

Why We Plant Bilingual Churches

| We join the mission of God as He gathers worshipers from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.

by Joselo Mercado

The mission of the church has always been bigger than one language, one culture, or one people group. From the day of Pentecost, when the mighty works of God were proclaimed in many tongues, the gospel has been pressing outward—crossing borders, cultures, and generations. The risen Christ has promised to build His church, and He has commanded His people to make disciples of all nations. Church planting is one of the clearest ways we participate in that mission.

We plant churches because people need the gospel. They need to hear that sinners can be reconciled to God through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They need to be gathered into communities where the Word is preached, the sacraments are celebrated, disciples are formed, families are shepherded, and the lost are welcomed. We plant churches because healthy local churches are God's ordinary means for displaying the beauty of Christ to the world.

In the United States, one of the great mission fields before us is the growing Hispanic and bilingual community. Cities across our nation are filled with families who live between languages and cultures. Some speak primarily Spanish. Others speak English. Many children of immigrant families are growing up bilingual, often navigating two worlds at once. This presents both a challenge and a beautiful opportunity for the church.

We want to plant and build bilingual churches because the gospel is not bound to one language. A bilingual

church can serve parents and children, immigrants and second-generation believers, English speakers and Spanish speakers, all within one spiritual family. It allows families to worship together rather than being separated by language or generation. It creates a space where cultures do not compete, but are brought together under the lordship of Christ.

Bilingual churches also bear witness to the reconciling power of the gospel. In a world often divided by ethnicity, politics, language, and background, the church has the privilege of showing a different kingdom. We are not united because we share the same accent, history, or cultural preferences. We are united because we share the same Savior. In Christ, people who might otherwise remain separated are made brothers and sisters.

This is why the church plant in Tampa has been such a blessing. Under Mario's leadership, this young church has now completed its first year as a plant. That is no small evidence of God's grace. The first year of church planting is often filled with faith, sacrifice, uncertainty, joy, and dependence on the Lord. Yet through it all, Christ has been faithful. He has gathered people, strengthened leaders, opened doors for ministry, and given this church the opportunity to proclaim the gospel in a bilingual context.

We rejoice not merely that a new church has begun, but that a new gospel outpost is being established in a city where many need the hope of Christ. We rejoice that families

are being shepherded, the Word is being preached, and a community is being formed that can reach both English and Spanish speakers with the good news of Jesus.

Our prayer is that this work in Tampa would be only one example of many more to come. We long to see churches planted throughout the United States that reflect the beauty of the kingdom of God—churches where different languages and cultures are not barriers to ministry, but bridges for mission. We want to see pastors trained, leaders raised up, families strengthened, and communities reached with the gospel.

Church planting is not simply about starting services or filling seats. It is about making disciples. It is about displaying Christ. It is about joining the mission of God as He gathers worshipers from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.

May the Lord continue to bless Mario and the church in Tampa. May He strengthen their hands for the work ahead. And may He raise up many more bilingual churches that proclaim, in more than one language, the one message every heart needs: Jesus Christ saves sinners, builds His church, and is worthy of all our worship.



9

Church Plants Planned
throughout the world
in the next 2 years.

13

Pastors College
Graduates
from 3 different nations.

\$300K

Spent on
Church Planting
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