

March 22, 2016

To: Members and Supporters of First Latin American Baptist Church (FLABC) of Detroit
Subject: 86th Anniversary Celebration Event - May 21 and May 22, 2016

Esteemed Friends of this Ministry

On behalf of the congregation of FLABC, you are cordially invited to participate with us in celebration of our 86th Anniversary Celebration Event. As a current or former member or supporter, you may have been used of God to play a key role, or in some measure, contribute to our 86-years of rich and storied history.

Recent Developments Affecting Our Ministry

This year's Anniversary milestone is underscored with an even greater significance. As we first informed you at last year's event, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Canadian government have begun to implement work plans for the construction of the new Gordie Howe International Bridge Project. The property acquisition process is well underway, with the expectation that FLABC will have to vacate its current 110-year old building before the end-of-year. A new building search effort has been underway for several years now, as we have tried diligently to match-up our ministry and property needs by comparing them against many different facilities on the market.

In accordance with His providential care, God has now provided us with a new existing church building. Another church group has recently offered us, free-of-charge, to take ownership of its building and property, located in Southwest Detroit. The location is in the heart of the Hispanic community, within a block of Clark Park, near a chain of thriving businesses, and in the midst of a fertile evangelistic mission field.

However, the transition process for taking ownership of a second building is accompanied with a set of new challenges. The most critical challenge is the prospect of managing dual sets of operational expenses (insurance, utilities, security, etc). Despite these challenges, we have faith that the same gracious and benevolent God who has laid this blessing of answered prayer at our feet, is the same God that owns all resources, and will abundantly supply them to enable us.

Spiritual Revitalization

So, it is with these recent circumstances in mind and the opportunity to reestablish ourselves in a new part of the neighborhood, we have selected the following theme verse and slogan to earmark this year's celebration:

Mt. 16:18b: "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
Slogan: "Christ's Promise and the Revitalization of His Church in the 21st Century"

Program of Events

This year's program of events commences on Saturday, May 21, at 8:30-11:00am, with the Men's Prayer Breakfast, held in the church's fellowship hall. Christian Men's groups from several churches have been invited to participate.

Following the next day, Sunday, May 22, at 4:30-6:30pm, is the Anniversary worship service highlight. The invited keynote guest speaker is Pastor Ramon Osorio, National Church Mobilizer and Director of Hispanic Ministries, N.A. Missions Board (SBC). Also, inspirational and uplifting music will be presented, featuring several guest praise teams:

- Hombres de Valor (First Spanish Baptist Church)
- DSA Vision Male Ensemble (Detroit School of Arts)
- Multi-church ensemble (area churches)

Immediately following the worship service, the celebration continues in the fellowship hall with delicious Mexican and other heavy hors d'oeuvres.

A Crossroads Year

Barring any unforeseen turn of events, 2016 is the final year that FLABC will celebrate its anniversary at the present building location. Due to the special circumstances mentioned, we are targeting a challenging offering goal of \$10,000 to be raised for this year's event.

Even if you are not able to participate in person – and if the Lord so leads – please consider partnering with us by sending:

- a special donation of \$86 (\$1 for each year) to our address at 6205 W. Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48209, to help us realize our goal.
- financial support on a regular basis to help power this unique bi-lingual ministry as your personal mission extension in SW Detroit

We look forward with a sense of great anticipation and excitement at the prospect of collective worship and fellowship as one body of Christ.

God's Richest Blessings,
Joseph A. Gutierrez

Church Moderator

.cc Kevin Casillas – Pastor
Charles Ash – Treasurer
Kenneth Gutierrez – Worship Director