



# Institute Information

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## Celebration!

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The Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute had a special celebration on Sunday, January 24th at 3:00 pm at San Pablo Lutheran Church. This was a triple celebration: celebrating two years of classes, students receiving certificates for completed

classes and finally for Rosy Lira being the first student to complete all of her class work. Rosy is currently completing her internship and looking forward to enrolling in the Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to continue her

studies and become a commissioned deaconess.

Several more students are almost at the end of their classes as well, having only one or two classes left before they finish their class work as well.



Above - Reverend Richard Schlak with Rosy Lira as she shows her certificate for having finished successfully all of her classes.



Right - Reverend Schlak and some of the students who received certificates for completing classes..

### For more information:

- Call us at (915) 790-2300
- Send an email to the Executive Director, Rev. Richard Schlak [rschlak@missionaryinstitute.org](mailto:rschlak@missionaryinstitute.org)
- Send an email to the Administrative Assistant, Sue Lozano [slozano@missionaryinstitute.org](mailto:slozano@missionaryinstitute.org)
- Send an email to the Development Director, Rev. R. Paige Mathews [pmatthews@missionaryinstitute.org](mailto:pmatthews@missionaryinstitute.org)
- Send a fax to (915) 790-1845 (please call first as this is not a dedicated fax line).
- Write to us. Our address is:  
 301 S. Schutz Dr. #7  
 El Paso, TX 79907
- Go to our website. [www.missionaryinstitute.org](http://www.missionaryinstitute.org)

## Upcoming Intensive Course

When the current classes end (March 19th), they will be followed by an intensive course (March 22-26). This course, which will be led by Reverend James Tino (a former missionary to Venezuela), will be Church Planting. This class will be taught every day Monday through

Friday for three to four hours a day with



assignments to work on between classes. This is one of the required church planting courses that each student must take. The Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute has an emphasis on missions, not only in the church planting courses, but in every course.

## Second Annual Posada

The on campus students at the Missionary Institute had the assignment of planning and carrying out of a posada—a Hispanic Christmas celebration which includes a re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem. Children are dressed as Mary and Joseph and songs are sung as people walk by candlelight to the neighborhood houses in their search for *posada* (lodging). After being recognized and admitted, the happy couple and all the followers enjoy food,

punch, champurado (Mexican hot chocolate), deserts, fellowship, and a piñata for the kids.

In addition to having a fun time together celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, it is a learning exercise. The students have to learn how to put together an outreach event. They must learn the who, what, when, where, why, and how of planning and carrying out an event—especially an outreach event since that is what we are training our students to do—share the

Gospel of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the forgiveness of our sins.

All students of the Missinoary Institute must complete practical work as they study.



**Students and their families enjoy singing Christmas songs**

## Executive Director Travels

Reverend Richard Schlak, the Executive Director, has been traveling all over the country to spread the word about the Missionary Institute and our mission to train workers to multiply healthy, Hispanic ministries.

Lately, he has traveled to different churches in Texas and Colorado, but in April he has many different

speaking engagements in many different places.



Due to the large number of internet students, he also travels to the churches where the students attend to monitor the students, recruit new students, and help them in whatever they may need

and to answer the questions.

If you are interested in having someone come to speak to your congregation, LWML group, men's club, mission festival, youth group or any other organization, not only is the Executive Director available, but also the Director of Development R. Paige Mathews, and the Executive Assistant, Sue Lozano.

## Getting to Know Each Other

How do you celebrate? Many people, regardless of their culture, will have a party. How you do the party may depend on several factors such as socio-economic status and cultural background.

For example, if an Anglo were to throw a birthday party for their child, they would send out invitations with a date and a start and end time. Most

children's parties in the Anglo world are for the children only (although some may include family).

For a Hispanic party, a phone call or a personal invitation are all that it takes. The whole family is expected to come and enjoy the festivities. If the invited bring along someone else, well, the more the merrier.

For bigger events, in the Hispanic community, the major of the cost does not fall on one person.

Instead, various "sponsors" will be found for the event. It is an honor to be asked to sponsor something. For example, at a wedding, one person will sponsor the cake, another the flowers, another the church, and so on and so forth.

**Want to know more about the Missionary Institute? Want others to know more? Invite one of our staff to speak to your congregation or organization.**

## Meet the Students - Keren Jaramillo

Keren Jaramillo is one of the evening students at the Missionary Institute. She is unable to take classes during the day because she is taking classes at UTEP (University of Texas—El Paso) to become an elementary school teacher. Keren has been studying almost from the beginning and enjoys spending her Wednesday

nights with her fellow students at the Missionary Institute.

