



Hispanic Church Focuses on Local and Global Missions

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Iglesia Cristiana Restauración's vision has passed the boundaries of Spring Branch into territories that are both familiar and foreign. The church has assisted in church planting and missions in El Salvador, having designated missionary to the land. Pastor Daniel Venturini keeps in communication with many pastors in the country and keeps the congregation updated with reports, prayer requests and missional goals. Outside of Latin America, Venturini has started missions in Southern Europe and has felt a calling to the 10/40 window and now claims part of Egypt as a mission field.

The 10/40 window includes Northern Africa, the majority of Asia and other regions located between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator in the Eastern hemisphere. It is an area to which Christian missionaries are drawn due to fact that these regions are home to roughly two-thirds of the world population. These peoples live in great poverty and under governments that are opposed to any kind of Christian resources. The area is purported to have the least access to the Gospel in the world.

Susana Venturini and Gloria Londoño traveled to learn first-hand about the area and report on needs to the church. Pastor Venturini plans on returning to the 10/40 window in order to meet those needs with whatever means God equips the church with. He keeps the 10/40 window in prayer stating that Isaiah 19 keeps his focus. With all that is happening with Iglesia Cristiana Restauración both locally and globally, Pastor Venturini states that, for him, it's about, "Working well for God, gaining people for Him and discipling."

Iglesia Cristiana Restauración's vision to make an impact in their community and around the world has developed through a history of change. In 1982, two Baptist congregations, Eben-Ezer and Sinai, merged as Primera Iglesia Bautista Heights, believing that together they could make a greater impact.

Through the years, the church adopted its Sunday school practice, vision and theology under different pastors and with the assistance of the Union Baptist Association. In 1996, after two years of co-pastoring, Pastor N. Daniel Venturini became the pastor. After a few more years of church moves, including leaving the Heights for Spring Branch, Iglesia Cristiana Restauración was born with Pastor Venturini leading it.

Venturini states that with the church's history of uniting and moving, God guided them during rough times, "All of us, the entire congregation learned patience. I trusted in Him and everything was okay." The church currently meets at Long Point Baptist Church with cell groups happening on various days in the neighborhood both for families and youth. The congregation is comprised of Hispanics descending from all over Latin America with an 80% immigrant and 20% national make up. Venturini and his wife Susana seek to ensure that the congregation is growing in their relationship with God and that they are equipped to evangelize in their community.

Says Venturini, "We have a vision of working with the family, generally kids and youth and parents. We work with the whole family so each member can grow in faith and in a relationship with God." The church is taught with a focus on cell groups, the bible and theology, ministry and the Christian life. Along with other church leaders, they have created and administered a leadership institute focusing on transformation where the curriculum is also focused on the Christian life. The goal of the institute is evangelism through enabling leaders, not only pastors.

Iglesia Cristiana Restauración meets at Long Point Baptist Church at 8009 Long Point Rd @ Pine Chase Dr, Houston, TX 77055. Sunday services are at 2pm after LPBC's Spanish service. For more information, call 713-316-0448 or visit restauracionhouston.org.