

Florida District -- On Mission

Sharing our resources... reaching our neighbors

Clearwater First - ESOL Classes Bring Hope & Build Bridges



Clearwater First (Pastor Pat Glenn) hosts "Hope in the Park" for their local neighbors, providing food and fellowship. Sandi Herrington tells this story about recent visitors:

"An older couple walked in tonight. They were from Ukraine and spoke no English... They live down the street and have no transportation but brought a hodgepodge of bags to take home whatever food they could carry... We "spoke" through google translate and they were just so so grateful for every single item they loaded into their bags. The only English words they kind of knew were thank you. I asked if they were interested in English class - that is when they really started crying... "English class here?! For free?!"... They hugged each other and then hugged me... The wife kept saying thank you... And then pulled out of her pocket all she had - Ukrainian candy. She pressed it into my hand while tears flowed and repeating over and over "thank you, thank you"..."

Nick and Tatiana (pictured above) returned for the Beginner's English class. The group includes immigrants from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Ecuador, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, and more.

Sandi says, "Our team does so much more than just teach words. The friendships that are being formed, the cultures that are being bridged (and still celebrated)... All while those precious kiddos are being loved on and cared for by an amazing kids team. Its a beautiful thing... Hope is shared in lots of ways at CFN.. And its pretty cool how God is still writing our story... And that we get to be part of theirs."

Have you considered beginning an ESOL ministry in your local church?

St. John's Faith Community launches Haley's Place



St. John's Faith Community (Pastor Dusty Phillips) is excited to announce the opening of Haley's Place, a preschool and daycare that is a ministry of the church. "We are honored for the privilege to love on and pour into children and families in our community."



Tigres Para Cristo

Dr. Edgar Diaz (Pastor - Tampa First Hispanic) and his wife and associate pastor, **Nancy Cortes**, have begun a "Tigers for Christ - Tigres Para Cristo" club at Tomlin Middle School in Plant City, where Nancy is a guidance counselor. The school's student population is over 55% Latino.

"A great group of kids came and participated," says Edgar. "We have been wanting to do this for a while, and we're very happy."

Tampa Hispanic is also reaching out to Bellamy Elementary school near the church.



Baptisms...



Pastor Tim Alford (Ocala West) baptized three people in September, including this 70 year-old gentleman.

The **Ocala Koinonia Comunidad church (Pastor Cesar Ariza)** who shares their facilities has joined hands to support the church's food distribution program.

"We had 367 cars come through this month with 1,409 people touched through food ministry this month," reports Pastor Tim.

Gainesville City Light (Pastor Josh Wicker) recently celebrated multiple baptisms in connection with their annual four-week Reignite series. District Superintendent Dale Schaeffer was one of the guest speakers.



Orlando Union Park (Pastor Dennis Jones) celebrated three baptisms as a result of their Kids Club outreach to their neighborhood, which features games, friends, snacks, a puppet show, and fun.



Pastor Josh Heer and the congregation at **Largo Living Hope** recently celebrated the baptism of 5 individuals on the beach. Who needs a tank when you've got the Gulf of Mexico nearby?

Don't forget to remember -- **Vital Signs reporting**. Reporting is available ONLINE at <https://app.floridanaz.com/Forms/Monthly-Attendance-Reporting> OR on the **Florida District app** for Mobile devices. It couldn't be any easier!

Thank you to all of our Team Florida pastors and leaders who report each month! Click below to see the **September** report - as reported through October 24, 2023. At that point, 65 churches had reported. But let's go for 100%!

[SEPTEMBER REPORT](#)



Report Here

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