



A Perspectivas Class in Central Florida

By NEIL MOYER

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“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”
(Rev 4:11, NIV)

Is this the way to start a class?

It was a hot, humid Thursday night in August 2021, and the COVID pandemic had finally begun to wane. It was time for our first in-person lesson in an all-Spanish Perspectives class in Orlando. Everything seemed to prevent this class from happening. There were only a handful of preregistrations as naysayers repeatedly warned us that this community would not attend classes of this nature. Our first instructor, a strong supporter of Perspectives and pastor of the host church, called to tell us that he tested positive for COVID-19 and would not be with us.

Lord, are you telling us something?

The class coordinator and the team continued to expect God to do great things as we attempted something great. The team had a strong desire to proclaim God's invitation to play an integral role in his story, being a blessing to all peoples.

But God showed us that he had taken care of things. We located an instructor who could make it, though not a Spanish speaker. No problem. Our class coordinator

was fluent in both English and Spanish and was very capable of translating for the class. The classroom doors opened to registration. Students, potential students, and guests began to arrive, and they just kept coming. More tables and chairs were set up as needed until nearly 100 people showed up to hear “El Dios Viviente es un Dios de Propósito Global (The Living God is a Missionary God).” The night concluded with prayer time as the coordinating team circulated about the various tables, praying with the students. God's presence filled the room. Our official records show that 55 students registered for the class. All were registered at the certificate level except for one at the key reading level.¹

Bring on the celebration

After the first night, the class found their routine of instruction, discussions, and prayer. It continued for three months, covering 15 lessons, each taught by a different instructor. After the last class, a time of celebration, commissioning, and rejoicing was scheduled for February 2022.

¹ Perspectives on the World Christian Movement offers three levels of engagement: key reading, certificate, and credit.

The celebration for the *Perspectivas* class was a grand event that lasted nearly three hours. Thirty students received certificates for successfully completing the course (see title photo). Pastor Gonzalez commissioned each of the students to pursue Christ who is worthy. Students were encouraged to give testimony of what they learned and how the course transformed their thinking. Some said they continued through to the end, despite the difficulty, because of the God-given mentor/graders' prayers, encouragement, and helpful responses to their questions. Members of the coordinating team also had a chance to share how God worked in their lives.

My takeaway

My region of Florida+ spans nearly 1,700 miles from the panhandle of Florida, down the peninsula through Puerto Rico, and ending up on the US Virgin Islands. This area of about 70,000 square miles has approximately 26 million people; one-third of that population is Hispanic, whose primary language is Spanish.

God is faithful to bring about things that we never thought possible. I have been a regional director for *Perspectives* for about four years, starting just before the COVID-19 outbreak, and it seemed that everything changed. In this change, I am seeing the need for *Perspectives* to expand into the Spanish-speaking community. But there are challenges with any relatively new endeavor, the lack of nearly everything except vision. We need instructors, coordinators, mentors, graders, and team members who have the *Perspectives* vision of seeing “the Body

of Christ awakened to pursue the fulfillment of God’s global purpose within every people for His glory” and are culturally fluent Spanish speakers.

Finally, as an old guy who still struggles with his primary language of English, I have a vision of *Perspectivas* being the primary expression in my region. It will not be because I have learned to speak Spanish fluently or because of my vibrant personality but by the working of the Holy Spirit as he invites others to encourage and mobilize by educating the Body of Christ in the USA to strategically engage in God’s global purpose.

God is passionate about his glory. That is why he wants to make his glory known. As John Piper astutely observes, “God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshipers for himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of his name among the nations.”²

Did I mention that our *Perspectivas* class celebrated well? My heart desires that every one of my classes learns to celebrate well with the students who have seen a different perspective of God and his mission. In like manner, the saints in Revelation 5:9 sing a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood, you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

² John Piper, “The Supremacy of God in Missions through Worship,” *Mission Frontiers* (July–August 1996).

LEARN MORE

Spanish *Perspectivas* is just one of the many languages that the *Perspectives* course materials is available in. Explore all the options at: www.missionbooks.org.

