



# Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

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[www.amigoscenter.org](http://www.amigoscenter.org)



## The Loss of a Brother

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, one of our fellow brothers in Christ was murdered at his home. Rodolfo Pereira, 41, has made a huge impact in our congregation and in the community. His selfless life was a true demonstration of his love for the Lord and dedication to serving others. At his memorial service we heard numerous stories of his quiet service and sincere love for others, helping in any way he could. We pray for his family here and in El Salvador and rejoice that our fellow brother is with his loving Savior, Jesus.

## A Call for Help

Are you or anyone you know interested in teaching English? No experience is necessary as we do provide training. We work around the teacher for location, day, time, and class size. For more information call our Language Program Coordinator, Margarita Morales, at 239-437-6727.

## Material Donations

If you are interested in donating material items to help our ministry run more efficiently, please check our wishlist online or call our administrative office to find out ways you can help, 239-437-6727.

## Update on Immokalee

We are still working on the Site Development Plan for our building in Immokalee. We have our site set for October to open our doors to the community, all pending the Certificate of Occupancy. Please pray that we have our Certificate of Occupancy by October.

## Human Trafficking: Modern day slavery

It is estimated that 2,000,000 individuals are trafficked annually worldwide, according to the United Nations. And, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the

Telephone: (239) 437-6727, Rev. Robert and Donna Selle, DCE Sarah Willig

illegal arms industry in the world today."

Men, women, and children are all potential victims of human trafficking, yet about 80% of those trafficked in the United States are women and children. These people are forced to work in the sex industry or in labor situations from the fields to the hotels. Trafficking is different than smuggling because once a person is smuggled in, they are free. In trafficking there is force, fraud, and coercion or threat. This is not just among the uneducated but among the educated as well.

The great appeal for the traffickers is that, unlike drugs or weapons, people can be sold more than once, making money for longer periods of time. It is a sick fact, but to them, people are just another piece of merchandise. Following California, Florida is ranked #2 in states with the highest number of victims.

This is a near invisible crime since victims are normally prohibited to go anywhere on their own, or to talk with anyone, most under serious life-risking threats. There are also many misunderstandings and a lack of information with regard to human trafficking in much of the nation, and we hope to help make a change.

We at the Amigos Center are partnering with the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking to spread the word about this horrific type of slavery; they provide us with training and materials and we are helping to do talks and presentations, as well as keeping an eye out ourselves.

If you know of a group or organization that would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Selle at (239) 437-6727. Presentations can be done in either English or Spanish.

## Give thanks to God for . . .

- Pastor Amado and his continued work in Immokalee

## Pray for . . .

- Rodolfo's family and friends
- The work in Immokalee and the Certificate of Occupancy for the building
- The many victims of human trafficking and our efforts to address this awful human crisis