

ESA/LOVE INC PRESENTS

'CHEV' COLLABORATION OF HISPANIC EVANGELICALS OF THE VALLEY

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WHO IS CHEV?

George Ordway Associate Director, ESA/Love INC

In December of 2005 God started drawing the hearts of several people toward His heart to unite the Hispanic pastors and leaders of this great Valley of ours. In the first gathering, 18 leaders came together to share their vision and burdens. Out of that meeting Collaboration of Hispanic Evangelicals of the Valley (CHEV) began.

Have you ever found yourself in a place where you were sure Jesus had led you but it didn't quite make sense? Recently I was reading about Abram in Genesis 15 and the amazing faith that 'the father of our faith' had. He followed God and broke away from all the norms of comfort, security, control (and on top of that the scripture says several times Abram was a wealthy man.) I can certainly relate to Abram...I am not a rich man, I am neither Latino nor do I speak Spanish but God gave me a heart to see this precious group of people minister to one another.

Over the past two years seven CHEV leaders have met once a month to pray, plan and provide ways to accomplish the purposes of CHEV which are:

- ✦ Leadership development
- ✦ Regional networking
- ✦ Pastoral care and excellence
- ✦ Transforming prayer

The goal of these things is to produce healthy churches.

The CHEV calendar for this year looks like this:

Our first CHEV Pastor Prayer Summit at Calvin Crest near Bass Lake, April 11-12, 2008 (Friday noon to Saturday noon.)

We will help provide scholarships for lead-

ers attending the Willow Creek Leadership Summit in Fresno August 7-9, 2008

We are in the final planning stages for a conference on building healthy marriages September 5-6. (Dr. Rene Quispe will be our keynote speaker)

There has been an annual Pastors Prayer Summit which has been happening for the past 16 years at E.C.C.O. near Bass Lake. The summit will be October 13-15 this year. Come and enjoy the prayer and fellowship of other pastors from our Valley.

Psalm 133

My goal and heart's desire is to unite the Hispanic church as it is described by Jesus in John 17 and then by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4.

What Happens When Pastors Pray Together

by: Pastor Jonathan Villalobos

I attended the very first Pastors Prayer Summit at E.C.C.O. 16 years ago. That event has been a benchmark in my life. I have seen God bless our city and community in many different ways, by uniting pastors and encouraging them to come together for prayer every Tuesday to pour out their hearts before God on behalf of our people, God's people.

I don't have the space to even briefly tell you what God has done and continues to do throughout our city. The Lord has placed in my heart to call the Spanish speaking pastors to join in prayer. I have tried on and off for many years to do this and last year the Lord laid heavy on my heart to try again (I didn't want to do it; I didn't think I could, I had tried so many times

before). This time the Lord woke me in the middle of the night to call the pastors that I know in the city and invite them to pray. He said "tell them that you will do only prayer." I followed the call and we have been meeting for prayer for over eight months now. From this prayer time I found out one day that one of the pastors had a car accident in which he lost his van with a customized wheelchair ramp and lift installed in it. He shared with me his struggle with the insurance company to pay for a replacement. I told the other pastors about it and one of them suggested we pray for him and take him an offering. After that another pastor told us of his problem with serious leaking problems he was having with



pastors praying for each other

the pipes in his home. Our prayer group decided to help him with the cost of repairs. This week after prayer we will take flowers to a pastor's wife who is having dialysis treatment. We started out with just prayer but the Lord is showing us what His word means in Galatians 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Effective Leadership

by: Naomi Martinez-Cox

“When the people of Israel saw the mighty power that the Lord had displayed against the Egyptians, they feared the Lord and put their faith in him and his servant Moses.”

Exodus 14:31 What makes an effective

Christian leader today? Is it charisma? Is it ability? Is it communication and oratory skills? God's view of an effective leader has nothing to do with these

qualities. They may be a part of an effective leader. However, the core attribute of a Christian leader is his integrity with God and his obedience to follow Him. When this happens, God manifests His power in and through that leader. Moses was effective because he was willing to obey the commands God gave him. When Moses did this, God manifested

His presence in him. The result was that people followed. They followed because they saw God working in and through the man. They saw that this man was worthy of following because God's anointing was on him.

