

# Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

July 2006, Newsletter #100

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

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Newsletter

Wow! One hundred monthly newsletters. It's hard to believe that so much time has gone by. Many of you have been supporters of Amigos en Cristo ever since my first newsletter, November 1997. Thank you for your prayers, financial support and many expressions of appreciation over these past 8 ½ years. Our mission is not yet complete. I'm ready for another 100 monthly newsletters. Are you? (Pastor Bob)

## Immokalee Lutheran Mission

I am pleased to say that our church planting work in Immokalee is underway. I already have three part-time staff and a team of volunteers working to develop our mission, in both Creole and Spanish. We are pursuing opportunities to spread the Word of God through home visits, written materials and local radio programming. I continue to spend a significant amount of time and energy in Immokalee with the Long Term Disaster Recovery Committee, outreach efforts with local citrus workers and Theological training. Please keep us in your prayers.

I trust that we are close to a final agreement concerning the acquisition of the Lutheran Services Florida building in downtown Immokalee. My building committee has recommended that Amigos en Cristo partner with the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS in order to purchase the building. This may be necessary since we do not yet have the money in hand to purchase and renovate it ourselves. This partnership would help lower our exposure to the high costs of purchasing and renovating the building according to current county building codes.

## New Staff

During the past three months we have added six additional part-time staff positions. Most of them are temporary one-year commitments. Louisa Calixte (Haitian) is Case Manager in Immokalee, Daniel Hernandez (Mexican) Case Manager in

Immokalee, Andre Mezilus (Haitian) Mission Developer in Immokalee, Isabel Diaz (Colombian) Case Worker in Golden Gate, Diego Grisales (Colombian) Mission Developer in Bonita Springs and Bill Miller (American) Mission Developer in Fort Myers. Please keep these men and women of God in your prayers.

## New Administrative Office

Thanks to the generosity of Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Myers, we will move into a new office at the end of June. The office will serve as our administrative headquarters where Pastor Bob, Donna Selle (Financial assistant) and a soon to be hired part-time administrative assistant will work. The expanding ministry has out grown the small office in our home that Donna and I have used during the past eight years. Zion is donating the space as well as office equipment and high speed internet service. Way to go Zion!

## Spanish Newcomer's Guide

It's finally out! Our 2006 Spanish language Newcomer's Guide is the fifth edition since we first published it in 2000. This is a 68 page booklet full of information that addresses the needs and interests of Spanish speaking immigrants to Southwest Florida. We printed 15,000 copies. This was possible in part by a special grant given by the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. The booklets are distributed free of charge, throughout Lee and Collier Counties. The booklet is available on a CD electronic PDF format. It can also be downloaded from our website:

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

## Give thanks to God for . . .

- 100 months of ministry;
- Our 2006 Newcomer's Guide.

## Pray for . . .

- The new mission start-up in Immokalee;
- Our growing staff, that each person reach their full God-given potential.