



Mission Alabama

“Hijas de Rey”

By Stuart Calvert, Boaz, Alabama

Animated means to inspire, to encourage, to arouse to action. Animated appropriately described “Hijas de Rey,” the Tra Conference Femenil, Union Femenil Estatal (the first ever State WMU Hispanic Conference).

More than one hundred women from eight areas of Alabama enjoyed the hospitality of the host church, Primera Iglesia Bautista in Albertville, Alabama. Attendees included women from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Ines Velez, WMU President of the host church and wife of Pastor Edwin Velez, had prayed about a state Hispanic WMU conference for over two years.

Candace McIntosh, Executive Director of Alabama WMU, was touche by how vital WMU had been in Ines’ life resulting in a compassion for the lost, her commitment to ministry and a vision for sharing that with others. She looks forward to working with Ines and others to strengthen the work among Hispanic women in our state.

The inspirational format included music with a syncopated Latin beat. Musicians Alejandra Alvarado from Canada, Karen Rodriguez and Princess of God (three young women) from Mexico involved the audience in praising God.



Ana Melendez delivered three dynamic messages. Ana is the Hispanic consultant for Illinois. She and her husband, a Director of Missions/Catalytic Missionary, live in Chicago. Ana’s revelation of the Scriptures with practical applications stimulated the women to act like Daughters of the King. Her three sessions emphasized: (1) a daughter of the King makes life-changing decisions. The lesson for us is that regardless of our past, we can decide to follow Christ and everything will be different. (2) a daughter of the King looks for the King in holiness. Therefore, our sense of guilt should cause us to draw to God rather than leave Him. We must learn to forgive ourselves and remember that God honors those who honor Him. (3) a daughter of the King believes the promises of the King. We must take our problems to God, never forgetting that God is working. We can enter His presence believing His promises and He will always answer us.

WMU

The women responded to the altar calls that followed each session. The responses involved commitments to renewal of life and to be more faithful and active in the Lord’s ministry.

“Hijas de Rey” served as a pattern of how to encourage and support a Hispanic Ministry. If your church or association desires involvement in a Hispanic ministry, follow Ruth Walker’s example. Ruth, WMU Director for Marshall Association, visited the Hispanic churches. Over time friendships and trust developed. Cooperation and encouragement among Marshall County women in this particular meeting included an over-abundance of salads for the luncheon.

Other ways to encourage are to attend revivals or special events in Hispanic churches. Language is never a barrier when the Spirit moves among the pews. Also, invite Hispanic leaders to speak at gatherings in the association. They can inform and educate about their needs and visions for the association.

Randall Stoner, Director of Missions for Marshall Association, reports that the Hispanic ministry is doing very well. “I am so proud of Edwin and Inez Velez for the work they are doing. The ladies of the church have risen up and followed Inez’ leadership,” Stoner said. “We are blessed to have them in our Association. Primera Iglesia Bautista, the Velez’s church, is a strong supporter of the Cooperative Program.”



In the exhilaration of the first state Hispanic WMU conference, I asked Inez to reflect on the occasion. Her initial response was, "Thank you Lord for the completion of two years of prayer." Even at that moment of Thanksgiving for the recent past, the tenor of her voice spoke about the future. Inez' goal for this year is to begin educating women about her vision for unity with the culmination in a great gathering next year.

Inez expressed gratitude for the monetary sacrifices of the Hispanic women and of the contributions through the Cooperative Program. She expects to see Hispanic women start WMU groups in their churches and talk about the Lord in their neighborhoods.

Inez believes the results of the conference will be evident in the activities and lifestyles of animated women. Perhaps relationships with other Christian women will overshadow cultural relationships. We are all Daughters of the King.

Inez and her leadership team



Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Inez and her team as they plan for next year's conference.
- Pray that the women will follow through with the commitments they made at "Hijas del Rey."
- Ask the Lord to continue to provide and bless the Hispanic work in Alabama through the Associations, the State Board of Missions, and the Cooperative Program.