When people see the Lord's power manifested in your life, they will have a healthy fear of the Lord. They will look at you and say, "This person has something I don't have that is worthy of more investigation." Your challenge is to seek the Lord with a whole heart, resulting in God's power being manifested in the daily activities of your life. When this happens, you can expect others to be drawn to what they see in you. The problem with many Christians today is that non-Christians see nothing different about the way they live to motivate the unsaved to desire their faith.

What makes you different from your neighbor? Is your experience with God noticeably different from that of the

man next door? If you're not experiencing regular encounters with God, it's time to ask why not. We don't live day-to-day for the next spiritual experience, but we should see by-products of a life centered in God that is reflected in fruit from His presence in our lives. This is the making of an effective leader.

Romans 11:16b is a very personal verse which I apply in virtually all leadership seminars I present. These powerful words should stir our hearts: *“For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.”* As leaders, it is our personal responsibility to maintain our spiritual life alive in His Spirit and healthy in our walk. A continual renewing of our mind and constantly refreshing our leadership skills is necessary for a vibrant and growing ministry. For this reason, CHEV is seriously committed to providing church leaders with hands-on resources for ministry and support in their spiritual development.

**THE CORE
ATTRIBUTE OF A
CHRISTIAN
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FOLLOW HIM.**

Making Disciples

by: Pastor Samuel Alvarado

While working for U.C. Cooperative Extension as a Farm worker/migrant Education State Specialist, I had a yearly assignment function, to train young college students in to become outdoor education site leaders. A phrase we often used was, *“lead, follow or get out of the way.”* As I entered into God's work I found this phrase somewhat hard to use in the Christian arena so I made the following changes:

Lead I believe in leading by example, I will only teach what I myself have put into practice. I will never ask my leaders to do something I myself would not do.

Follow I teach them that I have had several mentors and that I have taken the best of their knowledge and put it to use in the ministry, Joshua followed Moses for 40 years then he was given the leadership of the people.

Get out of the way! A good leader will know when he needs to get out of the way. Many of my Disciples have such a profound knowledge of areas I will never reach. I give them freedom to plan, and the authority to implement, their ideas. Thus, our leadership team reaches many more areas in our church and community

Nine Marks of a Healthy Church

by: Pastor Dan Tovar, MDiv

How can you tell if a church is healthy? How can you tell if your church is healthy? What can you do to encourage biblical, sustainable, God-glorifying growth? God intends to display the glory of His beauty, perfection, and love through the “healthy” church. The church is the body of Christ where the image of God is displayed through his gathering of imperfect but transforming people. It is Christ’s sacrifice pictured in the lives of sinful but repenting people! As we learn more about him, we look more and more like him and less like our former sinful way of life. Our health and wholeness is determined by how we embrace the biblical theology and priorities that God himself designed for cultivating health and holiness in the local congregation.

Scripture actually teaches church leaders how to build “healthy” churches that display God’s glory. God, in His goodness and love, has not called us to be Christians alone. Though we individually sin, and are called out of the world individually,

we are also called to come together in a local assembly. In the New Testament this assembly is called a church. It is in that setting that our journey toward health begins and continues until we all reach God’s ultimate goal for us, holiness just as He is holy!

In this article, I would like to suggest **nine distinguishing marks of a healthy church**. These are not the *only* attributes of a healthy church. They are not *everything* one would want to say about a church. They are not even necessarily *the most important things* about a church. The reason I am suggesting these nine marks of a healthy church is primarily because (from my perspective) *they seem to be rare in our churches and are therefore in special need of being brought to our attention at this time and cultivated in our churches*. Of course, just as there are no “perfect” Christians in this life, so there are no “perfect” churches. Even the best churches fall far short of the ideal. Nevertheless, ***any church can be healthier than it is***. In our own lives, we never see complete victory over sin, but as true children of God we do not there-

fore give up the struggle. Churches must not give up the struggle either. Christians, particularly pastors and church leaders all desire and labor to see healthier churches. Below are listed the “**Nine Marks of a Healthy Church**”:

1. Expository preaching of the Scriptures
2. Biblical Theology
3. A Biblical Understanding of the “Good News”
4. A Biblical Understanding of Conversion
5. A Biblical Understanding of Evangelism
6. A Biblical Understanding of Church Membership
7. Biblical Church Discipline
8. A Concern for Promoting Christian Discipleship and Growth
9. Biblical Church Leadership

This is only a portion of the article.

You can obtain the complete version of ‘Nine Marks of a Healthy Church’ by phoning Joan at the ESA office 244-0105.

