

My church is interested in reaching out to the Latino community, What should we do?

Pray, pray, pray.

Gather a group of interested persons. Pray.

Do a short-term study on what it means to be in ministry with Latinos. A suggested one is: "Pentecost Journey" by Jeannie Treviño-Teddle. There are facilitators in the conference that can help facilitate this study for your church.

Do an assessment of the community:

- Who are the Latinos in your community?
 - What country do they come from? Are there families or singles?
 - Where do their children go to school?
 - Where do they work? Where do they live?
 - Are they buying or renting?
 - What are some of the needs of the community?
 - What other programs are offered in the community?
- You can access demographic information through:

www.census.gov

www.percept1.com

www.link2lead.com

For demographic information in your school district, go to <http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/>. Go to school systems, report cards, and the year.

Do an assessment of your church. Is your church ready to embrace a community very different than them as part of their church family? What resources do you have available?

Develop a ministry plan with goals, strategies and expected outcome. Include a timeline.

Determine what you have and what you will need to implement the plan.

Implement plan. Start and celebrate. Evaluate and improve plan and implementation.

Do's

Have a vision.

Use everyone with a passion for this ministry, whether they speak Spanish or not

Recruit the leaders with the gifts and graces needed for the ministry you are developing

Train and educate your church about the realities of Hispanic/Latino community

Start with small groups before starting a worship service

Start an excellent worship service with excellent music when you have a significant mass

Understand that there is a lot of diversity among Hispanic/Latino cultures

Be fair, just, and equitable in salary/benefits for pastors/lay staff persons

Identify, train, and develop indigenous leadership within the Hispanic/Latino community

Don'ts

Start without a vision and plan

Put a sign out and expect people will come

Expect quick results

Decide for Hispanics/Latinos what their needs are

Hire a person just because he/she speaks Spanish

Hire a person to do the ministry and then isolate the person.