



## 2023 Hispanic Ministries Report

**Manuel Abarca Sáez, EFCA TX-OK Director of Hispanic Ministries**  
**District Business Meeting**  
**Friday, February 23, 2024**

Greetings! It has been a fruitful year, and we believe that God is leading us into a new year of growth in unity among our churches and effectiveness in prayer.

We are excited to announce that Pastor Samuel Placencio has joined the district team as the Associate Director of Hispanic Ministries. We continue to be so grateful for the leadership and support of Superintendent Brent Burckart and Katie Arnold, Director of Ministry Effectiveness.

In our district, there are currently 12 Hispanic-led churches: five are independent congregations, and seven are congregations serving and partnering with an autonomous, established English-speaking EFCA church that launched a Spanish-speaking or bilingual congregation termed a Second Language Service.

Pastor Luis Castañeda is currently planting a church with Pastor Reuben Martinez (Living Word Evangelical Free Church) in Pharr, TX. Lugar de Él, led by Pastor Javier Santana, became an independent church plant last September.

Pastor Gonzalo Mateluna continues his church planting residency at Vista Community Church with Pastor James Mendoza. This year he has continued to build his core group and has launched an ESL program that is reaching the surrounding Hispanic community.

Two English-speaking churches have expressed interest in starting a Second Language Service in Spanish, and we are so excited to begin partnering with them in this adventure.

It has been a delight to work with RHIS (Red Hispana de Iglesias Saludables which in English translates to Network of Healthy Spanish Churches) that continues to meet on a monthly basis via Zoom and has developed a strong sense of unity. The pastors take turns facilitating the discussions, and this past year, we covered a variety of topics, including emotional health, cultural relevance and best practices for church planting.

We believe that God has placed us in a unique position to minister to Spanish-speaking people. Please pray for this initiative, as well as considering how your church could be involved in the mission through giving, volunteering, coaching, or starting your own Second Language Service - we would love to discuss possibilities with you!

### CONTACT

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