



HE IS MY NEIGHBOR

HIMN September 2018 Newsletter

A MINISTRY ON MIGRANT WORKERS SINCE
2009

11/3 West Belfort

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; (Isaiah 61:1-2)

Jerry and Stephen from Sugar Land Chinese Baptist Church and Pastor Douglas came out to joyfully serve the Lord. We did not have the speaker system, so Pr. Douglas began by visiting small groups of people around the parking lot. After handing out food and drink to workers around the area, about 8 gathered around and Pr. Douglas started to share the Bible message. In the meantime, a red minivan pulled in across the street. It was the same minivan from previous month, when a couple Christian brothers from another church have come out to serve the migrant workers. This time I met their pastor, Juan, and spent some time getting to know him. He said that his new church, which has been in existence about 2 years, has a van and burden to reach these migrant workers and bring those who are willing to worship services. I told him that we try to be there on 1st Saturday of the month.

As Pr. Douglas was sharing the gospel at the usual location by the Amigo's parking lot, we came together and prayed for the workers. One worker was emotional as he was trying to quit drinking habit and be free from the addiction. We also prayed for Pr. Douglas, as he had an unfortunate situation where he lost his wallet with many of the important ID cards in there.

We trust the Lord will do His mighty work in the lives of these migrant workers and that they will come to a personal relationship with Christ.

IN Christ,

Oleg
Chinese Baptist Church



11/10 Bellaire

Deuteronomy 31:

Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid of them. Don't be frightened. The Lord your god will go with you. He will not leave you or forget you.

As a bible study, small group leader of the Fort Bend Community Church near Sugar Land, Texas, five years ago I had been looking for opportunities to serve some sort of Houston group in need. In early 2014 I heard about He-Is-My-Neighbor (HIMN) ministry from several members of our congregation and decided to check it out. It has been nearly five full years but seems so recent that I joined HIMN as a staff

volunteer. Although I am soon stepping down from serving at HIMN as a staff volunteer, I have been truly touched and transformed both by our Lord and by becoming close to many migrant brothers over the years and our HIMN teams. This ministry has truly moved and changed me and I will never forget my experiences in Christ. Thanks to all HIMN Directors for your love and generosity over time, your examples of Christian faith is a true blessing from God.

Our entire volunteer group started by handing out a number of Spanish-language pamphlets with both prayers and messages of salvation of Christ Jesus. While handing out the pamphlets we invited the immigrants to join us for a blessing, a short sermon in Spanish, food and some fellowship.

This Saturday we were served at the Home Depot Bellaire location and had a bit of a mix up. It turns out our usual Spanish-language pastor, Pastor Jesus was unable to attend ministry. We took a few minutes as a group to discuss this and after some quick discussion both Bob (HIMN Staff Volunteer) and I read scripture for all migrant brothers. The moment of necessity took over and clearly the Lord used us all to further his kingdom and to bring evangelism to our brothers though neither Bob nor I are pastors. We soon discovered many of the local migrants are from a variety of countries including Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and other Central American communities. Several gave accounts that as difficult it is for them and their families to find work and live here in Houston, conditions are far worse in their home countries. In their country it is often much harder to find work, food, a home and certainly harder not to fall prey to local militia and crime elements, including gang dominance and related threats. We quickly prayed for the many brothers that joined us, we lifted our prayers up to the Lord for answering.

It was clear that the immigrants were both hungry for food and for the Word of the Lord. The blessing and sermon were about hope through faith, salvation by placing trust in the Lord's power to heal and to provide for basic needs. Our scripture readings included the concepts of providing for the immigrants' wives and children, and that as leaders of their family their faith is both for their good and the good of their collective families. I could feel the Lord working through each of us that day, it was exciting and powerful at the same time. We experienced a true blessing in ministering to such an attentive group. We of course experienced some rejection, not all of the immigrants accepted our pamphlets or our invitations

to join us for lunch and a sermon. That is ok, we were more inspired by those that did join, that showed such appreciation at a full meal and for sharing the message of the Lord.

In short, it was such a powerful HIMN event to join in by ministering to over 30 so immigrants in need of both physical and spiritual nourishment.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to the HIMN ministry for all the good works they do in the name of the Lord, you are among God's soldiers fulfilling the Great Commission.

Christopher "Chris" Lopez

HIMN Staff Volunteer