Keren desires to not only teach children reading and writing, math and science, but to use her teaching gift in the church. She wants the children to know that Jesus came to live the perfect life, to die, and to rise for the forgiveness of everyone's sins.



**Keren Jaramillo teaches a VBS class of about 30 elementary aged children**

## From the Director

When the army enters unknown or enemy territory, the officers always send out scouts to probe ahead. The Missionary Institute is a bit like those scouts. We are part of the "army," working under the program of the Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary. However, part of our job is to probe ahead, to push the boundaries, to try new ideas in order to multiply well-prepared Hispanic mission leaders.

This semester, we are again probing ahead and trying something new. Last year, we launched a program for studying via the Internet. Off-campus students use computers and web cams to attend class in

real time, even though they may live far from El Paso. The professor and the students can see and hear each other, using an Internet conferencing system. Almost all of our new students now use this way of studying.

This semester, however, we have begun to invite off-campus professors to lead classes over the Internet. For our Wednesday evening class on "Church Planting," each week a different professor leads the group in discussing a topic in which he has experience or expertise. For example, the first week, Dr. Samuel Gómez led a discussion of the Biblical principles of church planting. The second week, Dr. Douglas Rutt (Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft.

Wayne) spoke about different methods and models of church planting. Other guest professors include Pastor David Kim (LiNC Houston) and Dr. Leopoldo Sánchez and Prof. Mark Kempff (both from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis).

Eventually, Lord willing, we would like to form a network of different professors who would be able to offer a variety of classes on different schedules over the Internet, so that more and more students will be able to study without leaving jobs or family. This teaching method is new, but already a number of universities are experimenting with it. At the Missionary Institute, we're scouting ahead!

**"This semester ... we have begun to invite off-campus professors to lead classes over the internet."  
- Rev. Richard Schlak talking about the new approach by to teaching by the Missionary Institute.**

## Upcoming Choir Festival

The Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute will again host a regional choir festival to proclaim the love of Christ. This year the Choir and Music Festival will be held on April 18th at 4:00 pm at San Pablo

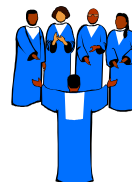


Lutheran Church.

Churches in the El Paso and Las Cruces area participated last year. This year, we hope that churches from Deming or Alamogordo or other congregations in the circuit will also participate.

Most choirs will perform some music that

they sang in their churches for Easter and will share that music at the Choir Festival.



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**Training workers to  
multiply healthy,  
Hispanic ministries.**

Look for us on the web at  
[www.missionaryinstitute.com](http://www.missionaryinstitute.com)

## Valley Lutheran Missions Task Force

The Valley Lutheran Missions Task Force (VLMTF) is a group made up of Missionary Institute students, pastors, and lay leaders from Juárez, El Paso, and Las Cruces. This group was formed by mission-minded folks who wanted to support missions in general and missions in this area specifically.

Once a month, the Task Force meets to plan many different events to support all the missions in the area including Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute, Crosspoint's new

Hispanic ministry and the Juárez missions. These events include choir festivals, golf tournaments, and other events and fundraisers for the support of these ministries.

VLMTF is even considering starting a new

church plant in the area.

For more information, please contact Reverend Richard Schlak at [rschlak@missionaryinstitute.org](mailto:rschlak@missionaryinstitute.org)



## Summer Language Intensive Program

From August 9-13, a Spanish intensive class will be offered at the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute. There are classes, practice sessions, and activities in the morning, afternoon, and evening, so plan to spend the whole week. For those who are interested, there is an additional "Jump Start" session available if you arrive before 3:00 pm on the Saturday before.

These classes will prepare the students to begin or to actively participate in Hispanic ministries and will give insight into the culture and mindset of the Hispanics.

Language Plus, a language institute located in El Paso, will be leading

the instruction time. Practice is more important in this program than theory. In other words, it's great to learn grammar, but if you don't practice and use what you learn, of what use is it to you?

After the morning instructional time, there will be afternoon excursions which are designed to provide the students with opportunities to practice what they've learned, in real life situations.

After the evening meal, students will learn songs and hymns in Spanish, then they will participate in special sessions on topics such as how to start a new Hispanic mission, cultural differences, personal

evangelism, challenges in reaching Hispanics who are first generation compared to those who are second or third generation, and Holistic ministry among Hispanics.

The cost for this week long program is \$675 and includes meals, housing, and instruction. A Spanish CD from Language Plus may be purchased for an additional \$30.

For more information, please visit <http://www.missionaryinstitute.org/spanishtraining.htm>

This program is sponsored jointly by the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute, Ysleta Lutheran Mission and Language Plus.