

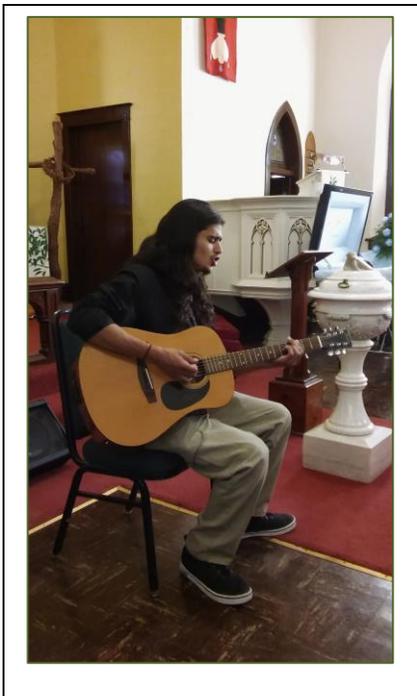
La Misión de San Lucas is an interdenominational Mission serving the 40,000 Latinos of Wyandotte County (Kansas City, Kansas).



La Misión de San Lucas

The Thief on the Cross Meets La Bamba

Earlier this month a young Latino man lost his life in Kansas City, Kansas. I was contacted shortly thereafter by the local victim's advocacy agent of the Kansas City Police department. I serve the department as the only bi-lingual police chaplain and a friend in the department asked if I could meet with the family. This unchurched family needed not only someone to lead a Spanish language funeral but were in deep need of prayer. We met at St. Luke's Lutheran Church where the Mission of St. Luke meets every Sunday for an afternoon service. We did a lot of talking and praying that night.



I prepared for the Saturday morning funeral not knowing what to expect. The family thought that fifty people would attend the funeral. The body of the deceased arrived at 8:30 and by 9 a.m. all the pews were full but people kept coming. The vestibule filled up and there was still people standing outside the front steps of the church. The crowd swelled to over 200 people. A group of young people showed up with their fallen friend's picture plastered on the front of their T-shirts. I opened the service singing Open the Eyes of our Heart Lord in Spanish.

I then shared an amazing story from the Gospel of St. Luke. A penitent thief hanging on a cross beside Jesus asked simply to be remembered. He joined Jesus in paradise shortly thereafter. You could have heard a pin drop as I explained the wonderful grace Jesus extended this unworthy thief. As people were drying their eyes I asked them to stand and hold hands as we sang the Taize song, Jesus Remember Me in Spanish and in English. I then opened up the podium to anyone who wanted to share words of remembrance of their friend or words of comfort for the family. The only one to come forward was a young man with long hair who asked to borrow my guitar. He said to the crowd, "Chris would have wanted us to sing this song." He broke out into the iconic song by Richie Valens, La Bamba. The

crowd started clapping spontaneously. It was a perfect ending to the sermon.

For those of you who don't know Spanish here is a translation of the first stanza of La Bamba, "I'm not a sailor, I'm a captain. A little bit of grace is needed, a little for me and a little for you. Get up, get up and it will be yours." There are many nonsensical lyrics included in the song and I have been told each region in Mexico adds their own particular verses but what holds the song together is the theme of needing grace. That fit the theme of my sermon perfectly. Please pray for the Latino youth of Kansas City. Without a whole lot of God's grace they will seek revenge for the death of their friend. And hold the family of the young man in your prayers as well.

We are half way there! Over \$10,000 in the bank.

Earlier this year we set a goal to raise \$15,000 to open a new store. Thanks to the generosity of the people of Christ Church we are more than ½ way there. Please pray about helping us reach our goal by the end of the year.

The Thrift Store Enters its Fourth Year



The Happiest People at St. Luke's



In 2012 I responded to a call to become active in the Latino community in Kansas City, Kansas by opening a small business in the Latino zone (over 25,000 Latinos in a five mile radius of 18th and Central). St. Luke's Thrift Store opened its doors to the public in October of that year. Seeing we wanted to serve Latinos I made the decision to not have set prices but run it like a market in the third world where I suggest a price and then let people bargain. Because of that decision over 70% of the people coming to St. Luke's do not speak much English but they sure can bargain. We now bargain in 3 languages.

Often people ask me what sells well at the store. I can always sell a good bed, bookcase or pots and pans. The key is that donations cannot be broken, torn, stained or have bug infestation. If something you are thinking of donating has any of these defects please do everyone a favor and put it in the trash. However, we can always resell anything that is of good quality that pertains to the house. We do large item pickups but ask that it be a substantial donation to warrant the time and cost expended. Our address is 1712 Central Ave. KCKS 66102



WANT TO SUPPORT THE MISSION? SOME OF OUR DONORS SET UP AN AUTOMATIC BILL PAY WITH THEIR BANKING INSTITUTION. OTHERS SEND A CHECK MADE OUT TO MSL (THE MISSION OF ST. LUKE) TO OUR OFFICE AT P.O. BOX 11031 KANSAS CITY, KS 66111. WE NOW HAVE A PAYMENT OPTION ON OUR WEB SITE THROUGH PAYPAL. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SUPPORTING THE MISSION FINANCIALLY OR TO BECOME INVOLVED IN OTHER WAYS PLEASE GIVE US A CALL (913) 706-6766 OR TEXT ME. YOU WILL RECEIVE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPT IN A TIMELY MANNER.

All donations for this ministry are tax deductible through La Misión de San Lucas (501c3) Director of the Mission, Gene Flanery has served in missions since 1982 and is an ordained Anglican priest and serves as a church planter within the Church for the Sake of Others diocese.