

HISPANIC MISSION HISTORY

In February 1985, what was then called the Missions Committee of Surry Baptist Association met to discuss the need for a ministry to migrant workers in the area. The Committee met again at a second meeting in April 1985 with the Baptist State Convention's consultant for ministries to migrants in the state, Mr. Mauricio Vargas, for advice.

Funding for the Migrant Ministry was obtained from the Baptist State Convention for the Summer of 1986. The Migrant Ministry began in cooperation with the Surry and Elkin Baptist Associations with Sunday afternoon preaching services held for thirteen weeks during that summer; ten weeks were hosted by Salem Baptist Church, and three weeks were hosted by Holly Springs Baptist Church. Rev. George Pauley preached in Spanish at the services. About 250 migrants were reached that first summer. An evening meal was provided by the Associations' WMU groups. Recreation, distribution of clothing and toilet articles, and bus transportation for the migrants were also provided.

During the Summer of 1987 Salem Baptist Church hosted evening services for the migrants beginning June 28 and continuing through July and August. Average attendance was 68. Rev. George Pauley preached at most of the services. The ministry was carried out in cooperation with Surry Association, Elkin Association, and Brim's Grove Baptist Church in the Pilot Mountain Association. WMU groups from participating churches again provided an evening meal. Two Surry Baptist churches provided the buses and eight drivers help with transportation for the migrants. Cassettes of the New Testament in Spanish were given to twelve migrant families. Rev. George Pauley moved out of state and the search for a replacement preacher began.

Salem Baptist Church hosted the Sunday afternoon services during the Summer of 1988. An enthusiastic spirit, good singing, and spirit-led preaching were provided by Rev. Carlos Oliveros and Rev. Manuel Urieta. An average of 83 migrants were present at the services. Clothing, food boxes, and health kits were distributed. Elkin Association again cooperated in carrying out this ministry.

In the Spring of 1989, Rev. Burke Holland of the Baptist State Convention met with members of the Surry and Elkin Associations to discuss the possibilities of a Hispanic Mission for permanent Hispanic residents. The State Convention committed \$3,000 toward the development of a Hispanic Mission and sent a team of five Hispanic pastors to do a survey of the area in May 1989. They discovered about fifteen families interested in a Bible study. The first Bible study was held in May and continued until June 25 when it was incorporated into the Summer Migrant Ministry.

In February 1990 the first services were held for the Hispanic Mission. An old farm house on Old Hwy 52 South was rented for a meeting place. Mr. Noe Bautista came from High Point to be the leader of the Hispanic Ministry. Services continued to be held each Sunday afternoon with good attendance by adults and children.

In the Spring of 1991 the farm house was sold and left the Hispanic Mission without a meeting place. However, as the Migrant Ministry services began in July, the Hispanic and Migrant Ministries were combined into one service, meeting at Turkey Ford Baptist Church. When the Migrant services ended in August, the Hispanic services moved to Fairview Baptist Church. Mr. Noe Bautista resigned as leader following the Migrant services. The Mission work was funded by the Baptist State Convention and Surry Baptist Association.

In January 1992 David and Nancy Clines began their ministry of church planting in an unusual cooperative venture of three associations, pooling prayers, resources, planning, and geographical areas to form the Y.E.S. (Yadkin, Elkin, Surry) joint mission outreach to the Hispanic people. Worship services were held every Sunday at 5:00 pm at Fairview Baptist Church. In the beginning health kits were given to those who attended. Refreshments were served by WMU groups from participating churches.