

FAQs

about SPANISH LANGUAGE MINISTRIES AT EFCC

We honor God as a local assembly of believers by making disciples among the various ethnic and cultural groups in our community, ministering the Good News of salvation and life in Christ to all. (From EFCC's 2020 Vision.)

1 Why is EFCC going to have a Spanish language service?

The Bible is clear that God intends for His church to make disciples among all ethnic groups (Matthew 28:19). This includes the large and growing Hispanic community of Escondido and North County. Ministry across ethnic lines frequently involves people who speak languages other than our own. The communication of the Gospel requires that the speaker and the hearer share a common language of understanding. For many Hispanics, this language is English. For many other Hispanics, their "heart language" is Spanish. While many have some understanding of English, it can best be described as "survival English," just enough to get basic tasks done. Meaningful communication about abstract concepts like sin, forgiveness, hope, guilt, peace, discipleship (and many more) requires the use of Spanish. For this reason, we are planning to offer new ministries that will allow us to share the Gospel, make disciples, and engage in worship with people in their heart language of Spanish.

2 Will this worship service become a new church plant?

No, this is simply adding another worship service, Emmanuel Faith Community Church en español, to the existing schedule of other services offered on the EFCC campus. Those who participate in this service will be as much a part of the EFCC family as all those in the other services on our campus.

3 Who will be preaching in this new service?

Esteban Tapia is our new Spanish Language Ministries Pastor. He will preach in Spanish, working closely with our Senior Pastor to coordinate sermon topics and biblical passages. All our worship venues will focus on the same sermon series as we learn together as one church family.

Esteban was born and raised in Tijuana, Mexico. He grew up being Catholic by tradition, but when he was 12 years old, he and his whole family gave their life to Jesus Christ. Esteban has been married to his wife, Jemima, since 1997 and has two daughters, Adaly (14) and Aneth (11). In 2008 Esteban and his family moved to Chula Vista, CA, and even though his life expectations were never to become a pastor, in 2009 the Lord called him to become His servant.

For the next five years, Esteban worked in machine shops during the week, and on the weekends he was a church planter and helped coordinate a church planting center. Esteban joined the EFCC staff in April 2014 as the Pastor of Spanish Ministries. He is currently on his last year at Southern California Seminary pursuing a B.A. in Biblical Studies. His passion is to work with integrity and commitment in a Spirit-led life, using the gifts and talents that God has given him to bring glory to His name in the development of Spanish language ministries.



4 Why don't we support Spanish-speaking churches rather than start something here?

While EFCC will continue to collaborate with these churches as partners in the Gospel, there are far more people to be reached in our city. Additionally, we want to be able to offer ministry on our campus to those EFCC families who are currently divided on Sunday mornings due to differing language abilities in their families.

(Continued)

5 When will we start the Spanish language service?

Our goal is to launch this worship service sometime in January 2015. However, the timing will be most influenced by God's provision of the needed spiritual leaders for such a ministry. We will wait until He clearly provides.

6 Where will this service take place?

We will be meeting in "The Amphitheater," formerly called the High School Room.

7 What time will the service be held?

This service will be held at the same time as one of the current worship services on Sunday morning so that families can take advantage of other ministries offered at the same time, such as the nursery, Faith Kids, Junior High and High School ministries. It most likely will occur at either 9:30 or 11 a.m. as the Lord leads.

8 Will the service be a Spanish translation from our English language services?

No, the entire service will be live and in Spanish, music and preaching included.

9 What will be the relationship of the Pastor of Spanish Language Ministries to the rest of the EFCC staff?

He is a fully recognized member of the pastoral staff team, participating in all staff meetings and functions as do all other pastors.

10 How are families going to worship together if in those families there is a mixture of generations that have different language abilities and needs?

This will happen largely the same way that families with kids and youth currently worship on our campus. Some will be in the same services and some will be in different services based on needs and interests of that generation. However, there is immense value in all of them coming to the same church to participate together in the same spiritual community.

For more information, contact Monie Garcia at iglesia@efcc.org, 760.781.2114.

11 Will there be Spanish signage on the EFCC campus?

Yes, eventually we will place bilingual signs on campus in needed locations to support and serve the needs of our Spanish speakers.

12 Will EFCC offer Spanish language ministries for children and youth?

This Spanish language ministry will focus on adults for whom English is a barrier in their spiritual formation. Ministry to children and youth will continue to be offered in English. There are no plans for separate Spanish language ministries for young people.

13 Will the Spanish service attendees have access to all EFCC resources?

Yes, as much as we can make it work given the inherent linguistic challenges. As God provides the needed resources, we are planning to offer new ministries that will allow us to share the Gospel, make disciples, and engage in worship with people in their heart language of Spanish. That will require creativity and collaboration.

14 How will the English speaking attendees connect with the Spanish language attendees once they are on campus?

That will be one of the learning opportunities for us as a church family! Currently, while we are a large church worshipping at various times in different venues, we offer connections through small groups, adult fellowships, activities for families, baptisms, the Holy Grounds Café, the Patio, the Courtyard, and more. We hope to creatively offer new opportunities to expand these times for the EFCC church family to connect as an increasingly multi-ethnic church family.

15 How can I help?

For starters, you can pray! As always, this will be the necessary groundwork for any fruitful Kingdom work. This venture will certainly require God's provision and guidance. If you want to receive regular email updates, contact iglesia@efcc.org and request to be added to the Spanish Language Ministries prayer list. You can also indicate areas of volunteer service you would like to offer. At a later time we will be forming ministry teams to serve in specific areas.