



Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

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www.amigoscenter.org

The Baptism of Lynon

Lynon, a shy, twenty year old man from Central America sat in the back of our church one recent Sunday. He was a first time visitor. He had been invited by his landlord to our Sunday evening Spanish worship service at Hope Lutheran Church, Bonita Springs. Lynon doesn't say a lot, but what he says is important. During the service he attentively listened to the Word, worshipped through song and prayed along with the congregation. After the service, his landlord called me over and told me that our visitor had something he wanted to ask. Lynon asked, "Can I be baptized?" I replied that yes, he can. We made an appointment to meet later that week. When we met, I asked why he wanted to be baptized. Basically, he explained that he wants to change the way he lives his life. That seems like a good reason to me. What better way to start a new life than to do so in the name of Jesus Christ. We reviewed how on the day of Pentecost many people were convicted of their sin and asked how they were to be saved. The Apostle Peter's response can be found in Acts 2:38.

³⁸Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. ⁴⁰And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation."

Pray for Lynon, that the Lord will continue to work His miracle of faith and renewal of life in this young man.

Language Program Underway

January ushered in the beginning of our winter semester of language study. Our classes are located at Trinity Lutheran Church, Cape Coral; St. Michael's Lutheran, Fort Myers; Hope Lutheran, Bonita Springs; Messiah Lutheran, Golden Gate and Marco Lutheran,

Marco Island. So far we have 7 English classes, 6 one-on-one tutoring sessions and 7 Spanish classes. One of the newest venues is at Café do Brasil in Fort Myers where many of the employees study English every Wednesday morning.

Statistics, statistics...

The numbers are in and 2005 was a very busy year. Our Amigos Center social service ministry saw a total of 2,715 unduplicated clients, which is 13% more than 2004. The biggest increase was in the area of humanitarian aid, largely because of our intensive efforts to aid victims of Hurricane Wilma.

	2004	2005
Immigration	858	1046
Translation/Interpretation	196	168
Employment	101	67
Referrals/Information	670	611
Humanitarian Aid	164	377
Other Social	359	284
Language Program	64	162
Total	2,412	2,715
Client Fees Collected	\$35,290	\$45,850

We were able to serve all these people because of our expanded staff and because of the 65 individuals who donated a total of 1,546 hours of volunteer service to Amigos Center ministries.

Our Sunday worship attendance showed very minor improvement:

	2004	2005
Bonita Springs	23	28
Fort Myers	21	22

Give thanks to God for . . .

- The many who served and who were served in His name during 2005.

Pray for . . .

- Steadfastness in the faith for Lynon.