

REPORT TO ASSOCIATIONS  
LANGUAGE DIVISION,  
FRANK MORENO, DIRECTOR  
FLORIDA BAPTIST CONVENTION  
2010-2011

The Language Division exists to assist churches and associations to fulfill the Great Commission by reaching all language people groups for Christ, making faithful disciples, and equipping them for ministry. The following are some of the highlights of the division covering the period of August 1, 2010 through July 31, 2011.

### **Growth of language population**

Florida continues to experience one of the highest increases of language people in the nation. According to the 2010 US Census, our state grew from 15.9 million people in 2000 to 18.8 in 2010; the total population growth was 17.7%. Hispanics grew from 2.6 million in 2000 to 4.2 million in 2010, which is a 57.4% increase. Asians grew from 264,168 in 2000 to 451,200 in 2010, an increase of 70.8%. The highest percentage of growth in our state comes from the language groups. Currently 28.5% of Florida's population is language people. This exponential growth of language population presents us an extraordinary opportunity to make Christ known among those individual who come to our state looking for a better life.

### **Language churches**

Our language churches are striving to be missional by continuing to impact our society. They are intentional in taking advantage of the many opportunities they have to reach the lost for Christ. As of July 2011, the Language Division is made up of 773 congregations and 72 deaf ministries, for a total of 845 units representing over 56 different nationalities.

### **Language churches starting other language churches**

Church planting among language people groups is very strong in Florida and one of the most effective in the Southern Baptist Convention. The number of new language churches reported from August 2010 to July 2011 was 54. Only 22% of those congregations were started and/or sponsored with the assistance of Anglo churches. In the last few years, the majority of language churches in Florida are started/sponsored by other language churches. Perhaps this statistics may seem trivial to some, but when we compare it with the rest of the nation, it is one of the highest percentages of congregations being started by other language churches. Currently, about 50% of all churches started in the Florida Baptist Convention are language churches. We praise God for the missional focus of our churches and the exceptional language church planting team we have.

### **Leadership and Discipleship Training**

The development staff of the Language Division is committed to partnering with pastors and churches to provide the most effective and custom made leadership/discipleship training and coaching processes. Over 12,817 people were trained in different areas of Christian life and ministry. Of those, 2,186 youth and young adults attended our rallies and/or camps. Each of our Bible Study Summits had a combined attendance of 2,160 attendees who were able to participate in different specialized conferences.

### **Partnership with Kentucky**

We are on the second cycle of the three-year Hispanic church-to-church partnership between Florida and Kentucky. The primary purpose of the partnership is to enlist Florida Baptist Hispanic churches to commit to enter into much needed church-to-church partnership with Kentucky Baptist Hispanic congregations.

During the fifth year of the partnership, the following projects have been carried out:

- Five Florida Hispanic churches sent out 38 people who participated in door-to-door evangelistic visits. They also conducted 28 (twenty eight) preaching and training events to assist Kentucky Hispanic congregations. Among the combined reported outcomes were 1,075 attendees, 31 individuals who made profession of faith in Jesus Christ, 37 recommitted their lives, and 8 made other decisions.
- Eighteen conferences covering a variety of topics were offered in five training projects led by our Hispanic pastors, and contract workers. Over 695 people from 56 churches were trained in those conferences.

We are facing a unique challenge. Over 96% of the language population in Florida is spiritually lost. Please continue to pray and to make every reasonable effort to reach them for Christ. It will pay great eternal dividends!