UNITING HISPANIC PASTORS AT THE FIRST CHEV PRAYER SUMMIT

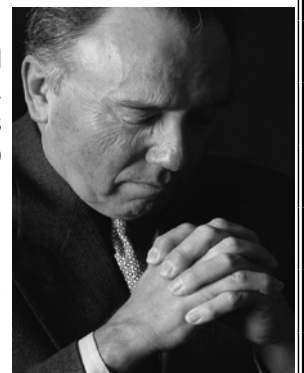
We believe that having pastors and leaders pray together is a key component to God’s blessing in a community. God has used Pastor’s Prayer Summits for many years to help knit together the fabric of the Christian community in the Fresno/Clovis area. Now He is building a network of Christian leaders throughout our Valley. We want you to be a part of it. Please come away with us and receive rest, refreshment and renewal. You will feel the support of your fellow ministers and the touch of God. We hope to see you on the mountain!

Cost is \$50 per person: This includes hotel like accommodations in the lodge at Calvin Crest with lunch and dinner served on Friday April 11. A breakfast and lunch will be served on Saturday April 12, with departure immediately after lunch.

For additional information in English contact Joan at the ESA office

559-244-0105 or email esaprojects@attglobal.net

Español: Pastor Jim Reyes 559-240-7374 OR Pastor Jonathan Villalobos 559-246-2314



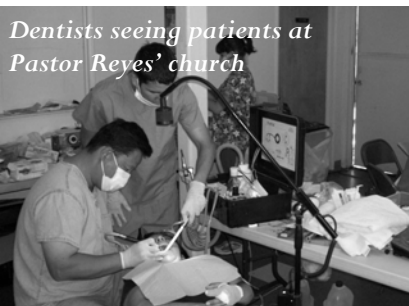
Pray with other pastors and leaders

VALLEY UPDATE FROM PASTOR JIM REYES/ABUNDANT LIFE WORSHIP CENTER

The Bible declares: "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well, keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (James 2:14-17) Therefore, the reason for the existence of the ministry of "CHEV" Collaboration of Hispanic Evangelicals of the Valley from its inception is to be a team of regional Hispanic pastors and leaders that have a vision to provide strategic resources in five key areas: Leadership development, Regional networking, Pastoral care, Prayer networks, and Healthy churches.

As a network, one of the resources the Lord has made available to us through the Body of Christ, is the CMDA group, which is the Christian Medical Dental Association.

In 2006 several doctors from CMDA were involved in what we called Valley Medical Missions Outreach. This outreach provided an opportunity for doctors to serve alongside pastors in the rural churches to provide services to the communities these churches are in and serve the people with dental and medical attention in



the name of Jesus Christ.

2006 was a year of fruitful ministry that included the collaboration of three ministries. Our target was 54 location outreaches that included a VBS, a food give away and a backpack giveaway. The results were:

- 1750 people indicated they received Christ as Savior.
- 3350 families received bags of groceries
- 3600 school backpacks were given away
- Hundreds of people received medical and dental care

Many large churches in Fresno and Clovis were connected to smaller valley churches. In 2007

when the freeze affected many east valley citrus cities we were able to provide relief aid to eight city churches. We networked with some social agencies to provide services. We also helped distribute \$40,000 worth of aid, in food and monetary assistance. This was all possible through donations. We praise God for providing all the resources in due time. These are some of the ways that we were able to provide resources to the pastors in the rural communities of our valley.

As project coordinator with CCA/ESA and as the Pastor of Abundant life Worship Center, I thank God for the opportunity He gives me to be part of this great ministry. The following is a note we received from one of the pastors we were able to assist:

In the month of January we received an offering of \$400 which was a great blessing, thank you and may God continue to bless you.

I want to bless you with this verse: Beloved from ESA/Love INC, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth 3John 2. Thank you, because you make us feel we are not alone. It hasn't been easy in this town of Ivanhoe, even though it's a small town it has a large gang called south side kings (SSK 13) and not so long ago they killed a police officer, but things are changing through God's word, continue praying for us. Pastor Gustavo Morales

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1300 E. Shaw Avenue # 136
Fresno, CA 93710

Phone: 559-244-0105

Español: Jim Reyes 559-240-7374

Jonathan Villalobos 559-246-2314

E-mail: esaprojects@attglobal.net

ESA  **Love INC**
Love In the Name of Christ
Helping Churches Help People