



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

JANUARY 2022



A Tale of Two Churches

**"Great and amazing are Your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!"**
Revelation 15:3

Twenty years ago, a Spanish speaking ministry was begun in Salem, Oregon. When the church, Iglesia Cristo Vive began, they were meeting in a school building. Ten years ago, the church asked NICE Missionary, Jesús Cordova to serve as pastor. It was soon evident to both Jesus and his wife, Maria, that the church needed a more permanent place to meet, and so they began to pray. The church grew, lives were saved and changed, and ministry was happening. But still there was a need for a better location. They continued to explore different options for a building, and as always, continued to pray.



The Rolling Hills Baptist Church was an aging church family. When the Covid virus caused a shutdown of in-person meetings, the pastor continued meeting through services online. Once the church was able to meet again, many of the church family preferred to just continue online. As Pastor Darris Arnold was approaching his retirement this year, he and his Associate Pastor began praying about what God would have them do regarding the church facility. God began to impress on their hearts that the building should go to a Hispanic congregation. But to whom?



Former Youth Pastor for Iglesia Cristo Vive, Sergio Aguirre, was also a friend of Pastor Darris. So Pastor Darris approached Sergio and explained the burden on his heart regarding the church facility. When he asked Sergio if he knew of a Hispanic church that needed a building, Sergio immediately thought of Cristo Vive! He called the Cordovas, and a meeting was set up between the pastors and elders of the two churches. At the conclusion of that meeting, according to Jesús, *"They decided to give us the building, free of charge! So we said, 'Yes, please!' and 'Thank You, Lord!'"*

On October 31, the two congregations met for a joint worship service filled with rejoicing and praise for what God had brought about. At that time, Pastor Darris handed the key to the building to Pastor Jesús. A dedication service has been planned for December 19. The Cordovas commented, *"There have been tears of joy, and praise to our God and Lord for this awesome gift! We are still amazed!"*



Please continue to pray for Jesús and Maria Cordova and Iglesia Cristo Vive. Pray that the ministry to the Spanish speaking community would flourish and grow, bringing many to saving knowledge of Christ. God is building His church!

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O Lord God the Almighty!"**
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So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. I Corinthians 3:7