong attitude pretty much ran people away.

5. Some members even left the congregation when a Spanish ministry was started in the congregation.
6. Therefore, everyone must be in full agreement of starting a Spanish ministry.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS NEEDED TO START A SPANISH MINISTRY IN YOUR CONGREGATION

1. **A meeting place where services in Spanish can be conducted.**
 - a. Suggestions:
 1. Converting a classroom or multipurpose room into a place of worship.
 2. Meeting at different times for English and Spanish services so each group can have access to the same auditorium.
 3. Having a combined bilingual worship service.
 1. Bilingual services can be done on a weekly basis, or once a month.
2. **Spanish Bibles and songbooks.**
 - a. Hardback Bibles can be purchased at an economical price.
 - b. Songbooks can be purchased at \$13.50 each book. Such may be ordered online through: www.cantosespirituales.com
 - c. PowerPoint slides can also be purchased at about \$200 ? (<http://www.himnosenpantalla.com/>)
 - d. The Spanish Bible most commonly used among Spanish-speaking people is the Reina Valera 1960. Some use La Biblia de las Americas (New American Standard).
 - e. There are bilingual Bibles: The New King James Bible and Reina Valera 1960 are available. Also, the New American Standard Bible and La Biblia de las Americas.
3. **Communion trays.**
 - a. Same communion trays may be used if services are conducted in a bilingual fashion or if the services take place at a different time.
4. **A visible Spanish sign outside the church building which advertises the Spanish services.**
 - a. Most of the time people don't even know there are Spanish services offered within the facilities. This is due to a sign which promotes Spanish services not being in place.
 - b. This sign could be a banner or a permanent metal sign.
5. **Promote the Spanish services through Facebook, websites, flyers, etc.**
 - a. Let people know there is an opportunity to learn about the gospel in the Spanish language at the local congregation.
 - b. If possible, try to have a radio program through a local station. This is a good way to promote the new established Spanish services.
6. **Literature in Spanish to teach the Gospel and efforts to reach out**

- a. There are places where Spanish literature may be purchased for the purpose of evangelism.
- b. <http://spanliterature.com/>
- c. I, personally, have two tracts I have written: (1) The New Testament Church, and (2) The Plan of Salvation. You may print and use these tracts for the purpose of evangelism.
- d. I, also, have a Bible correspondence course which takes people through the plan of salvation and the New Testament Church.
- e. My website is: www.regresandoalabiblia.com
(<https://regresandoalabiblia.com/folletosbible-tracts/>)
- f. The Brown Trail School of Preaching Spanish department is available for door-knocking campaigns. We have had the privilege of assisting a lot of Spanish-speaking congregations.
- g. Efforts to reach out should be done on a regular basis, since we cannot expect people to just show up at the building. We must go out to reach out to them!

7. **A sound faithful gospel preacher to reach out to the Spanish-speaking community.**

- a. In order for a Spanish-speaking congregation to grow, there must be a sound preacher available to reach out to people.
- b. If possible, such preacher must be a graduate of a sound school of preaching.
- c. In my opinion, elders should consider hiring a bilingual preacher.
- d. Hiring a sound faithful gospel preacher will save elders a lot of headaches.
- e. I suggest that a doctrinal questionnaire be in place to see where such preacher stands as far as doctrine is concerned.
- f. There are some congregations where the preacher is teaching false doctrine, and the elders have no idea that such is taking place.
- g. The Spanish speaking brethren will suffer a lot when they have a false teacher teaching them.
- h. Funds must be in place in order to hire a sound preacher.

WHAT ABOUT THE ELDERS OVERSEEING THE WORK WHEN SUCH DO NOT SPEAK THE LANGUAGE?

1. This is very common in most congregations that do not have Spanish-speaking brethren serving as elders.
2. **Some suggestions on this matter:**
 - a. If possible, elderships should consider the possibility of encouraging those men in the Spanish congregation to prayerfully consider becoming elders, that is, if such men are qualified.
 1. A word of warning: Do not encourage just one elder, since the danger exist in the fact that such "one elder" may be consider the only one in the Spanish congregation. This is just my opinion!

- b. Elders may consider learning the Spanish language.
- c. Elders may consider the possibility of having someone faithful translating for them.
- d. If the Spanish congregation is considered one church with the English speaking one, then the elders must consider the need to get to know each of the members of the Spanish-speaking congregation.
 - 1. There are times when elderships claim that they oversee the work, but such elders do not even know the spiritual needs of the congregation, or even know some of the members.
- e. Elders must be aware of what is being taught to the Spanish-speaking brethren. Elders and preachers should get together to discuss what is being taught to the brethren.
- f. Elders should consider hiring a bilingual preacher.

3. These things must be considered in order to do things in an orderly fashion.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES TO ACCOMPLISH NUMERICAL GROWTH

- 1. We must pray for the Spanish and English numerical growth of the congregation.
- 2. We must have a preacher of the gospel with a fervent desire to reach out to the lost.
- 3. A full-time preacher helps a lot, since he will dedicate the necessary effort to assist with the numerical growth of the church.
- 4. The preacher must equip and encourage the membership to be more evangelistic in spirit.
- 5. The church must have a 20/20 vision!
- 6. The sign outside the church building must be visible!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. The command to preach the gospel to every creature is still in effect.
- 2. We must do as much as we can to reach out to those we can.
- 3. There are hundreds and hundreds of English-speaking congregations that have Spanish ministries within their facilities.
- 4. Because of this, many souls have come to the knowledge of the gospel.
- 5. Let's try to do as much as we can to reach out!

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