

IN MISSION & MINISTRY
**United
 Methodists
 at Work
 Calling New
 Disciples**



Over the past three years, Mision La Esperanza in Emporia has been in a rebuilding mode. A meat-packing plant layoff rocked the congregation, and nearly all the members moved to other communities in search of work.

But the Kansas East Conference and Pastor Hector Sanchez did not give up. Instead, Sanchez and the handful of members remaining found ways to reach out to the community to call new people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

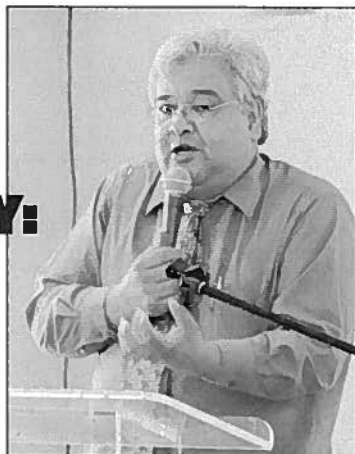
The first step into the congregation for many people is the various classes offered—guitar lessons, computer classes, English classes, Bible studies and cell groups.

"Some people don't want a commandment to come to church, but they'll come to a class," Sanchez said.

Coming to a class often turns into participating in the church's music ministry or attending worship. Today, the congregation that once went from 80 members to almost none has around 20 people worshipping together regularly. And community outreach continues.

**HISPANIC MINISTRY:
 Mission to Call
 People to Christ**

Pastor Hector Sanchez



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"We just had our evangelism campaign, and we have a good response for the campaign," Sanchez said.

Church members walked the neighborhood, knocking on doors and talking to people about God. They distributed gift bags with Spanish-language Bibles, children's DVDs, snacks, information about the church and a video of a worship service with an invitation from Sanchez to visit the church.

Walter Santillana began attending the church two years ago, and he said his life has been transformed.

"Before, I got mad at everything," Santillana said. "I yelled and fought with my wife a lot. I never showed my kids much interest. Since I've started coming to church, I've learned a lot about the path of God. It teaches to love—to love



"Here I learned to share and to love through the love of Christ."

other people and share with people. And here I learned to share and to love through the love of Christ." ■



Mision La Esperanza in Emporia

United Methodists at Work ...

Mision La Esperanza and other Hispanic missions in the Kansas East Conference would not be possible without support from the congregations of the conference. Through your church's tithe to the conference mission and ministry apportionments, you are calling new disciples like Walter Santilla to a transformed life in Jesus Christ.

Learn More About Hispanic Ministry ...

www.kansaseast.org/hispanicministry