



Reaching Latinos in America's Heartland

Today, *El Norte* continues to lure Mexicans across the border with the promise of a better life. For Ismael and Esmirna Lopez, America is their mission field, where they long to reach Latinos who are foreigners in a foreign land.

On the fertile high plains of Colorado and Nebraska, Ismael and Esmirna Lopez dream of planting seven churches to reach people from Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras, their native Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries. Every day they work with migrant workers who do not speak English, helping them with legal issues, housing and food needs, learning English, and caring for physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

In the rural landscape of Holyoke, Colorado, the Lopez family has put down roots that continue to grow. The church they planted in 1997 nurtures the Hispanic community in the area and their outreach has grown to include a new church plant in nearby Imperial, Nebraska.

Ismael recounts a story about the new life of Jose and Naomi:

“About 3 months ago we had 15 baptisms. Jose and Naomi were among them. They came from Durango, Mexico, and have been in Holyoke for five years. They came to work on a big farm here, but now both work in town.

A member of our church invited them to attend our Sunday service. I offered to come to their house to do a Bible study—during the second session they received Jesus as their Savior. Every time someone comes to faith is special.

Jose has been an alcoholic, but now he is not drinking because the Lord is helping him. The family attends our church in Holyoke. They have a Bible study in their home and are some of our church leaders. Christ changes your whole life. It's not just going to church, it's surrounding your life. They are a different family now.”

Because of the population explosion of Latinos in America—now the largest ethnic minority in the U.S. and growing rapidly—and their spiritual receptivity, Latinos represent perhaps the greatest mission opportunity in the U.S. today. God is raising up missionaries like Ismael and Esmirna Lopez to reach Latinos who came looking for a better life in America and are actually finding forgiveness and new life in Christ.

**Missions Door U.S. Latino
Colorado and Nebraska**

He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the LORD of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

LUKE 10:2

U.S. Latino

Latino Ministries focus on reaching Spanish-speaking people in the United States through evangelism, church planting, and developing leaders. With almost 15 percent of the population in the United States being of Latino descent, Missions Door is committed to reaching this large and growing segment of the population.



2530 Washington Street, Denver, CO 80205
303-308-1818

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