

# Ministering to the world at home

"It was just another day of ministry for Church Planting Pastor Julio Peredo when he received an unexpected call requesting assistance for a migrant family."





**P**astor Julio Peredo launched **Fellowship Community Church en Español** on Easter Sunday in the spring of last year. This launch was made possible through a partnership with **Fellowship Community Church** and the SBC of Virginia/Send Network Virginia family.

One morning in early November, Pastor Peredo received a call requesting assistance from a local ministry to assist a family. When he arrived, he met 25 people representing six family units that had come to the city of Salem from Columbia and Venezuela. The group had 13 adults and 12 children, ages 3-13. These families were fleeing from warfare and came to Virginia with little more than the clothing they wore. They were so thankful when a friendly face speaking their heart language arrived to help.

Over the next few days and weeks, Pastor Peredo and FCC en Español ministered to these families and helped meet their practical needs. Through a local ministry connection, they found housing; all lived together in a three-bedroom rental but had no furniture or beds to sleep in. Pastor Peredo helped them find the local grocery store and assisted them in

purchasing food to get them started in their new life in Salem.

The children also needed appropriate clothing and shoes for the time of year in Virginia and to attend school. The church came alongside this family and helped them get the clothes they needed. Bunk beds were built and mattresses were acquired. Within a few days, it was time for the children to be enrolled in the local schools. Pastor Peredo served as their translator to help the adults answer all the questions and complete the necessary paperwork. The need for vaccinations and medical checkups arose during the process, and Pastor Peredo assisted in that process too!

FCC en Español immediately adopted this family into their fellowship. These new friends arrived in Salem, Virginia, just before the Thanksgiving holiday. FCC en Español invited their new friends to a church Thanksgiving dinner and took food to their home afterward.

The families were invited to worship with the FCC en Español congregation on Sundays and have since participated regularly. Pastor Peredo and his new congregation are very thankful for the partnership from

the Anglo FCC campuses (a multi-site church in the Roanoke Valley). When asked about this church-wide support, Pastor Peredo shared that the excitement of serving these new friends started with our lead pastor. "From the moment we communicated this need, our lead pastor, Ken Nienke, reacted with great excitement. We had the church facilities at our disposal and the van to transport the people to their appointments and activities organized by the Spanish church."

One of the most exciting and encouraging aspects of this story is how God placed members of Fellowship Community Church in key places throughout the community, living out their faith as missionaries. Pastor Peredo shared that he encountered teachers, guidance counselors, and even principals who are part of the body at FCC. They were ready to serve and love the children and families through every part of their story. For instance, a school counselor gave Pastor Peredo some gift cards to local grocery stores to share with the families. When he thanked her, she said, "These actually came from Fellowship Community Church as part of their school adoption program!" All Peredo could say was, "Praise God!" ■