

The Lenten season, ending Palm Sunday April 1, is

marked by the color purple, signifying the royal road of justice and righteousness Christ traveled in life, a journey which led him to the cross and the resurrection. During this time of year, God called us again to journey with the One whose compassion reached "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40), including our Latino friends and neighbors who huddle on the fringes of society. Recently Greg overheard someone characterize Latino immigration as a modern-day "invasion" of America, and oftentimes media attention leaves audiences with that impression. We cannot know all the reasons why people emigrate to new lands; certainly not everyone comes to the US with the best of intentions, but this describes only a handful of people. Practically all the Latinos we personally know come to escape grinding poverty and unjust economic conditions, as well as to provide their children with an opportunity at a new life. Regardless of why people come, Christ calls us not to judge them but to walk with them in witness to the One who calls all people to follow him. Because it's in Jesus that new life is truly found.



Walking with Latinos takes a

number of paths. Today, one of our Latino friends invited us to lunch, to thank LUCHA Ministries for the help he has received over the past two years. Eusebio has become a valued Christian friend. We ate at one of his favorite restaurants (Chinese no less, because its buffet offers an

abundance of seafood selections!), and then took him to get his picture taken for his Mexican passport; Sue plans to drive him to Washington in April to get it. In the past, Eusebio has assisted us with various LUCHA Ministries projects, like our annual School Supplies drive last August (see picture). For over a year, Sue, Greg, or one of our volunteers drove Eusebio to the hospital and doctors appointments after an accident that resulted in a broken leg. Nothing takes the place of hands-on, direct ministry. There is also nothing like sharing your life with a Christian brother whose warm friendship is a blessing no one can measure.

Another major part of our Latino journey during

these Lenten months has been planning events we pray will assist the Latino community in its Christian walk. Below are three major events for which we invite you to pray with us and, if God so leads, help us carry out.

Mini-World Cup Event 2007

In July and August, the Virginia Baptist Mission Board will host soccer teams from three VBMB global partners: Italian, Jamaican, and Brazilian Baptists. These teams will be in the Fredericksburg area August 6-13, to lead clinics and play in an eight-team "Mini-World Cup Tournament." Our goal is to help children and youth learn soccer skills while offering the community a taste of international soccer, all within a positive environment that leads people to consider their own faith journey in Christ.



RINCÓN LATINO:

"Latino Ministry in Our Corner of the World"

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LUCHA Ministries, Inc.
Virginia Baptist Mission Board
Latino Network of Virginia Baptists
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship**



February-March 2007

LNVB-BCOQ Partnership

In September 2007, the Latino Network of Virginia Baptists will send three to four Virginia Baptist Latino leaders to direct a Sunday School Conference among



Hispanic-Latino churches in Toronto. This project will launch a new partnership between the Latino Network and the Hispanic-Latino churches who relate to the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec. Our goal is to develop several annual projects of mutual enrichment between Latino congregations in both Virginia and Canada, plus develop special theological education opportunities for interested pastors and laity.

Baptist Youth World Conference 2008

Throughout 2007, the Latino Network of Virginia Baptists will identify and select up to 10 Latino youth to fund their participation at the 2008 Baptist Youth World Conference, July 30-August 3, 2008, in Leipzig, Germany. The theme of this Baptist World Alliance event is "Dive Deeper." We hope to provide deserving youth the chance to dive deeper in their walk with Christ through worship, fellowship and ministry projects alongside thousands of Baptist youth from all over the world. We also hope that our efforts will open Latino Baptists in Virginia even further to the vital importance of the Baptist World Alliance to our shared Christian journey.



Perhaps you or others would walk alongside us as we journey with our Latino friends, brothers and sisters in Christian ministry. Let us know by contacting us:

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